

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Skillman, New Jersey 08558

Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2025
6:00 p.m. Executive Session
7:00 p.m. Public Session

Orchard Hill Elementary School Cafeteria

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

2024-2025 District Goals

- Goal 1: The Student Experience: Student Achievement, Teaching and Learning
To cultivate a learning community that is safe, comprehensive, and customized to provide a balanced academic, creative, and engaging experience to prepare students to make an impact on the future.
- Goal 2: Communication, Community Engagement, and Outreach
Increase community engagement by improving two-way communication so that all community members are well-informed and feel connected.
- Goal 3: Climate and Culture (Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – Cultural Sensitivity, Health and Wellness, Resilience)
Enhance the social-emotional learning environment to support the development and resiliency of all learners.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order – Board President

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 9, 2025 and January 14, 2025. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Posting, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Montgomery News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.

The Board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session during all meetings of the Board of Education.

It is the School Board's intention to conclude this meeting no later than 10:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt a resolution to convene in executive session as follows:

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.

WHEREAS, the items that are permitted to be discussed in executive session are as follows:

- 1) a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
- 2) a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
- 3) material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
- 4) a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
- 5) a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
- 6) protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
- 7) pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
- 8) specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
- 9) deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be discussing items 3, 4, 7 and 8. Action may take place on these items. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

ROLL CALL

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – 7:00 p.m.

SALUTE THE FLAG

MTSD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT / PRESENTATIONS

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Representative Reports

- MTEA Report
- Board Member Delegate/Representative Reports
(SCSBA, PTSA, MAC, Legislative, NJSBA, Ed. Services Commission, etc.)

Board Committee Reports

- Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee (ACI)
- Operations, Facilities and Finance Committee (OFF)
- Policy and Communications Committee (PCC)
- Human Resource Committee (HRC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following Board Meeting(s):

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. December 2, 2024 | Executive Session 1 |
| 2. December 2, 2024 | Special Meeting |
| 3. December 17, 2024 | Executive Session 1 |
| 4. December 17, 2024 | Executive Session 2 |
| 5. December 17, 2024 | Business Meeting |

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD – List of correspondence to the Board:

None

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to address the Board regarding the **Action Agenda items ONLY** for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments must be directed to the Board. Before you make your comment, please state your full name and address and enter both on the chromebook provided. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students, board employees, and board members, and to avoid any liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages defamatory and discourteous remarks. The public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question-and-answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for the public to share their thoughts with the Board. The Board may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command, usually starting at the school level. Responses may be provided at the end of this session.

ACTION AGENDA

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the administrative items as follows:

1.1 Routine Monthly Reports – Accept the following reports:

- a. Student Control Report
- b. Fire/Security Drill Report
- c. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report

1.2 Annual Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings – Approve the Annual Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance for the 2024-2025 School Year.

2.0 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the curriculum and instruction agenda as follows:

2.1 Consultant Approvals for Special Services: 2024-2025 - Approve the following consultants for Special Services the 2024-2025 School Year:

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
Brilliant Minds Child Development & Educational Services, LLC	Educational Evaluation (LDTC) Bi-Lingual Educational Evaluations Pre/Post Evaluation Conference IEP Conference Fee Annual Reviews Speech-Language Evaluation Psychological Evaluation Bi-lingual Speech-Language Evaluation Bi-lingual Psychological Evaluation Speech-Language services to Eligible Students (per ½ Hour) Psychoeducational Evaluation Bi-lingual Psychoeducational Evaluation Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Evaluation	\$700.00/per evaluation \$900.00/per evaluation \$95.00/per hour \$95.00/per hour \$95.00/per hour \$750.00/per evaluation \$750.00/per evaluation \$950.00/per evaluation \$950.00/per evaluation \$105.00/per .5 hour \$800.00/per evaluation \$1000.00/per evaluation \$500.00/per evaluation <i>Not to exceed \$10,000.00</i>
Sunbelt Staffing	Speech Language Pathologists	\$80.00- \$125.00/per hour <i>Not to exceed \$15,000.00</i>
Lewis Milrod, M.D., P.C	Pediatric Neurology Consultation/ Neurodevelopmental Consultation In Office and via Telemedicine	\$800.00/per evaluation <i>Not to exceed \$10,000.00</i>
Center for Behavioral Health Rajeswari Muthuswamy, M.D.	Psychiatric Evaluation, Fit to Return, Neurodevelopmental Evaluation for CST, Virtual or In-Person Combined Neuropsychiatric Evaluation	\$575.00/per evaluation \$675.00/ per evaluation <i>Not to exceed \$8,500.00</i>

2.2 Approval of Student Exchange Program - Approve the proposal for the MHS German Exchange Program scheduled for the summer of 2025. MHS German exchange students will travel to Gottingen, Germany for approximately three weeks at no cost to the district. German partners will visit Montgomery High School in October/November 2025.

