

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY
WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2017**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, entered Regular Public Meeting Session on Monday, October 16, 2017 in the Instructional Media Center of Fieldstone Middle School, Spring Valley Road, Montvale NJ. Vice-President McGauley-Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mr. Rossig was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Ms. Stacey Cherry, Board Attorney, and no members of the public.

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn read the **Open Public Meetings announcement** as follows:

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted by Borough Hall/Montvale Public Library, the Board Secretary's Office, posted on the district web site, and such notice given to *THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS* and *THE RECORD*."

COMMENTS BY THE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn announced that no smoking is allowed and that pre-approval of audio or video recording by the public is required.

PRIVATE SESSION

Mr. Carvelli introduced motion 4.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mr. DiFiore and was unanimously approved.

Motion 4.1 **WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act and the Montvale Board of Education reserve the right within the constraints of State Law to sit in Private Executive Session, and

WHEREAS, there now exists a need for this Board of Education to meet in Executive Session, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montvale Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss exempt matters as follows:

Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying
Personnel – New Hires, Resignations, Employee Stipends, Leave Request,
Undergraduate and Graduate Case Studies/Projects

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed

1. When the Board reconvenes to the Regular Meeting business portion of this meeting this evening; or
2. At a later date, undetermined at this time.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION at 8:05 p.m.

At 8:05 p.m. the Board returned to public session. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mr. Rossig was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Ms. Stacey Cherry, Board Attorney, and 8 members of the public. The Board Vice President restated the open public meetings announcement and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed the public and invited them to sign the attendance sheet, if they so chose. She announced that no smoking is allowed and that pre-approval of audio or video recording by the public is required.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Petersen reviewed some recent events in the district including the Special Education Open House on October 5 which reviewed the district's special education initiatives; a visit at Fieldstone from the Pascack Hills 50th Reunion attendees from the class of 1967; and the very productive staff Professional Development day on October 9 led by district teachers and IDE representatives. Dr. Petersen shared that he attended a DOE Session on student engagement; he conducted a staff survey and had a meeting with the District Climate Committee; attended a meeting with the other Region II Superintendents, and met with Montvale Mayor Ghassali. Dr. Petersen also reported that the lightening detection system at Fieldstone had been tested, the strobe light replaced, and the old system removed. Also, the district received a reimbursement from the state for the lead testing completed in the Spring.

Presentation - NJSBA I-STEAM Education Presentation by Mrs. Debra McGauley-Eichhorn
Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn attended an I-STEAM workshop led by John Henry of NJSBA and shared what she learned. It appears schools can become too focused on science and math, while de-emphasizing the arts. The model presented looks at the arts holistically with Science and Math. The new science standards are teaching students to problem solve. The presentation suggested that creative collaboration across curriculum, where teachers are working together can spur creativity. Creativity is an essential component to problem solving, generating innovation. They discussed that integrative education can happen through experimental learning. There are many local districts involved with this initiative as well as foundations such as Rock and Roll Forever, Teachrock.org, and Artsednj.org. The overall key theme of the presentation is to look into integrating and blending disciplines.

District Enrollment: Enrollment at Memorial is 531, up 4 from September, and enrollment at Fieldstone is 465, down 1 from September. Total district enrollment is 996 students, compared to 993 last month.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public wished to be heard.

BOARD BUSINESS

The board discussed and approved placement on the upcoming Board agenda of the following:

Minutes - Enclosed are copies of the minutes of the following meetings for review and comment:

September 11, 2017 (see attached)

September 18, 2017 (see attached)

Nursing Services Plan 2017-2018 – The agenda will include a resolution to accept this plan.

American Education Week – A resolution will be included on the agenda to recognize American Education Week, November 13-17, 2017.

NJSAC Statement of Assurance - The agenda will include a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Statement of Assurances to the NJ State Department of Education.

PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Petersen shared with the board two recognitions:

Art Educators of New Jersey Annual Conference – Tenley Escoffrey was selected to present, and led a discussion on "YOGArt" - The Art of "Art and Yoga" on October 3, 2017.

BCUA Grant - Carol Pitarelli was awarded a \$1,000 grant to support environmentally friendly initiatives at Fieldstone Middle School.

PRIVATE SESSION

Mr. DiFiore introduced motion 9.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Bagdat and passed unanimously at 8:07 p.m.

