

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the Tuesday, November 11, 2014 7:00 P.M. Workshop and Special Public Meeting

These minutes have not been formally approved and are subject to change or modification.

The Montgomery Township Board of Education held a Workshop and Special Public Meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

- A. The Montgomery Township Board of Education held a workshop and special public meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 in the Upper Middle School Media Center.
- B. Roll Call - The following Board members were present: Sandra Donnay (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Dharmesh Doshi, Nicholas Hladick, Judy Humza (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Adelle Kirk-Csontos, Anne Michaelson, Arun Rimal (arrived at 7:20 p.m.) and Dr. Lei Yu

The following Board members were absent: Humberto Goldoni

Also Present: Nancy Gartenberg, Superintendent
Deborah Sarmir, Assistant Superintendent
Thomas M. Venanzi, Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
Annette M. Wells, Associate School Business Administrator/
Assistant Board Secretary

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion was made by Ms. Michaelson and seconded by Dr. Yu that the board adopt a resolution to go into executive session at 7:02 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting of which the public body discusses certain matters for which confidentiality is required as permitted in Section 7B of the act.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of Montgomery in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey as follows:

- 1. A legal matter, student disciplinary matters and items related to personnel will be discussed.
- 2. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

Ms. Humza arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Rimal arrived at 7:20 p.m.

- D. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Donnay arrived at 7:30 p.m.

- E. President Rimal then read the following Statement of Open Meeting and Public Participation – In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notice of meeting on January 8, 2014 and November 5, 2014. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Postings, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.
- F. President Rimal then led everyone in the Salute to the Flag.
- G. President Rimal welcomed all to the workshop and special public meeting.

BOARD RECOGNITION

Girls Doubles Tennis Team -- New Jersey State Champions

Ms. Gartenberg recognized Kimberley Szakats, Emily Roeper and their coach, Erik Tavel, for winning the New Jersey State Championship in girls doubles tennis.

Veterans Day Proclamation

Ms. Gartenberg read a proclamation recognizing all veterans for their service to our country.

Recognition of Ashley Henderson Huff

Ms. Gartenberg recognized Lt. Ashley Henderson Huff, a former Montgomery Township student, who gave her life serving our country.

Ms. Gartenberg requested a moment of silence in honor of all veterans and specifically, Lt. Henderson Huff.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Representative Reports

Student Representative Report

No Report

MTEA Report

MTEA President, Debra O’Reilly reported that “Teacher for a Day” will be held on Tuesday, November 18th. Members from the board, administration and community will be participating this year. Ms. O’Reilly also reported that the MTEA met with administration to discuss district professional development.

Board Member Delegate/Representative Reports

Ms. Donnay reported that the Municipal Alliance met last night. The discussion centered on peer leaders. A number of fund raisers have been held, which raised support for the leukemia society

and tolerance awareness. Other items discussed were new leadership for the upcoming year and programming for social and emotional learning.

Board Committee Reports

Finance and Budget Committee Report

Ms. Kirk-Csontos reported that the last meeting was a public FBC meeting on October 16th. Approximately ten members of the public attended the meeting. Items discussed were the audit report provided by Mr. Robert Swisher of Suplee Clooney and Company and a review of monthly financial reports. The committee also received input from the public on the 2015-16 budget. The next meeting will be held on November 21st.

Human Resources Committee Report

Ms. Kirk-Csontos reported that the next meeting will be held this Friday. The focus for this meeting will be on a presentation from the district's health insurance broker and the 2015-2016 draft school calendar. The board would like to understand health insurance costs and options prior to entering into negotiations. November 19th is the first negotiations session with the Montgomery Township Teachers' Association.

Operations and Facilities Committee Report

No Report – The next meeting will be held on November 24th.

Policy Committee Report

Ms. Humza reported that the committee met on October 15th. Policies reviewed at that meeting were on the October business meeting agenda for first reading. The committee will be meeting on November 20th to discuss revisions to the district Attendance policy and regulation and review several board policies which have not been revised in several years.

Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report

Dr. Yu reported that the committee met on October 16th and discussed the following items:

- UMS Media Center upgrade
- STEAM – Upgrades to graphic arts lab
- Cleaning up the Atlas System to make it friendly for students, parents and teachers
- Teachers College Reunion Weekend – Montgomery Township teachers attended the reunion weekend to share best practices post Teachers College training
- Physics First Program
- Long-Range Planning

Ms. Michaelson discussed the RVCC program and requested that the ACI take another look at this program. Mr. Hladick suggested that the board take a survey to see how many students are interested in this program.

President's Report

President Rimal congratulated re-elected board member Ms. Annie Michaelson and newly-elected board members Ms. Amy Miller and Ms. Christine Witt.

BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Eric Weitze donated a saxophone to Mr. Michael Richards, Principal of Lower Middle School, for use at the Lower Middle School. Mr. Weitze expressed concerns with Common Core Standards. He feels that the government is providing the "seed" money for the program, but in a few years the taxpayers will be paying the full amount. Mr. Weitze feels that the common core is just a way for the federal government to get into the school, and he wants the district to say they don't need it.

Mr. Weitze stated that the public shouldn't be limited to five minutes during the public comment period. He also expressed that people shouldn't have to give a comment then sit down and wait before hearing a response.

Mr. John Kumpf thanked the policy committee for reviewing the Public Comment policy. He stated that responding after all comments are made is not in the policy but is on the board meeting agenda. He stated that give and take from the public is very valuable and questioned how to move the statement from the agenda.

Mr. Jeffrey Grant stated that at back to school night on October 1st, Ms. Gartenberg made reference to what is her and the board's "right" in the adoption of the common core standards. Mr. Grant stated that Ms. Gartenberg and the board don't have "rights." They have authority. He asked the board if they felt that they had any other "rights." Mr. Grant made a statement regarding the school board's fiduciary responsibilities and questioned if his statement was accurate. Mr. Grant also questioned if the board did their due diligence prior to adopting the common core standards.

Mr. Alan Wirsul thanked all of the veterans for their service. Mr. Wirsul questioned how many of the top ten salaried employees are veterans. He also asked how many staff are veterans and if we try to hire veterans. Mr. Wirsul stated that the chairperson of the Finance and Budget Committee is not present at this meeting. He questioned what were the top one or two items being proposed in the upcoming referendum. Mr. Wirsul also stated that the staff needs to make an assessment of how much the RVCC course would cost before sending out an interest survey to the students. Mr. Wirsul stated that a person should not be a board member if they have to travel internationally and miss meetings. He asked about the board policy for board members missing meetings.

Mr. Rimal replied to Mr. Kumpf that the board used to answer questions immediately after each comment but changed the process approximately 7-8 years ago. He stated that the board will take his recommendation under consideration.

Mr. Rimal replied to Mr. Grant that he will receive responses to his questions via email.

Mr. Gartenberg clarified what she had stated at back to school night, that it was within the superintendent and board's right to increase curriculum rigor beyond what is mandated under the common core.

Ms. Humza responded that the policy committee discussed the issue of responding after all comments. The board is here to conduct business, and we try to answer all questions.

Mr. Hladick requested that the board as a whole make a decision on the response to comments and vote on it.

Ms. Michaelson stated that she will do her due diligence in researching other district policies and make a recommendation at the next board meeting.

Ms. Donnay questioned the procedure for dismissal of a board member for missing three meetings without cause.

Mr. Rimal responded that the board member could be dismissed by a majority vote of the board.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The board reviewed the following minutes:

1. October 14, 2014 Executive Session Meeting
2. October 14, 2014 Workshop and Special Meeting
3. October 21, 2014 Executive Session Meeting
4. October 21, 2014 Business Meeting

There were no comments for changes to the minutes. The minutes will be approved at the November 25 business meeting.

REVIEW DRAFT BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2014

The Board reviewed the draft agenda for the November 25, 2014 Business Meeting.

BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kumpf stated that he feels the give and take between public and the board is helpful and doesn't take up more time. He feels he is being dismissed when he is not answered immediately.

Mr. Kumpf stated that he doesn't feel give and take would cause a disorganized meeting.

Mr. Rimal responded that the board is conducting regular business, and he doesn't feel it would necessarily involve public give and take all of the time.

Mr. Weitze stated that generally speaking there are not many people to attend the meetings to talk. Out of respect for those who come, he feels the five minute rule should be taken away and let people speak.

Mr. Grant stated that he had nothing personal against Ms. Gartenberg but was sharing what he thought he heard. He added that the board owes it to the citizens to engage with them. The board's system is designed to separate the public from the board.

Mr. Wirsul stated that his comments were not answered and reiterated his questions:

- In the priority of projects in the proposed referendum, what are the highest costing projects
- Of the top ten highest paid staff members, how many are veterans
- What percent of district staff are veterans

Mr. Wirsul then asked Mr. Rimal how many meetings he has missed.

Mr. Rimal responded that he has missed three meetings.

Mr. Venanzi responded that the referendum project list is a working document. The projects have not been finalized yet. Therefore, we are unable to answer Mr. Wirsul's question.

Ms. Gartenberg responded that the district does have staff members who are veterans. She asked Mr. Wirsul to send his questions in writing, and he will receive a response.

ACTION AGENDA

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion was made by Mr. Doshi and seconded by Ms. Kirk-Csontos to approve agenda item 1.1 as follows:

- 1.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report – Accept the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report dated November 3, 2014 and noted for acceptance.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

2.0 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

A motion was made by Dr. Yu and seconded by Mr. Doshi to approve agenda items 2.1 and 2.2 as follows:

- 2.1 New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum Review (NJQSAC) - Approve the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.

- 2.2 Resolution Proclaiming American Education Week –

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they will need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and quality; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township School District hereby proclaims November 17-21, 2014, as the observation of American Education Week

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

3.0 FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Hladick and seconded by Dr. Yu to approve agenda item 3.1 as follows:

- 3.1 Travel Reimbursement – 2014/2015 – approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list (see Page 8).

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

4.0 PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Hladick and seconded by Dr. Yu to approve agenda item 4.1 as attached (see Pages 9-12).

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with seven members voting in favor and Ms. Donnay abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Doshi and seconded by Mr. Hladick to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Venanzi
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

**Montgomery Township Board of Education
Travel Reimbursement Requests
2014/2015**

Name	School	Date(s)	Conference	Parking & Tolls	*Mileage (.31)	Meals	Lodging	Registration	Other	Total**	Approved Year-to-Date Total**
Christine Bice	OHES	2/19 - 2/20/15	NJMEA Conference		\$5.18			\$150.00		\$155.18	\$155.18
Jody Budoff	UMS	11/14/2014	The Truant Student		\$6.92			\$20.00		\$26.92	\$26.92
Michele Caltiere	MHS	12/17/2014	Effective Strategies to Help Struggling Students		\$1.25			\$229.00		\$230.25	\$230.25
Monica Clewell	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed					\$135.00		\$135.00	\$135.00
Nicole Coffey	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed					\$135.00		\$135.00	\$135.00
Stacey Delbridge	MHS	2/17 - 2/20/15	NASP Annual Convention					\$185.00		\$185.00	\$285.00
Mathew Flug	MHS	12/5/2014	Holocaust Education Conference					\$45.00		\$45.00	\$45.00
Terry Foltiny	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed					\$135.00		\$135.00	\$135.00
Kathy Grover	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed					\$135.00		\$135.00	\$135.00
Lesley Haas	LMS	11/18/2014	NJ Core Curriculum Standards & Career Readiness		\$2.46					\$2.46	
Lesley Haas	LMS	12/19/2014	Racial and Ethnic Discrimination		\$5.30			\$75.00		\$80.30	\$82.76
Genifer Leimbacher	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed		\$20.46			\$135.00		\$155.46	\$155.46
Heather Lilly	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed					\$135.00		\$135.00	\$135.00
Brittany Maple	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed		\$9.30			\$135.00		\$144.30	\$144.30
Mary McLoughlin	BO	11/25/14	Navigating New Laws: Case Law & Litigation Impacting Chief School Administrators		\$9.80					\$9.80	\$920.43
Amy Monaco	OHES & VES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed		\$5.27			\$150.00		\$155.27	\$474.74
Kathleen Scotti	OHES	11/25/2014	The Conference for Women					\$149.00		\$149.00	\$1,781.62
Wendy Senatra	OHES	11/21/2014	Non-Medication Treatments for ADHD & the Immature Brain		\$14.88			\$189.99		\$204.87	\$204.87
Eric Sletteland	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed		\$5.02			\$135.00		\$140.02	\$140.02
Holly Sorensen	OHES	2/19 - 2/21/14	NJMEA Conference					\$150.00		\$150.00	\$150.00
Krista Van Nostrand	OHES	12/12/2014	I Can't to I Can: Helping Struggling Readers to Succeed					\$135.00		\$135.00	\$135.00

