

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board of Education Office Large Conference Room
Skillman, New Jersey 08558**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Meeting, Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

Call to Order – By Board President Tonkin at 6:00 p.m.

Statement of Open Meeting and Public Participation – By President Tonkin

In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notice of meeting on March 10, 2020 and March 11, 2020. 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.

This meeting is being tape-recorded for the purpose of Board review and future reference and to assist in the preparation of minutes.

It is the School Board’s intention to conclude this meeting no later than 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Via Teleconference

Phyllis Bursh – Present (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)	Jinesh Patel - Present
Christina Harris - Present	Ranjana Rao - Present
Amy Miller - Present	Biren Saraiya - Present
Michael Morack, Jr. – Present	Shreesh Tiwari - Present
Joanne Tonkin – Present	

Also Present: Mary McLoughlin, Acting Superintendent
Thomas M. Venanzi, Interim School Business Administrator/Interim Board Secretary
David Palumbo, Associate School Business Administrator, Assistant Board Secretary -
(via teleconference)

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 and 8.

Action is expected to take place after the board returns to public session on item 3.

The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

SALUTE THE FLAG

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/PRESENTATIONS

The Board thanked Ms. McLoughlin for her leadership during this tough time.

- Proposed Budget for 2020-21 Presentation

Ms. McLoughlin asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the 2020-21 budget. There were no questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ms. Barbara Preston, The Montgomery News, inquired if there was a process for the public to phone into the Board meetings. Ms. Tonkin addressed her concern.

ACTION AGENDA

Mr. Tiwari motioned items 1.1 through 3.3 seconded by Ms. Miller and approved by a unanimous vote.

ROLL CALL

Phyllis Bursh – Yes	Jinesh Patel - Yes
Christina Harris – Yes	Ranjana Rao - Yes
Amy Miller - Yes	Biren Saraiya - Yes
Michael Morack, Jr. – Yes	Shreesh Tiwari - Yes
Joanne Tonkin – Yes	

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

1.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report – Approve the March 18, 2020 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report.

3.0 OPERATIONS, FACILITIES AND FINANCE

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

3.1 A. Adoption of the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget – that the Board of Education adopt the 2020-2021 tentative budget as follows:

General Fund	\$ 91,203,071
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,147,343
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 8,171,795</u>
Total Tentative Budget	\$100,522,209

B. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – General Fund – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$79,696,835 be raised for General Funds for the ensuing school year (2020-2021).

- Montgomery portion \$77,699,267
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 1,997,568

C. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – Debt Service – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$7,097,597 be raised to support the debt service budget for the ensuing school year (2020-2021).

- Montgomery portion \$7,050,008
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 47,589

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 in the Upper Middle School media center on April 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2020-21 school year.

3.2 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:

2019-20 Budget	\$68,813
2019-20 Expenditures through 2/29/20	\$15,234
2020-21 Projected Budget	\$58,491

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 2019-20 school year and the 2020-21 school year:

Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2019-20	\$79,510
Total amount expended July 1, 2019 – Feb. 29, 2020	\$28,253
Total amount budgeted for travel and conferences 2020-21	\$45,100

- 3.3 Establishment of Maximum Dollar Limits for Professional Services – Approve the following maximum dollar limits from the general fund for professional services for the 2020-21 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

- Ms. Tonkin announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 24th. There will be an earlier start time in order to follow the curfew guidelines from the Governor. Executive session will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Regular Business meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Morack, Jr. motioned to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. seconded by Ms. Patel. Upon call of the question, the motion carried.

ROLL CALL - Consensus

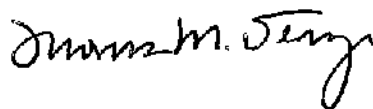
Phyllis Bursh – Yes
Christina Harris – Yes
Amy Miller - Yes
Michael Morack, Jr. – Yes

Jinesh Patel - Yes
Ranjana Rao - Yes
Biren Saraiya - Yes
Shreesh Tiwari - Yes

Joanne Tonkin – Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas M. Venanzi
Interim Board Secretary