

**ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC ON THIS 21th DAY OF JULY 2020 REGARDING
THE MATTER OF IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A
SENDING-RECEIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PORT JERVIS BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

On December 24, 2019, the Montague Board of Education filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education seeking to terminate its current sending-receiving relationship with the High Point Regional Board of Education and enter into a new sending-receiving relationship with the Port Jervis Board of Education to educate Montague's students in grades 9-12.

The High Point Regional Board of Education has not opposed this petition and the Port Jervis Board of Education supports this petition.

On July 15, 2020, the Acting Director of the Bureau of Controversies and Disputes for the Department of Education, Jennifer Killough-Herrera, ordered that members of the public have the opportunity to comment on the proposed new sending-receiving relationship between Montague and Port Jervis. As such, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:3-6.1*, the record in this matter shall remain open for a period of 20 days in order to allow the public an opportunity to comment. This 20-day period shall begin to run on this 20th day of July, 2020.

The public shall have 20 days from today to submit any written comments to the Commissioner of Education, at the following address: PO Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Comments cannot exceed 10 pages in length and must be submitted to the Commissioner of Education in duplicate (that is, two copies must be sent to the Commissioner). Pursuant to the regulation, the comments shall address the following question: Will the proposed sending-receiving relationship between Montague and Port Jervis, whereby Montague students in grades 9-12 would attend Port Jervis High School, result in a substantial negative impact on any of the affected districts in one or more of the following areas: financial implications; quality of education received by students; and racial composition of the student populations.

Any person or entity that submits comments to the Commissioner is required also to serve a copy at the same time upon Montague, High Point Regional, and Port Jervis at the following addresses. Please note that all three must be copied.

(1) Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr., Esq.
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Counsel for Montague

(2) Douglas Silvestro, Esq.
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450 Main Street
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Counsel for High Point Regional

(3) Thomas Scapoli, Esq.
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Harrison, New York 10528
Counsel for Port Jervis

Anyone filing comments with the Commissioner must include with his/her comments a signed statement showing proof of service in the following form:

I certify that on _____, which is the same date that I mailed two copies of the comments included herein to the Commissioner of Education, I mailed copies of the comments to the legal counsel for the Board of Education of Montague, the Board of Education of High Point Regional, and the Board of Education of Port Jervis at the addresses stated in the notice regarding public comment.

Once all comments are received, Montague, High Point Regional, and Port Jervis will have 20 days to file any reply.