

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY
WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2018**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, entered Regular Public Meeting Session on Monday, April 23, 2018 in the Instructional Media Center of Fieldstone Middle School, Spring Valley Road, Montvale NJ. President Rossig called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. DiFiore and Mr. Rossig. Mrs. Foley arrived at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Carvelli and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn were not present. 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 Mrs. Baskin 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 – Non Tenured Staff Evaluations, New Hires, Annual Renewals &
Non Renewals, Employee Stipends
Student Teacher/Intern Placements
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 8:12 p.m.

At 8:12 p.m. the Board returned to public session. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. DiFiore and Mr. Rossig. Mr. Carvelli, Mrs. Foley, and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn were not present. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, and 2 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 reported on recent events he attended and updates on district information:

- Dr. Petersen and Mrs. Wasserman attended a BCIA meeting on lending and financing programs, which was informative should the Board pursue a referendum in the future.
- Dr. Petersen taught a kindergarten lesson on Spring. He noted how much work was required to prepare for the lesson and praised our staff for all the preparation they do every day.
- School Safety and Security remains an important discussion topic. Administrators are meeting with staff and security specialists to determine options available to enhance security at both schools. MEA representatives had a meeting with administrators and Mrs. Badgat to discuss safety and security. Dr. Petersen, Mr. DiFiore, and Mr. Carvelli attended the mayor's forum on school safety & security. Dr. Petersen also attended a symposium on safety and security with ten superintendents from Bergen County where the superintendents shared ideas on the topic.
- Professional Development Day March 26 included a presentation by retired FBI agent on school safety and security. The day was a success and Dr. Petersen thanked Mr. Parks and the DEAC committee for all their hard work organizing the day.
- Dr. Petersen attended a presentation for parents of the Pascack Valley by Rachel Simmons, author of "Enough As She Is." The presentation discussed issues girls face and how girls can become leaders.
- Spring Break began March 30 and ended April 9. Dr. Petersen thanked the board for agreeing to have 180 days vs 181 student days in the 2017-2018 school year.
- The Pascack Valley Superintendents/Board Presidents dinner occurred on April 11 and included many interesting topics of conversation.
- Memorial School had Kindergarten Orientation and Dr. Petersen thanked Mr. DiFiore for speaking on behalf of the BOE and Mr. Collier for running a successful event. Currently 89 students are registered for Kindergarten. Also at Memorial, Kindergarten Grandparents/Special person day was a fantastic day for all involved.
- At Fieldstone, the turf fields re-opened and look beautiful.
- Thanks to the MEF for approving a character education grant presented by Mr. Pellegrino and Mrs. Fasano and the School Character Education Committee. The grant highlights Memorial Mac.

- Congratulations to Nicole Damion who was featured in NJ Teachers Magazine and for presenting to staff on multisensory approaches to reading and writing.
- Upcoming district events include PARCC testing and this summer’s MSI program which will include a middle school MSI one-week boot camp for the first time.

Enrollment – Memorial School in April had 529 students, down 3 from March. Fieldstone had 472 students, down 1 from March. Overall district enrollment is 1001, 4 less than March.

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:

- March 5, 2018
- March 19, 2018

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Field Trip Location – The agenda will include a resolution to include Wegman’s, Montvale, NJ, as an approved destination for a field trip.

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 #8954 & Book Transfers for 3/15 and 3/30 Payrolls, Reimb. For Group Life Ins.; Wire Transfer for State Health Benefits; and Wire Transfer to CM Unemployment Acct.	\$1,629,454.10
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Student Activities Fund

Checks #2323-2342	\$6,146.23
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In addition, a list of checks issued April 30, 2018 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

Appropriation Transfers – The Appropriation Transfers will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

Board Secretary’s and Cash Reports – The financial statements for the month of February 2018 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

Public Hearing on the Budget – The April 30, 2018 agenda will include the public budget hearing and a resolution to approve the 2018-2019 school budget.

Insurance Risk Manager – The upcoming agenda will include the award of a risk manager/insurance consultant contract.

New Jersey State Health Benefits Program – The agenda will include a resolution to renew the district’s participation in the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program.

Delta Dental Plan Amendment – A resolution will be included on the public agenda to approve an amendment to the existing Delta Dental contract.

Donation – A resolution will be included on the public agenda to accept a grant from the Montvale Educational Foundation.

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Memorial Abatement Project – The agenda will include a motion to accept a bid for the abatement of the existing flooring in the Memorial School first and second grade wing.

ACES Competitive Energy Services 2018-2023 – A resolution will be included on the public agenda for Aces Competitive Energy Services 2018-2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Negotiations Committee reported they had a second meeting with the MEA on April 19.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. DiFiore reported that he attended Mayor Ghasalli’s town hall on school safety and security along with Mr. Carvelli and Dr. Petersen. Much of the discussion focused on the pros and cons of having armed security officers within the schools.

Mr. Rossig reported that he, along with Dr. Petersen, attended the regional Board Presidents/VP dinner. The group discussed many important topics including the importance of fostering citizenship in students, the criticality of Social Studies for discussions on current events, student mental health and wellness, snow days and virtual school days. Overall it was a very good and interesting meeting.

Mrs. Bagdat reported that she attended a School Safety and Security meeting with Administration and MEA representatives. It was a good discussion and many approaches to security were discussed including the importance of training for all staff and students.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were shared at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. DiFiore asked about the paving project behind Memorial School. Mrs. Wasserman shared that the district is working with the engineering firm on the specs for the bid to become available shortly.

Mrs. Bagdat reminded everyone of two upcoming community events: “Bowl with A Cop” on April 29 and “Special Olympics Torch Run” on June 3.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rossig noted the HIB policy might be receiving some updates in school year 2018-2019.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public wished to be heard.

PRIVATE SESSION

Mrs. Bagdat introduced motion 18.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mr. DiFiore and passed unanimously at 9:03 p.m.

Motion 18.1 **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 –Annual Renewals & Non Renewals, Employee Stipends
Student Teacher/Intern Placements
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 9:24 p.m. the Board returned to public session. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. DiFiore and Mr. Rossig. Mr. Carvelli, Mrs. Foley, and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn were not present. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, and 0 members of the public. The Board President restated the open public meetings announcement.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Bagdat introduced motion 20.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Baskin and passed unanimously.

Motion **RESOLVED**, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.
20.1

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman
Board Secretary