

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY**

**WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 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, February 6, 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 7:29 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mrs. Foley, and Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mr. DiFiore arrived at 7:53 and Mr. Rossig was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

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**

**Mrs. Baskin introduced motion 4.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Bagdat 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, Rates  
Salary Guide Advancements  
Clinician

**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, Mrs. McGauley-Eichhorn. Mr. Rossig was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator; and five 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 choose. 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted some of the recent exciting events in the district including International Day, the Harlem Wizards vs the Montvale Marvels, and the recent Regional Board of Education Retreat where Mr. Parks presented. Thanks to Mr. Jopp, the PTO, and Mr Parks for driving the success of these events.

The district co-sponsored the presentation by Jessica Lahey on her book, "The Gift of Failure." She stressed that it's OK for kids to make mistakes and allow them the opportunity to learn from them.

The district's Innovation team visited the Brookside school in Allendale for a tour of the facility including their new learning commons/media center, which was designed by their students.

Kindergarten enrollment at the end of January is 90 students. We expect students will continue to enroll through the beginning of school in September.

Upcoming events include the PTO winter carnival at Memorial, the 100th day of school on February 14, and Jump Rope / Hoops for Heart on February 17.

**Enrollment** - Memorial currently has 516 students as compared to 514 last month. Fieldstone has 482 students, one less than in the prior month. The district total is now 998 vs 999 last month.

**Montvale Summer Institute (MSI):** Mr. Steven Pelligrino presented to the Board on the Montvale Summer Institute (MSI). MSI was founded as a learning initiative as it is proven there is a loss of academic knowledge over the summer. MSI helps prevent summer learning loss. The program has faced challenges but they continue to be addressed.. The program has a new look and feel, advertisement has increased through a new website and social media updates. Last year MSI explored a full day program and an after care program but both were unsuccessful. Despite that, enrollment was up materially last year. They program will continue to focus on next grade level preparation and academic enrichment, including a kindergarten preparation program. Mr. Pellegrino is looking forward to this summer and sharing the management with Mrs. Ripston

The Board members then discussed MSI including the following: Registration should open in January vs March, the district should consider a full day program, the residents should become more

familiar with MSI, MSI should consider partnering with other camps, towns, and organizations. Finally, it was noted MSI is open to non-residents as well.

## 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:

January 4, 2017 Reorganization

January 4, 2017 Worksession

January 16, 2017 Public

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

**Board Secretary's and Cash Reports** – The financial statements for the month of December 2016 were enclosed for review and action at the public meeting.

**Voucher Payments** – A list of checks issued February 13, 2017 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

**Auditing Service 2017-18** - Mr. Timothy Vrabel has submitted a letter of engagement proposing to conduct the district's auditing services at a cost of \$14,000, an increase of \$350 as compared to last year.

**Special Education Medicaid Initiative** – As the number of Montvale resident students who are classified and Medicaid eligible is less than 40, the district will again be submitting to the county a request for a waiver. A resolution will be included on the public meeting agenda as required.

**Cooperative Bidding Service** – It is recommended that the Board of Education continue to contract with Educational Data Service for cooperative bidding and Right to Know services for the 2017-18 school year at a cost of \$3,140.00. This would be the fifth consecutive year with no increase in cost.

## FACILITIES COMMITTEE

*Mrs. Wasserman provided the Board with an update on the Fieldstone Roof Project and the current planning for this coming summer's Memorial Roof Project.*

**Fieldstone Roof Project** – An inspection of the Fieldstone roofing project was conducted on Thursday February 2, 2017. Change orders will be presented to the Board for action at the February 13, 2017 meeting.

**Memorial Roof Project** – The application to the state for the proposed Memorial Roof Project will be presented to the Board for action at the upcoming February 13, 2017 meeting. In addition, a

proposal to manage the bidding and construction administration for the asbestos abatement will be presented to the Board for action at the February 13, 2017 meeting.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Mr. Carvelli spoke highly of the regional board meeting that took place and complimented Mr. Parks on his presentation.

Mrs. McGauley-Eichorn attended the Bergen County School Board association meeting. The format included roundtable discussion groups. Discussions included labor relations, school finance, student wellness and stigma free zones to talk about mental health concerns.

Mrs. McGauley-Eichorn attended NJ School Boards leadership workshop. It was very informative and some of the take-aways are to leverage committees and focus on student achievement. She noted that the way a Board's meeting runs, reflects the operations of the district.

*Mrs. Foley left the Worksession Meeting at 9:10 p.m.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No committee meetings were reported

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mid-Year Budget Review** – A letter has been received from Jeanette Makus, Interim Executive County School Business Official, confirming completion of the mid-year budget review. She wrote in part:

*“We applaud your efforts in managing the district’s resources despite the fiscal challenges facing districts. You are to be congratulated on your commitment to digital learning through the 1:1 Chromebook initiative in grades 6-8 as well as the integration of technology in the classroom in all grade levels.*

Mrs. Wasserman reminded the Board members to complete their annual ethics financial disclosure form.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Carvelli shared that the fourth grade picnic meeting was well attended.

Mr. Carvelli raised concerns regarding indoor soccer at Memorial's multi-purpose room, this topic will be further discussed at a finance and facilities committee meeting.

Mr. Carvelli also addressed security in the evening.

## **HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public wished to be heard.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Mrs. Bagdat introduced motion 16.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Baskin and passed unanimously.**

Motion           **RESOLVED**, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:59 p.m.  
17.1

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman  
Board Secretary