

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Skillman, New Jersey 08558**

**Meeting, Tuesday, November 19, 2024
5:45 p.m. Executive Session
7:00 p.m. Public Session**

Orchard Hill Elementary School Cafeteria

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

2024-2025 District Goals

- Goal 1: The Student Experience: Student Achievement, Teaching and Learning
To cultivate a learning community that is safe, comprehensive, and customized to provide a balanced academic, creative, and engaging experience to prepare students to make an impact on the future.
- Goal 2: Communication, Community Engagement, and Outreach
Increase community engagement by improving two-way communication so that all community members are well-informed and feel connected.
- Goal 3: Climate and Culture (Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – Cultural Sensitivity, Health and Wellness, Resilience)
Enhance the social-emotional learning environment to support the development and resiliency of all learners.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order – Board President

Statement of Open Meeting and Public Participation - In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notice of meeting on January 8, 2024 and November 14, 2024. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Posting, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Montgomery News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.

The Board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session during all meetings of the Board of Education.

It is the School Board’s intention to conclude this meeting no later than 10:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt a resolution to convene in executive session as follows:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting of which the public body discusses certain matters for which confidentiality is required as permitted in Section 7B of the act.

WHEREAS, the items that are permitted to be discussed in executive session are as follows:

- 1) a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
- 2) a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
- 3) material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
- 4) a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
- 5) a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
- 6) protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
- 7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
- 8) specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
- 9) deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be discussing items 3, 4, and 8. Action may take place on these items. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

MOTION TO APPOINT ACTING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY - Approve the appointment of Mr. Andrew Italiano as Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the period from November 11, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The Acting Business Administrator will serve as the District's financial signatory as applicable by state laws and will also serve as the District's Purchasing Agent and Custodian of School Records.

ROLL CALL

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – 7:00 p.m.

SALUTE THE FLAG

MTSD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / PRESENTATIONS

- National Blue Ribbon School Recognition Award: Montgomery Upper Middle School

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Representative Reports

- MTEA Report
- Board Member Delegate/Representative Reports
(SCSBA, PTSA, MAC, Legislative, NJSBA, Ed. Services Commission, etc.)

Board Committee Reports

- Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee (ACI)
- Operations, Facilities and Finance Committee (OFF)
- Policy and Communications Committee (PCC)
- Human Resource Committee (HRC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following Board Meeting(s):

1. October 15, 2024 Executive Session Meeting
2. October 15, 2024 Business Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD – List of correspondence to the Board:

1. Email dated 10/13/24 from K. Anderson regarding False Rumors
2. Email dated 10/13/24 from H. Pino regarding False Rumors
3. Email dated 10/18/24 from T. Barton regarding Parent Issue
4. Email dated 11/6/24 from A. Pathare regarding Academic Concerns
5. Email dated 11/8/24 from G. Zayova regarding Ethics Opinion
6. Email dated 11/12/24 from the MES PTA regarding Board of Ed Agenda Item

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to address the Board regarding the **Action Agenda items ONLY** for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments must be directed to the Board. Before you make your comment, please state your full name and address and enter both on the chromebook provided. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students, board employees, and board members, and to avoid any liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages defamatory and discourteous remarks. The public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question-and-answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for the public to share their thoughts with the Board. The Board may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command, usually starting at the school level. Responses may be provided at the end of this session.

ACTION AGENDA

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the administrative items as follows:

1.1 Routine Monthly Reports – Accept the following reports:

- a. Student Control Report
- b. Fire/Security Drill Report
- c. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report

1.2 Policy/Regulation First Reading – Accept the following policies and regulations as a first reading:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 3160 | Physical Exam, Teaching Staff Members |
| 3160R | Physical Exam, Teaching Staff Members |
| 4160 | Physical Exam, Support Staff Members |
| 4160R | Physical Exam, Support Staff Members |
| 8820 | Opening Exercises/Ceremonies |
| 9181 | Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants |

1.3 Policy/Regulation Second Reading – Accept and adopt the following policies and regulation following a second reading:

- 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
- 8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations
- 8467 Firearms and Weapons
- 8467R Firearms and Weapons

1.4 Nursing Services Plan - Approve the Montgomery Township School District Nursing Services Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

1.5 Memorandum of Agreement - Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Montgomery Township School District and Law Enforcement for the 2024-2025 school year.

