

August 11, 2016

As you may be aware, the litigation over the send-receive relationship between High Point Regional and Montague was resolved earlier this year after the settlement agreement between the Montague and High Point boards was approved by the Commissioner of Education. However, the High Point Board continues to receive inquiries from Montague parents regarding this issue.

Pursuant to the settlement agreement, all Montague students enrolled in Port Jervis who were in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or higher as of the 2015-2016 school year could choose whether to continue attending school in Port Jervis or to enroll in High Point, with all tuition paid for by the Montague Board. This agreement expanded the group of students eligible to continue in Port Jervis by several years.

The High Point Board and its administration understand that not all residents of Montague are entirely satisfied with the resolution reached between the two school boards. Specifically, some have advocated for the adoption of a “sibling plan” that would presumably allow all children with at least one sibling attending school in Port Jervis to also enroll in Port Jervis instead of High Point at taxpayer expense, regardless as to the sibling’s current age. To be clear, the “sibling plan” is not and has never been part of either the formal send-receive agreement or the settlement agreement between Montague and High Point, nor has the Commissioner approved any such provision. No further changes to the existing agreements are being contemplated at this time.

As has already been expressed many times, all parties want to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for Montague students entering High Point Regional High School. To this end, High Point administration will continue to work with Montague parents and students to discuss with them what can be done to ease them into the High Point community, including by offering tours of the school, scheduling meetings with school counselors or arranging for existing High Point students or staff to “buddy” with new students. However, the High Point Board does not have the authority to permit or direct the Montague Board to pay for students to attend school in Port Jervis other than those specifically covered by the agreement sanctioned by the Commissioner. Accordingly, no High Point staff can or will entertain requests by parents who do not wish to abide by the send-receive agreement.

The High Point Board, along with our students and staff, want nothing less than the safe and successful integration of our Montague neighbors into our greater High Point community. With the legal dispute regarding the send-receive agreement having been fully finalized, we look forward to working with the Montague Board and all Montague residents to realize this goal.