

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
November 15, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.**

2016-2017 Board of Education Goal:

To engage in a cycle of continuous improvement to ensure all students are educated with high standards and achieve at the highest levels of learning in the Montville Public Schools.

Item 1. Call to order

Board Chair Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie Baxter, Sandra Berardy, Daniel Boisvert, Steve Loiler, Kim Navetta, Colleen Rix, James Wood, and Robert Mitchell.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Tanya Patten, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, and Student Board Representatives Karishma Chouhan and Joshua Archibald.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

Item 3. A moment of silence to remember Todd Pomazon.

A moment of silence was held to remember Todd Pomazon who served on the board for over twelve years.

Item 4. Presentation: A) Montville Marvels

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Principal Mary Jane Dix and Assistant Principal Jason Daly recognized Montville Marvels Elijah Rix and Brianna Pedersen for their hard work and accomplishments with the Tyl Middle School Choir. Montville Marvels Nicole Stelik and Lindsay Olock were also recognized for their work with the Glad and Sad Committee. Board member S. Loiler presented these awards.

Montville High School: Principal Jeff Theodoss and Assistant Principal Tanya Patten recognized Montville Marvel and School Safety Officer Michael Collins for building many positive relationships with students which has helped to improve the school climate. Montville Marvel Kristiyana Petrova was recognized for her outstanding academic achievements, her drive to succeed, and her positive contributions to athletic and school programs. Also recognized was Nicholas Tibbetts for his outstanding

achievements and positive contributions to athletic and school programs. Their awards were presented by Board member C. Rix.

Palmer Building: Camille Douglas was unable to attend and will be honored at the December 20, 2016 meeting.

Mohegan School: Principal Will Klinefelter recognized Montville Marvel Beverly Valle for volunteering before school and during recess as a library helper and serving as a mentor to our kindergarten and first grade students. The award was presented by Board member S. Berardy.

Presentation: B) Montville High School – Raising Academic Standards Through College Partnerships – Jeff Theodoss

Principal J. Theodoss gave a PowerPoint presentation that focused on promoting college readiness through a variety of academic and support programs. He said that in comparison to other schools in the DRG, MHS has more AP course offerings and more students taking the AP courses, doubling AP course enrollment since the 2014-2015 academic year. In addition, more students are taking the AP exams and achieving high scores thereby increasing the number of students who earn college credits in high school. Principal Theodoss spoke about MHS' affiliations with Three Rivers Community College, Early College Experience program at UConn, Eastern Connecticut State University, and online college courses. He also discussed the role of counseling and evaluation tools that are used to monitor growth including the PSAT given to all students grades in 9, 10, and 11, SAT, and AP scores Teacher evaluations are used to monitor the are used to monitor the incorporation of more problem solving activities into the classroom. Principal Theodoss said that 97% of MHS students are on track to graduate based upon the credits earned at the end of each of their four years. Students who need extra supports to succeed are provided with tutoring, both during the school day and after school, and course-based interventions. Principal Theodoss concluded his presentation by discussing some challenges to raising academic standards and measures being taken to improve the transition from 8th grade to high school classes, and develop partnerships to provide additional support services. Board member D. Boisvert asked about the qualifications of ECE teachers. Principal Theodoss commented that all the teachers are adjunct UCONN professors. In response to Board member Berardy's question about online courses, Principal Theodoss said that they are primarily used for credit recovery but that there are several students taking online courses for college credit.

Item 5. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

New London resident Jason Moore encouraged the Board to carefully consider the ramifications of electronic board meetings which allow remote participation.

Item 6: Letters and communications. None

Item 7. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.
Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0-1)
Abstention: Carrie Baxter

Item 8. Unfinished Business. -- None

Item 9. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to adopt the proposed schedule of Board of Education meetings for 2017, and file the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to January 31, 2017.**

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed schedule of Board of Education meetings for 2017, and file the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to January 31, 2017.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- b. Consideration and action to adopt the AP Government and Politics textbook as recommended at the October meeting of the E & E Committee.**

Motion: That the Board adopts the AP Government and Politics textbook as recommended at the October meeting of the E & E Committee.