Motion 9.1 **WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act and the Montvale Board of Education reserve the right within the constraints of State Law to sit in Private Executive Session, and

WHEREAS, there now exists a need for this Board of Education to reconvene in Executive Session, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montvale Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss exempt matters as follows:

Personnel – Employee Hearing

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed

1. When the Board reconvenes to the Regular Meeting business portion of this meeting this evening; or
2. At a later date, undetermined at this time.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:50 p.m. the Board returned to public session. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mr. Rossig was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Ms. Stacey Cherry, Board Attorney, and one member of the public. The Board Vice President restated the open public meetings announcement and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed the public and invited them to sign the attendance sheet, if they so chose. She announced that no smoking is allowed and that pre-approval of audio or video recording by the public is required.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The board discussed and approved placement on the upcoming Board agenda of the following:

Review of Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum –The agenda will include a resolution to adopt revised Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The board discussed and approved placement on the upcoming Board agenda of the following:

Voucher Payments – The following voucher checks have been processed:

General Fund

Checks #7259 & 7285 & Book Transfers for 8/15/17 & 8/30/17 Payrolls; and Wire Transfer for State Health Benefits	\$404,663.97
Check #8169 and Book Transfers for 9/11/17 & 9/29/17 Payrolls; and Wire Transfer for State Health Benefits	\$1,198,983.81
Void Check #7259	-\$112.00
Void Checks #1189, 2177, 3276, 4152	-\$2,001.54

In addition, a list of checks issued October 23, 2017 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

Board Secretary's and Cash Reports – The financial statements for the month of August 2017 are enclosed for review and action at the public meeting.

County/State Submissions – The Business Office is completing many annual submissions due during the Fall including the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, DRTRS, ASSA, and the FY17 NCLB Final Expenditures Report.

Home Depot – The agenda will include a motion to enter into a credit agreement for purchases from the Home Depot.

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

The board discussed and approved placement on the upcoming Board agenda of the following:

Changes in use of Educational Space – The agenda will include a motion to submit requests to the Executive County Superintendent for an application for change in use of educational space at Fieldstone Middle School.

Snow Removal – The agenda will include a motion to renew the snow removal agreement with Montvale Landscaping.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports were shared at this time.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley, and Mr. Carvelli attended the October NJSBA Bergen County meeting. A message from the meeting is that Bergen County is not representing itself well enough in Trenton. Also discussed was that college level education is being stressed too much at the high schools and it is important that district's continue to offer vocational school opportunities.

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn attended the Special Education back to school night. The event included an introduction of the child study team and teachers, reviewed the collaborative teaching model and least restrictive environment. Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn shared that the whole event was a great idea, it should be done again next year, and she hopes in the future to have more families attend, including families with out of district placements.

Mrs. Bagdat thanked the Administration and Custodial team for all their work to dry up the Memorial water leak.

COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications were shared.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Petersen shared that the lightening detection system at Fieldstone had been tested and the strobe light had been replaced. In addition, the old lightening detection system at Fieldstone was removed.

Mr. Carvelli observed that morale at Memorial seems positive.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Petersen and Mrs. Wasserman updated the Board on the events around the water leak at Memorial in the first and second grade wing that was discovered on Sunday, October 15.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public wished to be heard.

PRIVATE SESSION

Mr. DiFiore introduced motion 19.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mr. Carvelli and passed unanimously at 9:53 p.m.

Motion 19.1 **WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act and the Montvale Board of Education reserve the right within the constraints of State Law to sit in Private Executive Session, and

WHEREAS, there now exists a need for this Board of Education to reconvene in Executive Session, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montvale Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss exempt matters as follows:

Personnel – Employee Hearing

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed

1. When the Board reconvenes to the Regular Meeting business portion of this meeting this evening; or
2. At a later date, undetermined at this time.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

At 10:34 p.m. the Board returned to public session. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mr. Rossig was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Ms. Stacey Cherry, Board Attorney, and no members of the public. The Board Vice President restated the open public meetings announcement and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed the public and invited them to sign the attendance sheet, if they so chose. She announced that no smoking is allowed and that pre-approval of audio or video recording by the public is required.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn introduced motion 20.1, which motion was seconded by Mr. DiFiore. On a roll call vote, all members present voted Aye.

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Motion 10.1 **WHEREAS**, an employee whose name is on file in the Board office has an individual employment contract with a ten business day notice provision; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has recommended that the Board invoke the ten business day notice provision to terminate said employee's individual employment contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby invokes the ten business day notice provision of the above referenced employee's individual employment contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said employee shall not be required to continue to perform his duties during the period between the giving of notice and the date of termination of his employment on October 30, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall provide the employee with notice of the Board's action as set forth in this Resolution forthwith.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. DiFiore introduced motion 21.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Bagdat and passed unanimously.

Motion 21.1 **RESOLVED**, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman
Board Secretary