

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY**

**WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2017**

The Board of Education of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, entered Worksession Public Meeting Session on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 in the Instructional Media Center of Fieldstone Middle School, Spring Valley Road, Montvale NJ. President Rossig called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Roll call showed the following to be present: Mrs. Bagdat, Mrs. Baskin, Mr. Carvelli, Mrs. Foley, Mrs. McGauley-Eichorn and Mr. Rossig. Mr. DiFiore was absent. Also present were Dr. Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Wasserman, Board Secretary/Business Administrator and 7 members of the public. Mr. Rossig reminded those present that the open public meetings notice was previously read.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Petersen wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed new board trustee, Mrs. Alisha Foley. He reported on some of the events from 2016, highlighting that they happened because of the teamwork that takes place throughout the district:

2016 Highlights

- Safety/Security Enhancements (More Security Cameras, Officially Moved Board Offices out of FMS, Visit from NJ DOE Office of Security Management)
- New classroom floors in two classrooms at Memorial and one small group instruction room
- Two new classrooms at FMS
- New 21st century desk furniture in enrichment classroom at Fieldstone
- New clocks in all classrooms in both schools
- Updated Advisory Program
- Year 1 of Writers Workshop
- New landscaping at Fieldstone
- Major renovation of library at Memorial - new furniture, new carpet, new lighting, new paint, new ceiling, etc.
- New signs for Fieldstone and Administrative Buildings
- New Banners at Memorial and Fieldstone
- Painting of several classrooms, hallways, offices,
- New learning commons in FMS hallway
- Patching of parking lot at Fieldstone and new parking lines.
- Improved entrance to parking lot at Memorial and new parking lines.
- New sidewalk and landscaping at Memorial.
- Three new water fountains with bottle fillers at Fieldstone and four new water fountains with bottle fillers at Memorial

Dr. Petersen also noted the district is filled with caring administration, faculty and staff, and a Board that does what is in the best interest of the children of Montvale. He then noted a few upcoming 2017 events. The next staff professional development day will take place on 1/16/17. The district is sponsoring a lecture for residents of the Pascack Valley on January 31, 2017 by Jessica Lahey, author of "The Gift of Failure." The Regional Board retreat will take place on February 1, Board members should share with Dr. Petersen any topics they would like on the agenda. Looking ahead to 2017-2018, Kindergarten registration officially began.

Enrollment - Memorial currently has 514 students as compared to 512 last month. Fieldstone has 483 students, no change from prior month. The district total is now 999 vs 995 last month.

Mr. Rossig followed on Dr. Petersen's comments, thanking everyone for their commitment to the district, including the teachers, staff, administration, BOE, PTO, MEF, and MAL. This district isn't about a particular group of children, but focuses on every single child. We offer a strong education in the classroom as well as outside with extra-curriculars and safe facilities. He extended his thanks to everyone involved.

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:
December 5, 2016
December 12, 2016

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 November 2016 are enclosed for review and action at the public meeting.

Voucher Payments – A list of checks issued January 16, 2017 will be presented on the public meeting agenda.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Carvelli asked about snow removal at the Memorial Kinderpath and Memorial Fields. Dr. Petersen reported that he, Mrs. Wasserman, and Mr. Jeffrey's met with DPW Superintendent Rich Campanelli and discussed the division of responsibilities. Mr. Carvelli requested the Kinderpath be proactively maintained throughout all the seasons.

Mrs. McGauley Eichorn reported that parking at Memorial with the construction trucks is a concern and thanked Dr. Petersen for reaching out to the mayor of this important topic.

Mrs. McGauley Eichorn complemented the staff and students on the excellent winter concerts.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were shared.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Carvelli asked about a digital sign at Memorial. Dr. Petersen discussed this with the mayor and the administration will continue to investigate the district's options.

Mr. Carvelli asked on behalf of Mr. Difiore to provide an update on recent administrative meetings. Dr. Petersen then shared summaries of his and Mrs. Wasserman's recent meetings with Mayor Ghassali, Chief Abrams, and Mr. Gallucci from MAL.

Mr. Rossig asked for an update on the Fieldstone roof project. Mrs. Wasserman reported that over the winter break, the masonry work was completed and the roofer is awaiting the delivery of the metal and skylights. No new leaks were reported.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Petersen was informed that the Montvale swim club will be demolished beginning mid-January, with the work expected to be completed around February 10. The police are well aware of the importance of ensuring the continued safety of all around Memorial's morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Dr. Petersen will send out a communication to the public on this topic.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

Councilwoman Elizabeth Gloeggler, of Montvale, shared that she will be the town council's liaison to the Board of Education. She thanked all involved for their hard work for the children of Montvale. She will follow up with the appropriate parties on items related to the town. Regarding the trucks that will be present for the swim club demolition, the contractor was provided details as to where they can or cannot park. She recommends all watch and monitor the situation.

PRIVATE SESSION

Mr. Carvelli introduced motion 11.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Baskin and was unanimously approved.

Motion 11.1 **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:

- Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying
- Personnel – New Hires, Employee Stipends, Resignation, Leave without pay, Health Benefit Contributions
- Legal

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.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. McGauley-Eichorn introduced motion 13.1 as follows, which motion was seconded by Mrs. Baskin and passed unanimously.

Motion **RESOLVED**, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:56 p.m.
13.1

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wasserman
Board Secretary