2.0 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the curriculum and instruction agenda as follows:

2.1 Work-Based Learning 2024-2025 - Approve the following location for Work-Based Learning for the Montgomery Township School District:

- The Maker’s Place, Ewing Township, NJ
- The Otto Kaufman Center, Skillman, NJ

2.2 Consultant Approvals for Special Services: 2024-2025 - Approve the following consultants for Special Services the 2024-2025 School Year:

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care	Medical Bedside Instruction	\$75.00/hour <i>Not to Exceed \$5,000.00 Total</i>
Somerset County Educational Services Commission	LDTC Evaluation Psychological -English Evaluation Psychological Eval - English & Spanish Social Evaluation Per Team Member, Per Conference Home Instruction (Within 10 miles of SCESC) Home Instruction (Beyond 10 miles SCESC) Speech Correction Articulation Evaluation Speech/Language Evaluation - English Speech/Lang Eval – English & Spanish or Italian	\$425.00/per case \$425.00/per case \$850.00/per case \$400.00/per case \$94.00/team-conference \$95.00/per hour \$115.00/per hour \$115.00/per hour \$150.00/per evaluation \$575.00/per evaluation \$675.00/per evaluation <i>Not to Exceed \$10,000.00 Total</i>

<p>Educational Services Commission of New Jersey</p>	<p>Psychological or Educational Evaluation \$284.00/per evaluation Bilingual Psychological or Educational Eval \$464.00/per evaluation Social History Evaluation \$242.00/per evaluation Bilingual Social History Evaluation \$357.00/per evaluation Occupational Therapy (OT) Evaluation - Leba \$412.00/per evaluation Occupational Therapy Services - Leba(per hour) \$158.00/per hour Physical Therapy (PT) Evaluation - Leba \$412.00/per evaluation Physical Therapy Services - Leba(per hour) \$158.00/per hour OT/PT Evaluation - ESCNJ Employee(per hour) \$113.00/per hour Speech/Language Evaluation \$289.00/per evaluation Bilingual Speech/Language Evaluation \$473.00/per evaluation Speech/Language Services \$137.00/per hour Speech/Language Home Instruction \$137.00/per hour BCBA - ESCNJ Employee \$142.00/per hour RBT Services - ESCNJ Employee \$74.00/per hour Nurse Services \$44.00/per hour</p> <p>----- Home Instruction - ESCNJ Instructor \$58.00/per hour Home Instruction - Hospitals \$58.00per /hour Auditory Impairment Home Instruction \$110.00/per hour -----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">**5 Year Master Agreement** Board Approved 4/28/2020, Expires 6/30/2025</p>	<p>\$284.00/per evaluation \$464.00/per evaluation \$242.00/per evaluation \$357.00/per evaluation \$412.00/per evaluation \$158.00/per hour \$412.00/per evaluation \$158.00/per hour \$113.00/per hour \$289.00/per evaluation \$473.00/per evaluation \$137.00/per hour \$137.00/per hour \$142.00/per hour \$74.00/per hour \$44.00/per hour</p> <p>\$58.00/per hour \$58.00per /hour \$110.00/per hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Not to Exceed \$20,000.00 Total</i></p>
<p>Vistas Educational Partners</p>	<p>Access Technology Evaluation Expanded Core Curriculum Assessment Functional Vision Assessment Learning Media Assessment Orientation and Mobility Assessment Teacher of the Visually Impaired Orientation & Mobility Specialist Access Technology Instructor Remote Braille Transcription & Electronic</p>	<p>\$1,200.00/per evaluation \$1,500.00/per assessment \$1,200.00/per assessment \$1,200.00/per assessment \$1,200.00/per assessment \$170.00/per hour \$170.00/ per hour \$150.00/per hour \$57.00/ per hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Not to Exceed \$15,000.00 Total</i></p>