*Excluding Tolls

**Includes Registrations.

**Estimated

BOE

11/11/14

4.1 PERSONNELResignations/Retirements/Terminations/Rescissions

Location	Name	Position	Effective	Reason	Dates of Employment/Notes
District	Ann Mancaruso BUS.BO.BNFT.NA.01	Benefits Manager	07/01/2015	Retirement	09/08/1997 – 06/30/2015

Leaves of Absence

Location	Name	Position	Type of Leave	Dates of Leave/Notes
UMS	Tammy Giraldi AID.UM.TIA.RC.04	TIA	FMLA Anticipated Return	10/06/2014 – 10/31/2014 unpaid w/benefits (Revised) 11/3/2014
VES	Nicole Varona TCH.VS.RCTR.MG.04	Teacher/Resource Center	Temporary Disability FMLA Anticipated Return	02/09/2015 – 04/12/2015 paid w/benefits 04/13/2015 – 06/30/2015 unpaid w/benefits 09/01/2015
MHS	Lisa Fioretti TCH.HS.LLD.MG.04	Teacher/LLD	Temporary Disability FMLA Anticipated Return	04/13/2015 – 05/26/2015 paid w/benefits 05/27/2015 – 06/30/2015 unpaid w/benefits 09/01/2015
MHS	Carolyn Casey LOA.HS.HPE.MG.02	Teacher/Health & Physical Education	Sick Bank	12/02/2014 (1/2 day) – 12/23/2014
VES	Kathryn Dunham TCH.VS.BSI.MG.07	Teacher/Remedial Math	FMLA Anticipated Return	11/03/2014 – 11/26/2014 unpaid w/benefits 12/01/2014

Appointments/Reinstatements (Certificated Staff)

Location	Name	Position	Replacing	Step	Salary	Pro-rated	Dates of Employment/Notes
OHES	Lindsay Rosenberg (Leave Replacement) TCH.OH.TCHR.KD.04	Teacher/Kindergarten	Laura Sapnar	MA 1-2	\$63,030	Yes	12/11/2014 – 06/30/2015
OHES	Michelle Maqboul TCH.OH.MSPC.MG.02	Educational Media Specialist @ 50%	Deborah Share	MA 1-2	\$31,515	Yes	11/19/2014 – 06/30/2015
LMS	Kathleen Connelly* TCH.LM.BSI.MG.01	Teacher/Resource Program @ 50%	Ashley DeRogotis	MA 3-4	\$32,015	Yes	Upon criminal background clearance – 06/30/2015

Appointments/Reinstatements (Non-Certificated Staff)

Location	Name	Position	Replacing	Step	Salary/ Stipend	Pro-rated	Dates of Employment/Notes
MHS	Nestor Campos* CUS.HS.CUST.NA.06	Custodian/Grounds 3pm to 11pm Shift Tues – Fri 6 am to 2 pm-Saturday	Willard Cruser	1-4 2 nd shift Sat. Stipend	\$35,905 \$661 \$1300	Yes Yes Yes	12/1/2014 – 06/30/2015
OHES	Jennifer Romaine AID.OH.TIA.EO.02	TIA @ 48%	Elizabeth Snedeker	1-2	\$11,226	Yes	11/12/2014 – 06/30/2015

Home Instruction 2014-2015

Location	Name	Position	Hourly Rate	Dates of Employment/Notes
DISTRICT	Jessica Cesario	Home Instruction	\$58.35/hr	2014-2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Monica Noda-Olszyk	Home Instruction	\$58.35/hr	2014-2015 School Year

Appointments – Substitutes

Location	Name	Position	Status	Dates of Employment/Notes
DISTRICT	Jesse DiBlasio	Substitute Teacher/Coach	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Andy Godjcz	Substitute Teacher/Coach	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Christine Kent-Sharma	Substitute Teacher	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Melissa Lister	Substitute Teacher	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	David Muscatell	Substitute/Student Teacher	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Layryn Rohrbach	Substitute Teacher	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Jennifer Romaine	Substitute Teacher	New	2014 – 2015 School Year
DISTRICT	Corinne Van Lier*	Substitute Teacher	New	2014 – 2015 School Year

Tuition Reimbursement

Location	Name	School	Semester	Credits	Reimbursed Amount	Course
MHS	Aubrie Caprio	TCNJ/RTC	Fall	3	1,395.00	Modes of Inquiry & Research
BO	Anthony Brunell	Rutgers	Fall	N/A	471.00	Structural Mechanical Systems
MHS	Vincent Figueroa	U. of Scranton	Fall	3	1,455.00	Advanced Educational Psychology
LMS	Lesley Haas	TCNJ	Fall	3	2,024.04	Couples in Relationships
OHES	Cynthia Magalio	Boise State U.	Fall	3	1,137.99	Educational Technology Portfolio
MHS	Jamie Meeker	TCNJ/RTC	Fall	3	1,395.00	Modes of Inquiry & Research
OHES	William Meurer	NJPSA	Fall	N/A	1,000.00	Leader 2 Leader
MHS	Heather Pino-Beattie	U. of Scranton	Fall	3	1,455.00	Curriculum Theory & Development
OHES	Alison Pankowski	TCNJ	Fall	3	2,024.04	Intro Research/Data-Based Dec.
MHS	Jason Sullivan	Rowan University	Fall	3	1,980.00	Intro to Principalship
TRANS	Jesus Velazquez	Rutgers University	Fall	N/A	387.00	Emergency Management
VES	Jennifer Yulo	Rider University	Fall	3	1,788.82	Curriculum Development

Appointments 2014-2015 (To Be Funded by Title I)

Location	Name	Position	Hr. Rate	Dates/Notes
OHES	Latha Jaipal	The Bridges Program – Monitor	\$200/program	11/12/14 – 5/15/15
OHES	Ranjini Mohan	The Bridges Program – Monitor	\$200/program	11/12/14 – 5/15/15
UMS	Kristen Doulis	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Joanne Tiu	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Morgan Sterling	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Karen Kevorkian	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Ina DiGangi	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Debra Smith	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Stefanie Lachenauer	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	William Dominick	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Sophia Alteri	The 9 th Period Program – Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours
UMS	Debbie Engelmann	The 9 th Period Program – Technology Teacher	\$58.35/hour	12/2/14 – 3/31/15 – Not to exceed 37.5 hours

Co-Curricular 2014-2015

Location	Name	Position	Stipend	Dates of Leave/Notes
UMS	Christine Isola	Volunteer Choreographer for UMS Musical		2014-2015 School Year

***Pending Criminal History Clearance or Emergent Hire approval from Office of County**

Superintendent.