

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY  
WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 12, 2018**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, entered Regular Public Meeting Session on Monday, November 12, 2018 in the Cafeteria of Fieldstone Middle School, Spring Valley Road, Montvale NJ. President Rossig called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley and Mr. Rossig. Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

Mr. Rossig 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 PRESIDENT**

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

**PRIVATE SESSION**

**Mr. DiFiore introduced motion 4.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mr. Carvelli 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 – Employee Stipends, Resignations, Leave Request  
MEA Negotiations

**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, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, and Mr. Rossig. Mrs. Baskin, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn were absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, and seven members of the public. The Board President restated the open public meetings announcement and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed the public and invited them to sign the attendance sheet, if they so chose. He 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 congratulated Mr. Rossig and Mr. DiFiore on being re-elected to the Montvale Board of Education. Halloween was a great day at both schools. At Fieldstone, students participated in the 3Rs Walkathon and at Memorial, the annual parade was enjoyed by all. It was fun to see all the kids in their costumes.

Administration met with members of the MAL executive board and November 1 to review expectations for the use of school facilities during the winter months. The MEF held a very well attended meeting on November 1 where members of the community were able to learn about the MEF. Also in November, all students will be participating in bus drills. Dr. Petersen thanked the Park Ridge School District for allowing Montvale to borrow their school bus to conduct drills. During the school break November 8 and 9, the Buildings & Grounds team worked on cleaning the buildings and received some important training on topics such as PPE and snow removal. Also in November, administration met twice with our new architect of record, FKA Architects, and the school newsletters were distributed.

Dr. Petersen concluded his remarks with a thank you to all our veterans who have served our country. Fieldstone Middle School was honored to host Mr. Ken Florio, a Korean War Veteran, as he shared his experiences in the Navy with the fifth grade students.

**Enrollment** – Memorial enrollment increased by 1 student from October to 520. Fieldstone enrollment increased by 2 students from October to 449. Total District enrollment for November is 969, an increase of 3 students from October.

## **PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS**

*The Board thanked the staff for representing our district so well at the events listed below. Mr. Rossig suggested the staff be recognized as well in the district newsletter.*

**Art Educators of NJ Conference** – Steven Pellegrino and Tenley Escoffery were selected to present on Character Education and the Role of the Art Room on October 1, 2018.

**BCUA Grant** - Carol Pittarelli was awarded a \$1,000 grant which was used to purchase bulbs, gardening supplies as well as praying mantis and butterfly pods to be used by the fifth grade math and science students.

**Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ Annual Conference** – Lindsey Jachens was selected to present on the use of rich tasks in the math classroom on October 25, 2018.

### **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:

October 15, 2018

October 22, 2018

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

**Bills List** – Bills list for November 19, 2018 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

**Board Secretary's and Cash Reports** – The financial statements for the month of September 2018 will be presented for action at the 11/19/18 public meeting.

**Donations** – The upcoming agenda will include two grants from the MEF for “3Rs Day” at Fieldstone Middle School and “One School, One Book” at Memorial Elementary School.

**ESEA Amendment** – The upcoming agenda will include a motion to submit to the New Jersey Department of Education an Amendment for ESEA funds including a transfer among Title IIA funds and the acceptance of a rollover of \$2,885 in Title III.

**Monthly Financial Review** – Andrea Wasserman reviewed recent receipts by the district including a safety grant award, E-Rate reimbursement and an insurance reimbursement. Mrs. Wasserman also reviewed the Chart of Accounts with those present, highlighting the account structure of expenditure accounts in particular.

### **FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

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

**Bus Evacuation Drills** – The district is conducting bus drills and motions approving the drills will be included on the public meeting agenda.

### **FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION – OFFICIAL ACTION ITEM**

**Mr. DiFiore introduced motion 12.1 which motion was seconded by Mr. Carvelli. On a roll call vote, all members present voted Aye.**

*COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN*

Motion 12.1 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

**WHEREAS**, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Montvale School District are consistent with these requirements, and

**WHEREAS**, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montvale School District hereby authorizes the school business administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Montvale School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No committee reports were shared.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Mr. Carvelli reported that the MEF meeting on 11/1/18 was very well attended and hopefully more people will get involved to ensure the sustainability of the organization.

Mr. DiFiore reported on the New Jersey School Boards annual conference. He met with vendors and shared what he learned at some of the courses he attended. Mr. Rossig added that the conference was great and a lot is learned from walking the exhibit hall. He also noted that the board members had an informative meeting with our insurance risk manager. We will further this discussion with the Board at next week’s action committee meeting. Mrs. Bagdat discussed that she felt good about our school district as the sessions she attended were familiar to her.

Mrs. Bagdat also shared that she and Mrs. Wasserman attended a seminar on panic buttons on November 1, 2018. The technology is currently widely used in hospitality but is not yet adopted in schools in NJ. It was very interesting to understand this new technology.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Hills Valley Coalition is hosting a seminar on Vaping on Wednesday November 14, 2018 at Pascack Hills High School.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Rossig requested administration set up meetings with representatives from the town, MAL, the school district, etc. to discuss items relevant to all stakeholders.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was shared.

**HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public wished to be heard.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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

Motion           **RESOLVED**, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:46 p.m.  
21.1

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman  
Board Secretary