

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY**

**WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2017**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, entered Worksession Public Meeting Session on Monday, April 3, 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 7:35 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mr. Carvelli, Mr. DiFiore, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mrs. Baskin arrived at 7:40 p.m. and Mr. Rossig arrived at 7:45 p.m. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator; 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 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. DiFiore introduced motion 4.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Foley 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, Employee Stipends, Superintendent's Contract

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 8:15 p.m.

At 8:15 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, Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn, and Mr. Rossig. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator; and four 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: March 27 was a successful staff development day. During the morning Memorial Staff selected a course to attend led by our own staff, thank you to Mr. Jasper, Mrs. Ripston, and Mrs. Bizzoco for leading the courses. At Fieldstone, staff attended training courses led by IDE while support staff district wide attended a course led by Genesis, our student software database. During the afternoon, staff worked together as grade level teams.

Other recent events include Region II's Board Presidents Meeting which was attended by Dr. Petersen, Mr. Rossig and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Dr. Petersen hosted a March Madness event at Memorial, thanks to the Madonick family who won the March Madness auction item at MEF's Casino Night.

Upcoming events include Kindergarten Orientation on April 5; Literacy Night with Gravity Goldberg on April 19; and the opening of MSI registration for this summer.

All snow days were used so school will be in session on April 17, May 26 and May 30.

District Enrollment: There were no changes to district enrollment this month. Memorial has 516 students, Fieldstone has 481 students, and overall district enrollment remains 997.

Presentation: Lou Schimenti from NJ School Boards presented to the Board on their policy offerings. They offer a policy writing service for \$6,500 that can be paid over two years which would review every existing policy, offer updates, and add new policies as needed including discretionary policies. Policy alerts are included. Mr. Schimenti reviewed the policy website and also demonstrated how policies and manuals can be posted on-line. This feature runs through Board Docs for \$1,995 per year. Other services offered by School Boards include their Grants Program, Policy Writing Service, and Policy Manual wellness check. Mr. Schimenti answered questions from the board members.

Mrs. Foley left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Presentation: NJSBA I-STEAM Workshop Presentation by Debra McGauley Eichhorn: Board trustee McGauley-Eichhorn attended this workshop on March 4, 2017. The Army will do outreach to schools and students, as it wants to advance STEAM curriculum and technology based learning. The workshop discussed the concept of “College for All” and if that is appropriate as many leave college with large debt and no training in a particular skill. The Army can offer technical training, and pay for higher education. The Army is changing how it is training people with key skills being problem solving and communications, while remaining dedicated to core values including leadership, loyalty, trustworthiness and commitment. The Army has many resources available for schools.

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:

March 6, 2017

March 13, 2017

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Public Hearing On the Budget – April 24, 2017 – Mrs. Wasserman shared with the board a draft of the budget handout for the public hearing. Dr. Petersen and Mrs. Wasserman will present on the budget at the 4/24/17 meeting.

Voucher Payments – Payroll, Benefits and Manual Checks will be presented on the agenda along with a list of checks to be issued on April 24, 2017.

Board Secretary’s and Cash Reports – The financial statements for the month of February 2017 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

Data and Voice Services – Following the e-rate bid process, Lightpath has been selected for a three year term with the district to provide voice and data services for a monthly price of \$3,500 beginning July 1, 2017.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn attended the iSTEAM Army Career Day sponsored by New Jersey

Mr. DiFiore reported on the NJ School Boards County meeting that took place on March 30. The topic was school funding, and Assembly members from both Bergen and Essex presented. It was a good and informative meeting.

Mr. Carvelli shared how phenomenal the first grade concert was. The students were all smiling, Mrs. Feather did a great job.

Mrs. Baskin attended the Choral Festival - it was fantastic and our students performance was exceptional.

Mr. Rossig attended a meeting for Bergen county board presidents. Topics included Superintendent evaluations, superintendent salary cap's sunseting, and communication tips for board leaders.

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn along with Mr. Rossig and Dr. Petersen attended the recent Region II leadership dinner. Topics were mindset, wellness, and homework and a good discussion was held on all three topics. Montvale is planning an upcoming survey of families regarding their views on homework. Mrs. Baskin recommended surveying staff as well.

Mrs. Wasserman attended the School Boards presentation on Salary Guides. The course was informative and will be helpful in upcoming negotiations.

Mrs. Foley left the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

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 and Mr. DiFiore shared that the committee met earlier this evening with representatives from MAL. The discussion included the MAL's use of indoor facilities and the consideration of updating the Fieldstone gymnasium.

COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Carvelli asked about MSI registration opening this week. He recommended registration take place earlier next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Baskin raised the importance of continued education of our students on allergies and the ability students have to help one another.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

Councilwoman Gloegger updated the Board on the Borough's plans to re-turf the fields at Fieldstone. She also shared ongoing discussions with local businesses and potential plans for the Mercedes property.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn introduced motion 19.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Baskin and passed unanimously.

Motion
19.1

RESOLVED, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman
Board Secretary