2.3 Consultant Approvals for Curriculum and Instruction: 2024-2025 - Approve the following consultants for Curriculum and Instruction for the 2024-2025 School Year:

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
Bureau of Education & Research	Provide professional development to ESL staff on motivating reluctant learners.	Not to Exceed \$5,264.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title III</i>
Methfessel & Webel	Provide professional development to district Child Study Team members on manifestation determination.	Not to Exceed \$1,000.00
Para-Plus Translations, Inc.	Provide interpretation and translation services for the 2024-2025 school year.	Not to Exceed \$2,991.00 <i>To be funded by ESEA Title III</i>

2.4 Baseball Team Field Trip Approval - Approve the field trip for the MHS Baseball Team to participate in a scrimmage on the historic Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York, from May 4, 2025, to May 5, 2025, at no cost to the Montgomery Township School District.

2.5 Program of Studies: MHS - Approve the Montgomery High School Program of Studies for the 2025-2026 school year.

2.6 Program of Studies: UMS - Approve the Montgomery Upper Middle School Program of Studies for the 2025-2026 school year.

2.7 Donation - Accept the donation of two (2) play-based educational learning devices, Snorbles, from Mr. Mike Rizkalla to be used by the Village Elementary School self-contained classrooms.

3.0 OPERATIONS, FACILITIES AND FINANCE

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the finance agenda as follows:

3.1 Acceptance of the Financial Reports

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Board of Education of the Montgomery School District to certify that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligation, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District receive and accept the monthly financial statement, the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending November 30, 2024 are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending November 30, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and the Board of Education certifies that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the District's financial obligation.

3.2 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Board of Education of the Montgomery School District to certify that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District receive and accept the monthly financial statement, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending December 31, 2024 are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Montgomery Township School District acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month ending December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and the Board of Education certifies that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the District's financial obligation.

3.3 Approval of Transfers

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line item accounts for each line item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6422 designates the Superintendent of Schools to approve transfers as necessary between meetings of the Board and be reported to the Board, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes at a subsequent Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, transfers were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers through November 30, 2024 within the 2024-2025 school year budget, as approved by the Superintendent, so that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations, as requested by various district;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately, and the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, Board President and School Business Administrator to sign any documents on behalf of the Montgomery Board of Education with regards to exercising the intent of this resolution.

3.4 Approval of Transfers

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line item accounts for each line item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6422 designates the Superintendent of Schools to approve transfers as necessary between meetings of the Board and be reported to the Board, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes at a subsequent Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, transfers were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers through December 31, 2024 within the 2024-2025 school year budget, as approved by the Superintendent, so that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations, as requested by various district;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately, and the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, Board President and School Business Administrator to sign any documents on behalf of the Montgomery Board of Education with regards to exercising the intent of this resolution.

3.5 Approval of Bill List Fiscal Year 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provides Board of Educations to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the board; or in accordance with payrolls duly certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the board; and

WHEREAS, a list of bills dated January 21, 2025 is being presented to the board with the recommendation that they be ratified and paid respectively; and

WHEREAS, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education approves the list of bills for payment in the grand sum of \$13,081,975.98 and

General Account	\$12,938,782.13
Food Service Account	\$ 143,193.85
TOTAL	\$13,081,975.98

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the list of bills is on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montgomery Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay bills if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting in accordance with Board Policy 6470 – Payment of Claims.

- 3.6 Travel Reimbursement – 2024-2025 – Approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the travel reimbursement list dated 1/21/25.
- 3.7 Donation Acceptance – Accept the donation of \$2,750.00 from the Gene Haas Foundation to Montgomery High School Robotics Team 1403.
- 3.8 Settlement Agreement – Approve the following resolution pertaining to a special education settlement agreement:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”) between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s office, and which Agreement is located in the student’s file, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

- 3.9 Approve a Parental Contract for Transportation Route PT3 – Approve a parental contract for Route PT3 to transport student ID #105893 to Eden Institute as per the negotiated rate of \$11,200 for the period of January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.
- 3.10 Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property – Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Board are desirous of disposing said surplus property.

A list of the surplus property to be disposed as follows:

- (2) Techno gym Low Row Selection Machine Asset Tag #012022
- (1) Technogym Chest Press Selection Machine Asset Tag #012023
- (1) Technogym Delts Selection Machine Asset Tag #012155
- (1) Hoist Plate Loaded Lat Pulldown Asset Tag #012021
- (1) Hoist Plated Leg Press Asset Tag #00005040

3.11 Approve First Student Inc. for Transportation Services – Approve First Student, Inc. to provide transportation services for various non-contracted routes in district as needed in an amount not to exceed a total of \$100,000.00 for the remainder of 2024-2025 school year.

3.12 Approve New Jersey School Boards Association as the Policy and Regulation Services Vendor of Record – Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with the New Jersey School Boards Association as the new vendor of record to provide school policy and regulation consulting services at a fee not to exceed \$10,995. Note: Cost includes a one-time start-up cost of \$9,000. Also note that once the NJSBA agreement is approved and executed, this would terminate Strauss Esmay Associates, LLC as the policy vendor of record.

3.13 Appointments – The Board President made the following committee assignments for 2025 as per the below list:

- Members of the Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee (ACI):

Chair	Michelle Dowling
Member	Christina Harris
Member	Ting Wang

- Members of the Human Resources Committee (HRC):

Chair	Patrick Todd
Member	Joanna Filak
Member	Maria Spina

- Members of the Operations, Finances & Facilities Committee (OFF):

Chair	Joanna Filak
Member	Cookie Franco-Herman
Member	Vanita Nargund

- Members of the Policy and Communications Committee (PCC):

Co-Chair (Policy)	Ania Wolecka-Jernigan
Co-Chair (Communications)	Cookie Franco-Herman
Member	Christina Harris
Member	Maria Spina

- Montgomery Township PTSA/PTO/PTA Liaison:

Delegate	Christina Harris
Alternate	Ting Wang

- Montgomery Township SEPTA/SEPAG Liaison:

Delegate	Michelle Dowling
Alternate	Maria Spina

- Liaison to the Montgomery Township & Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance Committee:

Liaison	Cookie Franco-Herman
Alternate	Maria Spina

- Voting member and alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association:

Voting Member	Joanna Filak
Alternate	Cookie Franco-Herman

- Member and alternate to the Executive Committee of the Somerset County School Boards Association:

Delegate	Ania Wolecka-Jernigan
Alternate	Vanita Nargund

- Members of the Negotiations Committee with APSMT:

Chair	Joanna Filak
Member	Maria Spina
Member	Patrick Todd

- Members of the Negotiations Committee with CWA:

Chair	Patrick Todd
Member	Michelle Dowling
Member	Vanita Nargund

- Members of the Negotiations Committee with MTEA:

Chair	Ania Wolecka-Jernigan
Member	Michelle Dowling
Member	Patrick Todd

3.14 Election of Delegate - It is recommended that the Board of Education elect Patrick Todd as delegate to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission, Ania Wolecka-Jernigan as an alternate delegate.

4.0 PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve Personnel Resolutions which may include: Resignations/Retirements, Leaves of Absence, Appointments of Staff, Transfers Voluntary/Involuntary, Appointments Funded by ESEA Grant, Appointments of Mentor Teachers, Appointments of SOAR, Appointments of Substitutes, Appointments of Visual and Performing Arts, Tuition Reimbursement, Appointments of Co-Curricular, Appointments of Extra Curricular Activities, and Other following discussion in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS FROM PUBLIC

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to bring any **NEW BUSINESS** to the Board for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments must be directed to the Board. Before you make your comment, please state your full name and address and enter both on the chromebook provided. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students, board employees, and board members, and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages defamatory and discourteous remarks.

The public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question-and-answer sessions. The Board may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command, usually starting at the school level. Responses may be provided at the end of this session.

CLOSING DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT