

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY**

**WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2017**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, entered Worksession Public Meeting Session on Monday, March 6, 2017 in the Instructional Media Center of Fieldstone Middle School, Spring Valley Road, Montvale NJ. President Rossig called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, and Mr. Rossig. Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn and Mrs. Foley was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator; and no members of the public.

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

Mrs. Baskin 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 – New Hires, Retirements, Resignations and Employee Stipends

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 8:08 p.m.

At 8:08 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. McGauley-Eichhorn, and Mr. Rossig. Mrs. Foley was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator; and two 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 choose. 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 reviewed the events surrounding the Fieldstone Power Outage on Thursday March 2, 2017 and the relocation of the Fieldstone students and staff to Memorial Elementary School for the day. Dr. Petersen expressed his thanks to the Montvale Police Department, Fire Department, Staff, Administration and most of all to the students for making the day a success. The day truly exemplified the Montvale School District's execution of the 4 Cs: COLLABORATION, CREATIVITY, CRITICAL THINKING AND COMMUNICATION!

Regarding the school calendar, one snow day has been used so school will take place on Monday April 17. The preliminary budget will be presented to the Board at next Monday's meeting for approval for County submission. Mrs. Wasserman will be reviewing details of the budget during the finance portion of tonight's meeting. The State Aid the district will receive in 2017-18 is flat with the 2016-17 state aid. The Kindergarten class for next fall currently has 94 students enrolled.

Upcoming district events include the Choral Concert at Pascack Hills on March 15, Memorial's Grade 1 & 2 concerts on March 23, Staff Professional Development Day on Monday March 27 (no school for students that day), March Madness with the Superintendent on Thursday March 30, and The Boy Scouts Pasta Dinner on Friday March 31.

District Enrollment: Memorial is consistent with last month with 516 students; Fieldstone has 481 students, down one from last month, for overall district enrollment of 997.

Presentation: Philip Nicastro of Strauss Esmay Associates presented to the Board on the policy services offered by his firm. Mr. Nicastro reviewed Strauss Esmay's process of working with a new client district such as Montvale. To review and update the Policy Manual is approximately \$13,000, paid over multiple budget years. The next step is keeping the policy manual up-to-date. To do this, Strauss Esmay offers policy alert support services, annual subscriptions to update policies based on new government regulation, as well as policy consultation. The Board found the presentation very useful and informative.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public wished to be heard.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes - Copies of the minutes of the following meetings were available for review and comment:

February 6, 2017

February 13, 2017

2017-18 Work Year Calendars – Proposed calendars were presented for custodial/maintenance staff and administration/clerical staff for the 2017-18 - school year. The upcoming agenda will include a resolution approving the calendars.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The board discussed that March is Music and Arts in Our Schools month and approved placement on the upcoming Board agenda of a resolution to recognize March as Music and Art in Our Schools month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Voucher Payments – Payroll, Benefits and Manual Checks will be presented on the agenda along with a list of checks to be issued on March 13, 2017.

Board Secretary's and Cash Reports – The upcoming agenda will include a resolution to recertify the financial statements for the month of December 2016 as well as certify the financial statements as of January 2017.

2017-2018 School Budget – A resolution will be included on the March 13th agenda to approve the submission of the 2017-2018 budget for review by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

Mrs. Wasserman presented the Board with details on the 2017-18 budget, reviewing the sources of revenue and planned appropriations of the school budget for 2017-18. The budget includes a 2% operating budget tax levy.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Lead Testing – The upcoming agenda will include a resolution to approve a proposal from Karl Environmental Group for lead in drinking water testing services. The proposal is for \$6,930 and the testing is scheduled to take place during the district's spring break in April.

Mrs. Wasserman thanked Mr. Marshall for all his work on the lead testing project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee – Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn reported on the recent policy committee meeting which reviewed four policies to be placed on an upcoming agenda for a first reading.

Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee – Mr. Carvelli reported that the committee met earlier this evening to review the details of the 2017-18 budget, including the items that were removed from the budget due to budget constraints.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn attended the iSTEAM Army Career Day sponsored by New Jersey School Boards. She will present to the full board on this at the April 3 worksession meeting. The iSteam program offers a number of very interesting courses. The Board has the option to bring in a representative from NJ School Boards to the district to discuss the district's STEAM curriculum.

Mr. DiFiore complimented the PTO on a fun Trivia Night and thanked Mr. Parks and Mr. Pelligrino for being the master of ceremonies for the evening's events,

Mrs. Baskin attended the recent PTO meeting. New this year was the Carnival Night, supplied by the vendor of the holiday boutique. Was a great family community meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

SEMI Waiver Granted – Dr. Petersen received a letter from the County granting the district's request for a SEMI Waiver for the 2017-18 school year.

Mrs. Wasserman informed the BOE Members of an upcoming School Boards dinner on March 30.

Mr. Rossig received an email about a bill before the state on school bus cameras. Mrs. Rossig will respond on behalf of the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Bagdat attended the town meeting on traffic patterns and shared what she learned with the rest of the Board. The presentation is available on the town website. Wegmans is slated to open mid-September.

Mr. Rossig asked about the Digital Sign in front of Memorial. Mrs. Wasserman explained that was one of the items removed from the 2017-18 budget and the district would be pursuing corporate sponsorships for the sign.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

Councilwoman Gloegger shared town council discussion on sidewalks on Grand Avenue. She also shared that she attended a training by Congressman Josh Gottheimer and that he has a member of his team dedicated to work with towns and schools on benefiting from grant opportunities. Lastly, she mentioned that the Borough is looking into redoing the turf fields behind Fieldstone.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Motion
20.1

RESOLVED, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman
Board Secretary