



News & Updates - April 2017

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Board of Education Approves Tentative Budget for Submission to the Executive County Superintendent

At their meeting on March 21, 2017, the Montville Township Board of Education approved the submission of a [tentative budget](#) to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for review. The budget for the 2017-2018 school year includes the following new initiatives:



- Hiring two full time Spanish Teachers to provide World Language instruction at the elementary level.
- Upgrading of the video production equipment at Lazar Middle School
- Implementation of the following new courses at Montville Township High School
 - Upper level World Language Courses in Advanced Culture (French, Italian, Spanish)
 - AP Computer Science Principles
 - Principles of Anatomy
- Implementation of an additional Integrated Preschool Class at Valley View School due to increased special education enrollment
- Chromebook 1 to 1 Initiative at Montville Township High School
- SMART Board replacement
- Generator for ITS Data Center
- ITS Junior Systems Administrator
- MTHS Weight Room Renovations
- Materials and textbooks to support implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards in Grades K-5
- Hilldale School Media Center Reconfiguration Project to utilize a portion of the media center space to create two small group instruction spaces.
- Improvement of drop-off/pick-up area at William Mason School to increase safety.

The Board is committed to limiting the local tax levy increase to the 2% cap limit. The Current Expense portion of the budget is increasing by less than 1%.

Due to the declining enrollment in the district, several teaching positions will be reduced.

The district will still maintain class sizes in accordance with the current Board Policy Guidelines:

Kindergarten - Grade 3
Grades 4-5

Up to 23 students per section
Up to 26

Since the Board of Education will be having a [referendum election on September 26, 2017](#) to address a number of facilities issues (see the District's website www.Montville.net for detailed information about the proposed referendum), the capital outlay portion of the budget has been substantially reduced.

A public hearing on the 2017-2018 annual budget will be held on May 2, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Township Municipal Building with the public portion of the meeting scheduled to begin at 7:45 p.m. Following the public hearing, the Board of Education will take action to adopt a final budget for the 2017-2017 school year.

Referendum Update

At their meeting on February 7th, the Montville Township Board of Education authorized the District Architect to submit the necessary applications and documents to the New Jersey Department of Education with regard to the district's [proposed referendum](#) scheduled for **Tuesday, September 26, 2017**.

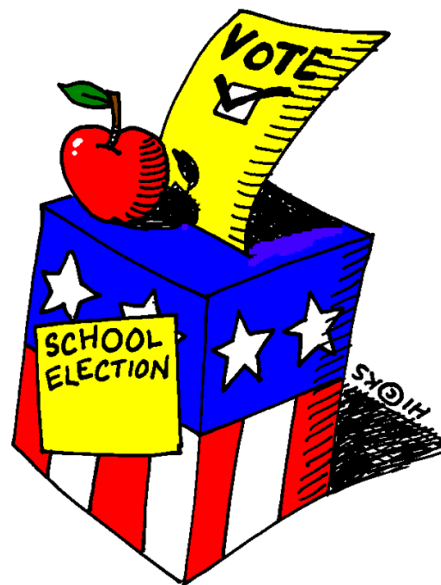
The NJDOE will now calculate the Preliminary Eligible Costs for the referendum projects to determine the amount of Debt Service Aid that the District will be eligible to receive. The Debt Service Aid could represent nearly 40% of the cost of these projects that the local taxpayers of Montville would not need to fund. In addition, the Montville Township Board of Education has indicated that they plan to appropriate \$600,000 from their Capital Reserve Account to further reduce the impact on the local taxpayer.

Once the Preliminary Eligible Costs are received from the NJDOE, the district will provide more detailed information regarding the fiscal aspects of the referendum.

Ongoing reports about the Referendum are part of the regular agenda at each Board of Education meeting.

Referendum Timeline

During the Summer of 2017 the Board will take action to finalize the actual referendum questions to be included on the ballot. The referendum election will take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If approved, construction on all projects would take place during the summer of 2018.



OneMontville Green-In Day: Friday, May 19, 2017...T-shirts still available!

For the second year, Montville Township Public Schools will support the [OneMontville](#) Green-In Day for #AcceptanceKindnessRespect. All schools, businesses, community organizations and residents are encouraged to wear green as a visible demonstration of the welcoming community

Montville Township is for all. \$10 T-shirts are available for sale and must be ordered by Friday, April 28, 2017. Help us paint the town green with **Acceptance - Kindness - Respect!**

[Click here to order your T-Shirts!](#)

MORRIS COUNTY PROUD TO BE STIGMA-FREE

In February, the Montville Township School District adopted a resolution identifying itself as a "Stigma Free School District." This is part of the Morris County Stigma-Free Communities Initiative adopted by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2016.

Stigma is defined as a mark of disgrace which results from judgment by others. When an individual is labeled they experience judgment and prejudice, leading to feelings of shame, embarrassment, distress, hopelessness and reluctance to seek or accept help. The Montville Township Public Schools hopes to empower our students to be "Stigma Free Ambassadors" who are dedicated to eradicating the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders and to creating an environment that accepts people as they are, and to providing the resources and support people need to achieve wellness and recovery.

Students are being asked to make a strong public commitment to live the values of respect and inclusion for all people with differences such as mental illness, physical and developmental disabilities, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or religion. They are encouraged to remind their peers that name-calling and bullying are "not OK in our schools or anywhere else" and to be upstanders in preventing bullying behaviors. Students are encouraged to not be afraid to ask for help. They are asked to reflect on their responses to daily situations and to 'check' their attitude where they may initially judge someone who faces stigma in their lives.

The district considers the Stigma-Free initiative to be an extension of the character education programs that all students participate in.

Bits and Pieces....

At their annual awards banquet on March 11, the Montville Township Chamber of Commerce honored MTHS teacher and School of Rock Founder Anthony Sia with the Public Service award. Sia was recognized for the School of Rock's ongoing efforts over the past 11 years to raise funds and donate the proceeds of its concerts to worthy causes. Presenter Daniele Speciale honored Sia for the time and resources Sia has sacrificed but also the lasting impact he has continued to have on these talented students and the impact the group continues to have on the community.

Congratulations to Montville's four wrestlers who competed in the State Championships held in Atlantic City in March. Parker Fox (4th) and Dominic Fano (8th) brought home medals in their age groups.



School News

The MTHS Bowling Team was recently recognized by the Township Committee. The team are four-time county and conference champions, setting a high series record of 3186 and a high game record of 1141.

Cedar Hill teachers Mrs. Fisher and Ms. Olenowski have organized a new Interpretive Reading Club. The club focuses on students reading aloud from a text in a way that appeals to the imagination and emotions. Members of the club intend to compete in a county-wide competition this June in Chester.

The students at Valley View School raised more than \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital through their Mathathon.

In February Hilldale students raised funds for Project Linus, which provides blankets to infants in area hospitals.

The annual MTHS Key Club Volleyball Marathon held on February 24th raised \$11,000 which will be donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Erika's Lighthouse, and Adrenal Cancer Research.

REMINDER

It has come to our attention that some Lazar Middle School Students and possibly MTHS Students are having their parents drop them off at the Youth Center, before the school day begins, under the false pretense that the Youth Center is open and that there is proper supervision. Please be aware that the Youth Center is NOT open and NO SUPERVISION IS PROVIDED before school hours. The Youth Center's days and hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please help ensure your child's safety by not dropping your students off at the Youth Center before school hours.

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