

**Montour School District  
Board of School Directors  
Special Board Meeting  
Thursday, August 13, 2015  
Place: High School Auditorium  
Time: 6:35 p.m.**

**Call to Order** The Special Board Meeting of the Montour Board of School Directors was called to order by Mr. Caliguire at 6:35 p.m.

**Pledge** The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Roll Call** **ROLL CALL: The following members were present:**  
Mr. Suess, Mr. Miller, Mr. Barth, Mr. Young, Mr. DiClemente,  
Mr. Barclay, Mrs. Snell (by phone), Mr. Dudash and Mr. Caliguire

**Also present at the Board Meeting:**  
Janet Burkardt, Solicitor Dr. Ghilani, Superintendent  
Tiffani Doyle, Recording Secretary/Board Secretary

**Executive Session** Mr. Caliguire announced that the Board was going into executive session and would return shortly. At 7:30 p.m. the Board returned.

**Requests to Address the Board**

1. Jeffrey Gamble, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Expressed that the Board can't open positions such as the volleyball coaching position in the manner in which they did.
2. Brian Niccolai, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Expressed the enormous burden that opening the coaching position 3 weeks prior to the start of the season has caused the team.
3. Leda Niccolai, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – President of Volleyball Boosters, feels betrayed and embarrassed on the actions of the Board regarding how the coaching position was handled.
4. Katelyn Gamble, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating she is a friend and role model.
5. Alexa Smarra, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she "brought out the best in her."
6. Janet Smarra, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she is an asset to the District through her leadership and organization skills.
7. Kirsten Burkes, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Spoke in her own defense that she is not and has never been a bully. She added that she is passionate and dedicated to what she does.
8. Kennedi Stevenson, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she made her want to be a better person and provided stability in her life.
9. Janice Buechel, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that a director should have listened for a real consensus before opening the position as the majority did not approve of losing their coach.

10. Dominica Niccolai, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that ever since she has been there she has made positive changes to the team.
11. Alaina Buechel, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she turned her competitor into a teammate and best friend.
12. Lauren Rose, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she cares a lot for the team and dedicates her time to making sure everyone is good.
13. Douglas Mitro, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that the timing of opening the position was horrible and that he has witnessed progressive steps with the team in a positive direction under Ms. Burkes.
14. Alexa Mitro, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that “she must have done something right if we all want her back.”
15. Angela Debona, Kennedy Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes asking for a valid reason why she was removed in the first place and added how suspicious the actions are perceived by the community.
16. Diane Esposito, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that it is a disgrace that this situation has reached this point.
17. Alena Esposito, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that Kirsten taught her what hard work as she exampled athletic ability and good work ethic.
18. Rosina Esposito, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she truly looks up to her.
19. Amalia Esposito, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes while quoting the definition of bullying stating that Kirsten did not example that definition in any way.
20. Cecilia Esposito, Robinson Township – Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes asking to “please give us our coach back.”
21. Jim Esposito, Robinson Township – School Board, Girls Volleyball – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes and questioned that Right-to-Know process stating that he has the right to listen to the previous month’s meeting recording.
22. Megan Hanlon, Robinson Township – Promoted the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that she typically played soccer but because of Kirsten she chose to play volleyball.
23. Amanda Brusceci, Robinson Township – Did not promote the hire of Kirsten Burkes stating that Kirsten admitted fault, never apologized to her and her sisters, and the Board knows the facts. She concluded that a new coach would be a step in the right direction.

At about 8:30 p.m. Mr. Dudash excused himself from the meeting due to personal obligations but was telephoned for voting purposes.

## Reports

Mr. Caliguire called upon Dr. Ghilani to present the Reports agenda. Dr. Ghilani requested a motion to appoint two voting delegates to the 2015 Delegate Assembly. The Board nominated Mr. Dudash and Mr. Barth.

Mr. Young made the motion to approve the nominations, seconded by Mr. Barclay.

ROLL CALL: All Present Voted “YES”  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Education**

Mr. Caliguire called upon Mr. Aglio to present the Education Agenda.  
 Mr. Aglio requested a motion to approve an educational partnership between the LearnLab at Carnegie Mellon University and Montour School District, funded by the National Science Foundation, to identify the instructional conditions that cause robust student learning experiences.

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the partnership, seconded by Mr. Barth.

ROLL CALL: All Present Voted "YES"  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Facilities & Operations**

Mr. Caliguire called upon Dr. Ghilani to present the Facilities & Operations agenda.  
 Dr. Ghilani requested a motion to approve the Otis United Technologies contract to maintain Montour School District Athletic Building elevators (3) at a cost of \$1,392/year or \$116/month.

Mr. Barclay made the motion to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Suess.

ROLL CALL: All Present Voted "YES"  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Personnel**

Mr. Caliguire called upon Ms. Testa to present the Personnel agenda.  
 Ms. Testa requested a motion to approve the following professional elections and leaves:

**Professional Staff – Elections**

Name	Location	Assignment	Effective	Salary
Capp, Sarah	High School	Math Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for A. Baldauff from 8-19-15 through 1-15-16.	8-19-15	\$45,125 (prorated)
Farrelly, Jayme	High School	Special Education Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for N. Rowe for the 2015-2016 school year.	8-19-15	\$45,125
Hogya, Matthew	High School	English Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for A. Jarasinsky/K. Butera for the 2015-2016 school year.	8-19-15	\$46,375
Linn, Diamond	High School	English Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for M. Mikish/J. Lowden/L.Hann for the 2015-2016 school year.	8-19-15	\$46,375
Paddick, Jordan	Forest Grove	Art Education Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for N. Rush for the 2015-2016 school year.	8-19-15	\$45,125
Prunczyk, Kristy	DEW	Language Arts Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for K. Cronin from 8-19-15 through 3-23-16.	8-19-15	\$45,125 (prorated)
Scappe, Vincent	Forest Grove	Physical Education Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for J. DeRose for the 2015-2016 school year.	8-19-15	\$54,575

Sledge, Victoria	Burkett	(.5) School Nurse	Anticipated 8-19-15	\$45,125 (prorated)
Solomon, Brittany	Burkett	Special Education Teacher (Long-term Substitute) for L. Showman from 8-19-15 through 11-23-16.	8-19-15	\$45,125 (prorated)

**Professional Staff – Leave of Absence**

Name	Location	Assignment	Type of Leave	Leave Dates
Rowe, Natalie	High School	Special Education Teacher	Personal Leave	2015-2016 school year

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the professional elections and leaves, seconded by Mr. Barclay.

ROLL CALL: All Present Voted “YES”  
***MOTION CARRIED***

Ms. Testa then requested a motion to approve the following extra-curricular activities elections:

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

Name	Position	Salary
Black, Bill	Assistant Volleyball Coach	\$3,485
Burkes, Kirsten	Head Volleyball Coach	\$4,312

Public comment:

Steve Fox, Western Area YMCA, commented on behalf of the Brusceci girls that Ms. Burkes has had a vendetta with him since their coaching days together. He feared that her actions were a result of his involvement with coaching the Brusceci girls. He added that she lacks professionalism.

Sherry Fleiner, Robinson Township, Questioned the policy & procedures with the coaching staff. Both Mr. Caliguire and Dr. Ghilani assured that there were going to be strict policy and procedures in place with supervision not only in the volleyball area but many areas.

Darrell Young, Board Treasurer, questioned Kirsten Burkes on her reasoning for cutting teammates and requested the number of uniforms available the previous year. There were mixed numbers and reasoning as a response.

Mr. DiClemente made the motion to approve the coaches, seconded by Mr. Barth.

ROLL CALL: All Present Voted “YES”  
***MOTION CARRIED***

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Caliguire asked if there were any comments; the volleyball team in support of Ms. Burkes replied “Thank you.”

Mr. Caliguire requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Suess made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Miller at 9:05 p.m..

VOICE

ROLL CALL: All Present Voted “YES”

***MOTION CARRIED***

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Dean Caliguire, President

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Tiffani Doyle, Secretary