

# MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR BOARD MEETING  
Online Zoom Webinar

Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
7:18 PM

Call to Order - Board President  
Roll Call - Board Secretary

## MEMBER

Daniel L. Albert  
 Susan Beery  
 Scott W. Konkle  
 Jennifer L. Marriott  
 Dottie M. Mathers, Vice President  
 William S. Ruffing

## MEMBER

David Shimmel, President  
 Ronald E. Snell  
 Dale Ulmer  
 \*Fred Holland, Solicitor  
 \*Christina Bason, Superintendent  
 \*Brandy N. Smith, Business Mgr./Bd.Secretary  
\*(Non-Voting Member)

## OTHERS

Breon, Amy - Elementary School Principal  
 Clark, Denise – WOL Coordinator  
 Feerrar, Darrin - Elementary School Principal  
 Gnoffo, Joseph - Supervisors of Buildings and Grounds  
 King, Christopher - Assistant High School Principal  
 Myers, Curtis - Middle School Principal  
 Peipher, Sebastian – Lead Network Administrator  
 Taormina, Daniel - High School Principal  
 Williamson, Michele - Supervisor of Special Education  
 Residents  Media  Students

### Prior Presentation

Mr. Shimmel announced the executive session that occurred before the board meeting as well as the supplemental agenda items.

Dr. Breon gave a presentation on the benefits of a facility dog for the elementary schools. This presentation included the benefits of a facility dog, the process of receiving one, as well as how the dog would be used.

Dr. Mathers asked who would own and take care of the dog. Dr. Breon said that it would have multiple handlers, but she would be the main person responsible for the dog.

Dr. Beery asked if the citations from the presentation could be sent to the Board.

Mr. Snell asked who would assume the vet costs. Dr. Breon stated that she would cover those costs or it could come through possible donations.

Mr. Ruffing asked if more insurance would be required.

Student representative Zachary Smith shared that the academic decathlon team will be participating in a district meet. He announced that tickets will be sold for the virtual school play in March.

Approval of minutes for the following meetings:

- Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021
- Work Session Meeting, Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Motion: Ruffing            Second: Mathers  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Ulmer  
No: Snell  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell made note of the minutes stating that there would be a special meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He asked Mr. Shimmel to announce why that meeting did not occur.

Mr. Shimmel said that the special meeting was not called following policy so it was void.

Mr. Snell said he believed it didn't happen due to an email discussion after the meeting, and he would like those emails to be released.

Mr. Shimmel said if they would like to file the request, then it can be made.

Public Comment

Brenda Oberheim asked why classes were not held virtually on snow days instead of using make up days.

Business Manager's Report

A. General Fund and Cafeteria Fund Treasurer's Report

Motion: Ulmer            Second: Marriott  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

B. Budgetary Transfers – None.

C. Presentation of Bills (Roll Call)

General Fund	– \$1,615,255.61
Cafeteria Fund	– \$ 51,792.20

Motion: Ulmer            Second: Mathers  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell brought up check number 60325 for the District Resource Officer. Mr. Snell asked what the Resource Officer did for the District during the shutdown periods.

Mrs. Bason said she could speak to the Principals and share what was being done for the District during those periods.

Mr. Snell requested that check 60325 be taken out and voted on separately.

Mr. Shimmel asked if there would be any complications with this bill not being paid.

Mrs. Smith said it would be a late payment.

Mr. Snell asked if the contract with the Borough specified a number of days that needed to be worked.

Mr. Shimmel called for a motion to table the approval of check 60325

Approval to table check 60325 until further information is provided.

Motion: Snell                      Second: Beery  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

D. Business

Mrs. Smith provided a timeline for what will be presented and reviewed in future work sessions and board meetings. Mrs. Smith also provided an update on cyber charter school numbers for the current budget.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Bason shared information on snow days compared to remote COVID days and provided background information on Agenda Item G-2.

Mr. Snell asked for clarification on why the District was able to be remote during the first major snow storm.

Mrs. Bason stated that we were already going to be remote due to COVID, not due to the weather.

Mr. Snell asked if the paperwork could be submitted to have remote learning days instead of snow days in upcoming years.

Mr. Ruffing asked if everything was approved to have remote learning days on snow days, would it be an option or an obligation to conduct remote learning on those days.

Mrs. Bason replied that it would give the District a choice, but would not be required.

Dr. Breon provided an update on Loyalsock Valley Elementary.

Mr. Feerrar thanked the staff, parents, and PTO at Lyter Elementary for all the hard work they continue to do throughout this difficult year.

Mr. Myers gave an update on the positive behavior intervention support program and their operation valentine's day cards for veterans and first responders.

Mr. Taormina acknowledged Alex LeCrone's success in the district and regional concert band and her qualification for all state concert band. Mr. Taormina provided an update on plans for graduation and prom.

Mr. King congratulated the district athletes and programs for their recent success.

Agenda Items

• **General**

G-1 Approval of receipt of PlanCon Part K. (Attachment)

Motion: Marriott                      Second: Ruffing  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

G-2 Approval of the revised school calendar to make Monday, February 15, 2021 a school day. (Attachment)

Motion: Ulmer Second: Marriott  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

- **Personnel**

P-1 Approval of the following unpaid leave of absence for a member of the staff who already used 10 unpaid days for the 2020-2021 school year:

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Effective Dates</b>
101637	January 26 to February 8, 2021

Motion: Marriott Second: Ruffing  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked if the staff pays their own health insurance during an unpaid leave of absence.  
Mrs. Smith replied that they do not.

- **Transportation**

T-1 Approval of Promiseland Bussing rates in the amount of \$2,430.95 for January 2021. (Attachment)

Motion: Ulmer Second: Mathers  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

- **Supplemental**

G-3 Approval of an MOU agreement between Montoursville Area School District and Montoursville Area Support Professionals Association. (Attachment)

Motion: Marriott Second: Ruffing  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Snell asked if there would be an increased cost to the District if some of those employees worked on the snow days.

Mrs. Smith explained that it would be budget neutral. The day in question was already a paid holiday, if they are working that day then they will receive a day off to use at another time.



## Informational Items

Mr. Shimmel called for discussion on Policy 006.

Mr. Snell stated that he believes attachments should be available to the public before a board meeting.

Mrs. Bason shared that legal opinion said that public documents become public after they are voted on.

Mr. Snell said it does no good for the public to get documents after a vote takes place.

Mr. Ulmer said that the appropriate attachments should be archived with the board meeting minutes.

Dr. Mathers made a motion to remove the words "at least 10 days" from Policy 006 and to add on page 6 that minutes will include attachments as approved with any needed redactions.

Mr. Ulmer gave a second to that motion.

Mrs. Bason asked for clarification on what is included in the grouping of public documentation.

Mr. Holland said that each group of documents would need to be reviewed.

Mrs. Bason stated that she would not be making the decision on public documents and that the legal advisors would be making that decision for the Board.

Mr. Albert wanted to know what Mr. Snell's ultimate concern is regarding this matter.

Mr. Snell said that the agendas are made available on a Thursday. If someone would like to see the document in question, they would not receive the attachment before the vote is taken.

Dr. Beery said that legal counsel advised that these documents were not public until they were voted on.

Mrs. Marriott said that the Board should be following legal advice.

Mrs. Bason gave an example of a document being provided, but the vote doesn't take place. That document is then not considered public, but was distributed. She shared that the portion of the policy citing a day 10 waiting period has no real purpose at this time.

Mr. Shimmel called for a motion to extend the board meeting by 30 minutes.

Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes

Motion: Snell                      Second: Marriott  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell, Ulmer  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

Mr. Albert asked if anything would change regarding the availability of documents if the 10-day wording is removed.

Mr. Snell said he believes there are two separate issues. He said the first is the 10-day period and the second is allowing documents to be shared before the board meetings.

Mr. Albert said that the Board should follow legal counsel's advice.

Mrs. Bason stated that if attachments are to be provided ahead of a vote, they would need to be evaluated by legal counsel before they are released.

Mr. Shimmel said that he would like to have an executive session with the solicitor before this item is addressed. He asked Dr. Mathers if she would withdraw her motion.

Dr. Mathers withdrew her motion.

Other Reports

A. Committee Reports

- PSBA – Nothing to report
- Policy Committee – Nothing to report
- IU Rep. – Nothing to report
- LCTC Rep. – The Executive Director's contract was extended one year
- Memorial Gardens – Nothing to report
- Budget – Revenue will be looked at in the next work session
- Buildings and Ground – Nothing to report
- Montoursville Foundation – Nothing to report
- Extra-Curricular Activities – Nothing to report

Mr. Albert thanked administration, staff, and board for the work they have done the past ten months through this difficult situation.

Mr. Konkle requested time for public comment from one individual who is requesting to speak.

Mr. Shimmel stated that public comment already took place, and that the individual is welcome to email their question or present it at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR MEETING 9:35 PM

Motion: Mathers                      Second: Marriott  
Yes: Albert, Beery, Konkle, Marriott, Mathers, Ruffing, Shimmel, Snell  
No: Ulmer  
Absent: None  
Result: **Motion Carried**

  
David Shimmel, President

  
Brandy N. Smith, Board Secretary