Safety-Care/QBS	Initial Trainer Certification Annual Trainer Re-certification Advance Skills-Initial Certification Advanced Skills-Annual Trainer Re-certification School Age Children - Initial Trainer Certification School Age Children - Annual Trainer Re-certification Safety-Care for Families-Initial Trainer Certification Safety-Care for Families-Biennial Trainer Annual Specialist Certification via Trainer Safety-Care Trainer Core Recertification	\$2,299.00/3 days \$799.00/per day \$1,299.00/per day \$999.00/per day \$649.00/ per day \$549.00/per day \$639.00/per day \$539.00/per day \$6.00/per person \$7,191.00/per 9 persons <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Not to Exceed \$30,000.00 Total</i></p>
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2.3 Consultant Approvals for Curriculum and Instruction: 2024-2025 - Approve the following consultants for Curriculum and Instruction for the 2024-2025 School Year:

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
Renaissance	Provide professional development for district staff on the Renaissance Suite software.	Not to Exceed \$3,750.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title II</i>

2.4 Textbook/Resource Approval – 2024-2025 - Approve the following textbooks/resources:

TITLE	COURSE
Pan’s Labyrinth: The Labyrinth of the Faun	English 12: Reflections and Perspectives Honors

2.5 New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs (NJCGTP) Membership – Approve the district’s membership to the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs which will provide professional development opportunities for district staff at a cost not to exceed \$500.00 for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost will be funded by ESEA FY25 Title II.

2.6 Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA) Savings Plan – Approve the district’s participation in the Foundation for Education Administration savings plan which will provide professional development opportunities for district administrators at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost will be funded by ESEA FY25 Title II.

3.0 OPERATIONS, FACILITIES AND FINANCE

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the finance agenda as follows:

3.1 Acceptance of the Financial Reports

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Board of Education of the Montgomery School District to certify that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District receive and accept the monthly financial statement, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending September 30, 2024 are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending September 30, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and the Board of Education certifies that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the District's financial obligation.

3.2 Approval of Transfers

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line item accounts for each line item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6422 designates the Superintendent of Schools to approve transfers as necessary between meetings of the Board and be reported to the Board, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes at a subsequent Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, transfers were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers through September 30, 2024 within the 2024-2025 school year budget, as approved by the Superintendent, so that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations, as requested by various district;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately, and the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, Board President and School Business Administrator to sign any documents on behalf of the Montgomery Board of Education with regards to exercising the intent of this resolution.

3.3 Approval of Bill List Fiscal Year 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provides Board of Educations to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the board; or in accordance with payrolls duly certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the board; and

WHEREAS, a list of bills dated November 19, 2024 is being presented to the board with the recommendation that they be ratified and paid respectively; and

WHEREAS, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education approves the list of bills for payment in the grand sum of \$13,378,956.58 and

General Account	\$12,927,572.14
Food Service Account	\$ 451,384.44
TOTAL	\$13,378,956.58

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the list of bills is on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay bills if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting in accordance with Board Policy 6470 – Payment of Claims.

3.4 Travel Reimbursement – 2024-2025 – Approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the travel reimbursement list dated 11/19/24.

3.5 Approve Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal – Approve the following resolution:

Approve the withdrawal of \$100,060 from the maintenance reserve account to be included in the 2024-2025 school district budget to fund district maintenance for the 2024-2025 school year for the following unanticipated repairs as follows:

Emergency Repair to the Lower Middle School Chiller:	\$ 9,970
Emergency Repair to the High School Roof Top Unit:	\$ 38,280
Extensive repairs to the Toro Mower:	\$ 33,981
Extensive service and repairs to the Toro snow equipment	\$ 17,829
Total:	\$100,060

3.6 Approve SOAR Private Music Lessons – Approve the following to teach SOAR private music lessons at an hourly rate of \$65.54 and not to exceed \$16,000:

Name	Dates
Stephanie Kertesz	11/20/24 – 6/30/25
Grace Trumpy	11/20/24 – 6/30/25

3.7 Donation Acceptance – Accept the donation of \$6,000.00 from Bristol-Myers Squibb to Montgomery High School Robotics Team 1403.

3.8 TD Bank Designated as Bank Depository – It is recommended that the Board adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That TD Bank be designated as the Depository of some of the funds of the Montgomery Township Board of Education in the various accounts for the ensuing year. For investment purposes, other institutions may be used at the discretion of the School Business Administrator. The following account is held with TD Bank:

Kris Rydzaj Memorial Scholarships
Leicht Family Robotics Scholarships

3.9 Approve Mercer County Special Services Cooperative Pricing System 103MCSSSDCPS Agreement – Approve the following agreement:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), specifically authorizes two or more contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services and enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Special Services School District is conducting a voluntary Cooperative Pricing System with other contracting units; and

WHEREAS, this Cooperative Pricing System is to effect substantial economies in the provision and performance of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, all parties hereto have approved the within Agreement by Resolution in accordance with the aforesaid statute; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of all parties to enter into such Agreement for said purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the promises and of the covenants, terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. The goods or services to be priced cooperatively may include office supplies, computer supplies and services, maintenance supplies and services, athletic supplies, science supplies, and such other items as two or more participating contracting units in the system agree can be purchased on a cooperative basis.
2. The items and classes of items which may be designated by the participating contracting units hereto may be purchased cooperatively for the period commencing with the execution of this Agreement and continuing until terminated as hereinafter provided.

3.10 Approve Purchasing from the OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Co-Op – Approve the following resolution:

Recommend approval for Montgomery Township Board of Education to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase goods and services from the OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Co-Op (a.k.a. US Communities) vendors, should the need arise, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Affiliation is at no cost to the District.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CONTRACTS WITH APPROVED OMNIA PARTNERS GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE NATIONAL COOP VENDORS

WHEREAS, Montgomery Township Board of Education, pursuant to P.L.2011.c.139; N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-et.seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c) and per Local Finance Notice No. LFN 2011-35, may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods under the OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Coop for any national and/or regional cooperative entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Coop has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System through multiple lead agencies, for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, Montgomery Township Board of Education may enter into contracts with the referenced OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Coop vendors through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Coop;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods from those approved OMNIA Partners Government Purchasing Alliance National Coop Vendors for the 2024-2025 school year(s) pursuant to all conditions of the individual awarded bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall certify to the availability of sufficient funds prior to the expenditure of funds for such goods.

- 3.11 Approval for PaySchools – Approve PaySchools to supply computer systems/checkout terminals for all of MTSD District as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PaySchools	\$28,322.00

- 3.12 Approval for the Purchase of Diesel Fuel – Approve the purchase of Red Dye #2 Diesel Ultra Low Sulfur Fuel and Red Dye Winter Blend Ultra Low Sulfur Fuel entered into on behalf of the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing Bid # CC-0036-23 for 24/25 school year as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Fuel Type</u>	<u>Fixed Delivery Prices</u>
National Fuel Oil Inc. Newark, NJ	#2D Diesel Ultra Low Sulfur Fuel (April 15 th - Oct. 31 st)	Up charge @ .0749 per gallon
National Fuel Oil Inc. Newark, NJ	Winter Blend Ultra Low Sulfur (Nov 9 th - April 15 th)	Up charge @ .0749 per gallon

- 3.13 Approve First Student, Inc. for Transportation Services – Approve First Student, Inc. to provide transportation services for non-contracted routes in district as needed in an amount not to exceed a total of \$20,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

- 3.14 Approval for Effective Sign Works to Remove the Existing MHS Digital Sign and Install a New Color Sign – Approve Effective Sign Works to remove the old MHS digital sign and install a new color sign in the amount of \$44,987.00 under Sourcewell Contract # 030223-WCH for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Effective Sign Works Burlington, NJ	\$44,987.00

4.0 PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve Personnel Resolutions which may include: Resignations/Retirements, Leaves of Absence, Appointments of Staff, Transfers Voluntary/Involuntary, Appointments Funded ESSER Grant, Appointments Funded by ESEA Grant, Appointments of Mentor Teachers, Appointments of SOAR, Appointments of Substitutes, Appointments of Visual and Performing Arts, Tuition Reimbursement, Appointments of Co-Curricular, Appointments of Extra Curricular Activities, and Other following discussion in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS FROM PUBLIC

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to bring any **NEW BUSINESS** to the Board for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments must be directed to the Board. Before you make your comment, please state your full name and address and enter both on the chromebook provided. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students, board employees, and board members, and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages defamatory and discourteous remarks.

The public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question-and-answer sessions. The Board may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command, usually starting at the school level. Responses may be provided at the end of this session.

CLOSING DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT