

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Skillman, New Jersey 08558**

Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 2021

6:30 p.m. Executive Session

7:30 p.m. Public Session

REMOTE – Participation Information Available on District Website

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

2020-2021 District Goals

- Goal 1: Provide deeper student-teacher-parent connection to allow for continued excellent academic education and emotional well-being of students regardless of mode of instruction during the COVID19 pandemic.
- Goal 2: Revise the Science Curriculum and Structure to reflect new developments and requirements in Science.
- Goal 3: Implement curricular changes to incorporate diversity and inclusion.
- Goal 4: Prioritize our financial resources to drive innovation in ongoing student education.

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 6, 2021 and March 10, 2021. 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 – 7:30 p.m.

SALUTE THE FLAG

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT / PRESENTATIONS

- Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, 2020-2021: Period 1
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) – Investigations, Trainings and Programs, 2020-2021: Period 1
- Proposed Budget for 2021-2022 Presentation

NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD/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 or questions must be directed to the board president. The Board of Education welcomes and encourages input from the public. There are two times during board meetings that the public is invited to speak. One time is now when members of the public are invited to bring any new business to the board for up to a maximum of three minutes per speaker. Later in the meeting there will be a second opportunity to address the board regarding the Action Agenda.

Before you make your comment, please state your name, address and subject matter. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding students and board employees and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals. While directing your comments or questions to the board president, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command

with the school district before coming to the board for a response. Responses may be provided at the end of this session. However, there are times when comments and questions will require additional information gathering before a response is provided.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Representative Reports

- Student Representative Report
- 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)
- Anti-Racism and Reform Committee (ARRC)
- Operations, Facilities and Finance Committee (OFF)
- Policy and Communications Committee (PCC)
- Human Resource Committee (HRC)
- President's Report

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

1. February 23, 2021 Executive Session Meeting
2. February 23, 2021 Business Meeting

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

1. Email dated 2/19/21 from A. Zwicker regarding New Jersey Disability Caucus
2. Email dated 2/22/21 from N. Pace-Addeo regarding Great Road Bridge LCD Study
3. Email dated 2/23/21 from L. Zhou regarding 9th grade science program changes
4. Email dated 2/23/21 from W. Dong regarding cancellation of 9th grade class
5. Email dated 2/23/21 from D. Xue regarding contact information
6. Email dated 2/24/21 from L. Zhou regarding 9th grade science program changes
7. Email dated 2/24/21 from S. Chen regarding change of 9th grade science program
8. Email dated 2/25/21 from V. Wei regarding Change made to the program of studies 2021-2022
9. Email dated 2/26/21 from L. Zhou regarding 9th grade science program changes
10. Email dated 2/26/21 from B. Liu regarding honor physics for 9th grade
11. Email dated 3/3/21 from N. Pace-Addeo regarding Great Road Bridge public meeting on 3/24/21
12. Email dated 3/11/21 from Somerset County regarding Great Road Bridge LCD Study

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to address the Board regarding the **Action Agenda** for up to a maximum of three (3) minutes during this period of the meeting. All comments or questions must be directed to the board president. The board president may need to refer an issue to the superintendent if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command within the school district before coming to the board for a response. All responses will 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 Report – Accept the following reports:

- a. Student Control Report
- b. Fire/Security Drill Report
- c. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report
- d. Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report, 2020-2021: Period 1

1.2 Approve Following Resolution Urging Relief from Increased Costs to School Districts Resulting from the Implementation of Chapter 44 – Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, P.L.2020, c.44 (“Chapter 44”) requires the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to offer plans, beginning on January 1, 2021, for medical and prescription benefits coverage including the New Jersey Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); as adopted and implemented by the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 established reduced premium contributions for any employee who selects, or is placed into, the NJEHP as his or her health care coverage option; and

WHEREAS, the SEHBP applies to the following employers who elect to participate in the SEHBP: local school district, regional school district, county vocational school district, county special services school district, jointure commission, educational services commission, state-operated school district, charter school; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Chapter 44 also apply to these same employers even if they do not elect to participate in the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, many school districts had previously negotiated health benefit agreements with lower net costs compared to the plan design and cost-sharing requirements under “Chapter 44,” and/or have staff that previously declined coverage but now are choosing to enroll in the NJEHP due to its low employee cost-sharing provisions; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of school districts will experience a net increase in their health care costs because the NJEHP premiums are higher than the premiums for the collectively bargained plans previously offered by the district, which is further exacerbated by reduced employee contributions under Chapter 44; and

WHEREAS, other school districts will experience a net increase in their overall health care costs even if the NJEHP premiums are lower than that of the previous plan offerings because the reduction in employee contributions will offset any overall premium savings, resulting in increased net costs to the district; and

WHEREAS, the low employee contribution requirements under NJEHP encourage employees who had previously waived or declined coverage to enroll thereby increasing the districts' health benefit costs for the balance of fiscal year 2021, continuing into fiscal year 2022 and likely beyond; and

WHEREAS, these costs may exceed districts' ability to address within their budgets owing to the limitations of the 2% property tax levy cap; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 was a well-intentioned proposal that aimed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for school districts, school employees and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, while some school districts may indeed be realizing savings due to the provisions of Chapter 44, many are experiencing the opposite effect and witnessing an increase in their health care costs, which may result in cuts to critical programs, services and staff in order to balance their budgets; and

WHEREAS, since Chapter 44 essentially froze the level of health benefits and employee contributions for the seven-year period following the law's effective date, districts are unable to control cost increases through the traditional collective bargaining process; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Legislature and Governor to address and correct the unintended financial consequences districts are experiencing due to Chapter 44 and ensure that all districts share in the anticipated savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montgomery Township Board of Education requests that the State Legislature and Governor provide relief from the increased health care costs experienced by school districts due to the implementation of Chapter 44; and be it further

RESOLVED, that relief from Chapter 44 should include direct, short-term assistance from the state to ensure that all school districts are held financially harmless in both the current and subsequent fiscal years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor should expeditiously begin to explore long-term structural reforms that reverse the unintended consequences of Chapter 44 and generate lasting savings for school districts, employees and taxpayers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any proposals to amend or revise Chapter 44 include input from all affected stakeholders before moving forward, including feedback from representatives of local boards of education, school business administrators, superintendents, building-level supervisors and school employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 16th Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

1.3 Approve July 2021 Board Meeting Date Change – approve the date change of the July 27, 2021 Board Meeting to Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

1.4 Calendar Approvals - Approve the Academic School Calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

1.5 Policy First Reading - Accept the following policies/regulations as a first reading:

- 0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal
- 5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis
- 5330.01R Administration of Medical Cannabis
- 7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools
- 7425R Lead Testing of Water in Schools

1.6 Policy Second Reading – Accept and adopt the following policies and regulations following a second reading:

- 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts
- 2431 Athletic Competition
- 2431.1R Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity
- 7450 Property Inventory
- 7510 Use of School Facilities
- 7510R Use of School Facilities
- 8561 Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

1.7 Policy/Regulation Abolishment - Approve the Board of Education to abolish Policy 7430 and Regulation 7430 – School Safety.

2.0 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

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

2.1 Consultant Approvals 2020-2021 - Approve the following consultants for the 2020-2021 school year:

CONSULTANT NAME/VENDOR	SERVICES PROVIDED	RATES OF SERVICE
The College of NJ School of Education	Provide 1 (one) day of professional development to High School English staff on teaching LGBTQIA literature, April 2021	\$1,000.00
Mercury2 LLC	Provide 3 (three) instructional sessions for UMS Title 1 students on coding. April – May, 2021	\$1,800.00 To be funded by Title 1 funds

The Bilingual Child Study Team Dr. Andre Francois, PhD info@Bilingualchildstudyteam.com	Bilingual Evaluations: Psychological, Educational, Speech, Social, Battelle (BDI) Translation of School Report	\$1,000/eval \$80.00/page
United Therapy Solutions	Meeting/Consultation Time	\$90.00/hour
Delta-T Group	Certified School Nurse RN Paraprofessional Psychological Evaluation Psychological Evaluation-Bilingual Functional Behavioral Assessment LDTC Evaluation LDTC Evaluation-Bilingual IEP Meeting-flat rate OT Evaluation OT Evaluation-Bilingual	\$43.25/hour \$41.75/hour \$23.00/hour \$420.00/eval \$495.00/eval \$570.00/eval \$420.00/eval \$495.00/eval \$145.00/eval \$420.00/eval \$495.00/eval

- 2.2 Riverside Insights – Approve purchase of online CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) testing licenses that will be used as one of the data measures in the identification process for gifted and talented. Cost: \$35,550.00

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 February 28, 2021 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 February 28, 2021; 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 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 February 28, 2021 within the 2020-2021 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.

3.3 Approval of Bill Lists

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 March 17, 2021 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 \$6,429,143.62 and

General Account	\$6,399,887.93
Food Service Account	\$ 29,255.69
TOTAL	\$6,429,143.62

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.

3.4 Travel Reimbursement – 2020/2021 – approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the travel reimbursement list dated 3/16/21.

3.5 Donation Acceptance – Accept the donation of \$10,050.00 from the Department of Defense and Johnson & Johnson to Montgomery High School Robotics Team 1403.

3.6 A. Adoption of the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget – that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-2022 tentative budget as follows:

General Fund	\$ 93,192,365
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,174,344
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 7,990,376</u>
Total Tentative Budget	\$102,357,085

B. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – General Fund – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$81,290,772 be raised for General Funds for the ensuing school year (2021-2022).

- Montgomery portion \$79,329,403
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 1,961,369

C. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – Debt Service – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$7,206,184 be raised to support the debt service budget for the ensuing school year (2021-2022).

- Montgomery portion \$7,152,565
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 53,619

D. Advertise Tentative Budget for Public Hearing – that the Board of Education authorize the advertisement of the tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law and establish that the public hearing be held remotely via Zoom on April 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

- E. Approve Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal – Approve the following resolution:
Approve the withdrawal of \$100,000 from the maintenance reserve account to be included in the 2021-2022 school district budget to fund district maintenance for the 2021-2022 school year.
- F. Approve Capital Reserve Withdrawal – Other Capital Projects – Approve the following resolution:
Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$550,000 for other capital project costs of the district tennis courts, fire alarm panel and school paging and bell system. The total cost of these projects is \$550,000, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the new Jersey Student Learning Standards.

3.7 Approval of Resolution – School District Accountability – A-5

Whereas, the State of New Jersey has enacted P.L. 2007, An Act Concerning School District Accountability (A-5) requiring boards of education to annually approve the total amount of funds budgeted for travel and conferences for all faculty, staff, administration and board members, and

Whereas, the ACT became effective on March 15, 2007 and requires prior approval of all travel and conference costs before they are incurred, and

Whereas, such travel expenditures shall include, but not be limited to, all costs for transportation, meals, lodging and registration and conference fees to and for the travel event,

Whereas, the board of education must establish an annual maximum per employee for regular business travel and that annual maximum is established in board policy 6471 as \$1,500 where prior board approval is not required, and

Whereas, the board of education elects to exclude travel expenditures by federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount and acknowledges the following travel costs for federal programs:

2020-21 Budget	\$49,255
2020-21 Expenditures through 2/28/21	\$10,548
2021-22 Projected Budget	\$66,309

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget and expended amounts are acknowledged and costs of travel and conferences through the use of local and state funds are approved for the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-2022 school year:

Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2020-21	\$175,156
Total amount expended July 1, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021	\$ 16,042
Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2021-2022	\$178,477

- 3.8 Establishment of Maximum Dollar Limits for Professional Services – Approve the following maximum dollar limits from the general fund for professional services for the 2021-2022 fiscal year:

<u>Professional Service</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Legal	\$200,000
Auditing	\$35,000
Architecture/Engineering	\$25,000
School Physician	\$25,000
Educational Services Consultants (evaluations, O.T., P.T., speech, etc.)	\$900,000
Financial Advisor	\$15,000

- 3.9 Amendment to Schedule A with Horizon Healthcare Services, Inc. – approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Horizon BCBSNJ and Montgomery Township Board of Education desire to amend the March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022 Schedule A.

NOW, THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth, Horizon BCBSNJ and Montgomery Township Board of Education agree to amend Schedule A.

- 3.10 Establish an Eligible Governmental 457 Deferred Compensation Plan with Security Benefit – approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education has maintained 403(b) and 457(“the Plan”) plans for the benefit of its eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education has reserved the right to amend the Plans at any time; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education has previously approved Security Benefit as a 403(b) provider;

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Township Board of Education has determined that it would be in the best interests of the district to amend the Plans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plans shall be amended to add Security Benefit as an approved 457 provider effective as soon as administratively possible after the signature date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Montgomery Township Board of Education hereby are authorized to execute such documents and to take other additional actions as they shall deem necessary or appropriate to effect the foregoing resolutions.

- 3.11 Approve Eagle Scout Project – approve the installation of three benches in the playground area at Lower Middle School as an Eagle Scout Project being completed by Mr. Arnav Dashaputra. The benches are being provided for the convenience of students and staff.
- 3.12 Settlement Agreement– Approve the following resolution pertaining to a settlement agreement:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release between the Board and the Parent 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 Settlement Agreement and Release and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

4.0 PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the personnel agenda following discussion in Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

ADJOURNMENT