Proposed by: Sandy Berardy
Seconded by: Dan Boisvert
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0-1)
Abstention: Carrie Baxter

Per discussion, Board member S. Berardy stated that the AP course was a new one and the textbook was recommended by the E & E Committee.

- c. Discussion regarding electronic board meetings.**

Superintendent B. Levesque spoke about Board member use of i-Pads and the process of providing electronic access to documents and eliminating the distribution of paper packets about two years ago. Electronic documents had been provided through Dropbox and One Note over the summer. He polled the Board about their satisfaction with this change. With the exception of Board member S. Berardy who preferred to have hard

copies that she could mark up, the Board agreed to continue with electronic transmission of board resources. S. Berardy will be sent paper copies by mail.

d. Discussion of budget development for 2017-18, and consideration and action to approve budget strategies for 2017-18.

Motion: That the Board approves budget strategies for 2017-18.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent B. Levesque stated that the document the Board received has been the standard for 2-3 years and aligns with Board goals and will guide the budget process. He also confirmed that the document was accessible via One Note. Board member C. Baxter asked if substitute pay was lower than that of other districts. Superintendent Levesque remarked that the district sub-pay was raised two years ago to \$80 per day but that the sub-pay for other districts would be surveyed during the budget process. It was agreed that it would be a challenging budget year.

e. Consideration and action to approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects.

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed Capital Improvement projects.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque stated that he had been working with Facilities Director Steve Carroll who conferred with the principals to identify the capital improvement projects. The capital plan is a 5-year one and identifies items which cost \$10,000 or more. It was noted that the Town has not fully funded the capital requests in the past. Superintendent Levesque said that the list must be submitted to the Town by November 30th. He briefly discussed some items on the list including the critical water issue at the high school having to do with manganese in the pipes requiring the use of bottled water. Superintendent Levesque stated that S. Carroll would try to flush the system over the upcoming holiday and would look into the cost for replacing the current system. It was also noted that the full document that should have been submitted to the Board was missing from the Board's OneNote files and would be resent tomorrow and an extension request would be submitted to the Town.

Motion: That the approval for submission of the proposed Capital Improvement projects be postponed pending an extension from the Town.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: James Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Item 10. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that the Committee continued review of a new policy regarding transgender students that was tabled from the October meeting. The Committee agreed to postpone discussion pending information obtained from a seminar regarding the topic that will be given at the upcoming CABE Conference.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that an AP Physics course was discussed along with the number of students who would be interested in the course. New course pathways in art and life management were presented and approved by the committee and will be brought before the full Board in December. A new course, Guitar Ensemble, was presented and be voted on at next month's E&E committee meeting.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

K. Navetta reported that she was unable to attend the MEF meeting. B. Levesque reported that the Dub-Smash on November 18th was postponed and the education grant cycle ended on October 30th. Nine regular and mini grant requests were received. B. Levesque stated that there was discussion about increasing grant awards beyond \$5,000 and told Board members to check the MEF website for details.

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

C. Rix reported she was unable to attend the meeting.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell stated that he hoped to see everyone at the CABE convention this weekend. He reported that he would be running two seminars.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

This committee will be reassigned.

g. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

This advisory council will be reassigned.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

D. Boisvert reported that last week's meeting was postponed to this Thursday, November 17th.

i. Student Board Representatives.

Student Board members Karishma Chouhan and Joshua Archibald reported to the Board on activities as follows:

Academic

K. Chouhan was very complimentary of the MHS counseling department and the help which they provide to students as they consider college and career options.

The middle school presentation about the high school went smoothly, and every club and class was represented. Karishma felt the presentation was "stellar!"
The choir was very good and the free cookies that the Culinary Department handed out were a hit.

Karishma expressed that some students are excited about the idea of establishing an AP Physics course. She added that some would like AP Calculus and physics to run parallel to each other so students could have the option of doing calculus-based and algebra-based Physics. For students going into any math-related field, this would be a giant help.

Students expressed support for the idea of opening some Advanced Placement courses to sophomores.

It was reported that some students are interested in participating in the a History Day competition and it was requested that this might be offered for students who want to do an independent study.

Josh mentioned that some students have requested a greater focus on hands-on learning, especially since it goes hand-in-hand with district's problem solving initiative. He reported that students love interactive learning, the ability to apply knowledge and skills.

Student Concerns

The representatives asked if there were ways to increase volunteer opportunities with the Town especially opportunities for students who cannot get the transportation to volunteer opportunities.

This is a problem for some students who do not have enough services hours for National Honor Society.

Student Requests

Josh reported that some students had expressed dissatisfaction with the small serving sizes of meals in the in school cafeteria, especially for student-athletes. .Students would also like more vegan options in school cafeteria.

General Sentiments

The school year is going well. There is a relatively healthy school environment post-election that speaks well to the character of the school community.

Board member S. Berardy asked that the Board be provided with responses to the students' comments at subsequent Board meetings. Concerning student comments from last month's report, Superintendent Levesque reported that the district's hands are tied when it comes to the meals served in the cafeteria due restrictions linked to federal funding. He stated that the concern has already been broached with H. Buchholtz. L. Pallin spoke to the students' discussion about Naviance at last month's meeting and said its use is being maximized with underclassmen. She further stated that based upon concerns raised about the frustrations surrounding the "marking the text" initiative, she had reached out to the English department chair to ensure that teachers understood that this strategy was for students learning to read shorter texts, but not necessarily for longer novels. She added that she appreciated the feedback—a lot of good ideas--from the Student Board representatives.

j. Chair's Remarks.

Board Chair B. Mitchell stated that the Board would miss Todd Pomazon, who always offered good counsel.

k. Other.

Item 11. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from Director of Student Services – Mrs. Paula LaChance.

Director of Student Services P. LaChance reported to the Board on the following:

Aside from her continued support at PPT's this month, she is wrapping up a **Title IX investigation**. She met with **legal counsel** regarding an intricate case involving an ODD student. She attended a conference with the **Connecticut Transition Community of Practice Group**. This group is comprised of multiple stakeholder groups (DDS, BRS, DMHAS and BESB) that come together to focus on improving post-school outcomes for those students that have completed all academic requirements but still need to build upon and further develop the skills necessary for independent living

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

Family Math Night: She wanted to publicly acknowledge and thank our two elementary math coaches for organizing and planning two highly successful family math nights, one for Murphy and Oakdale families and one for Mohegan families. Aided by teachers and high school students, families circulated through a variety of creative, fun, and educational math games. It was heartening to see our parents' very positive responses posted on Facebook!

Professional Learning: Last Tuesday, teachers attended a full day of professional learning. We offered a wide range of activities tailored to meet teacher, building, and district needs and initiatives. Many of our own teachers served as presenters or facilitators either within the district or across districts through regional PD. I am very proud of the leadership role which Montville teachers take in the regional PD program. We initiated that program in the fall of 2011 and 6 years later it is still a very strong cooperative program. Teachers from 25 districts were in attendance last Tuesday.

Standards-based Grading: Under M.J. Dix's leadership, Tyl teachers are making excellent progress identifying content and skill-based standards for each course and rethinking their grading process. In the future, we look forward to using this work to provide students and parents with much more specific information regarding student progress in each course. She and M. J. Dix will meet next week to review Aspen's proposals for displaying this information in the portal and on report cards.

Co-Observations: She has continued to conduct co-observations with MHS administrators...this week I'm observing several English classes; in previous weeks, I visited math and world language classes. I very much enjoy the opportunity to see our students and teachers in the classroom and have been pleased by the quality of the learning I have observed.

Conferences: With the close of the first quarter at MHS and the first trimester in the elementary schools, we are in the midst of parent conferences...this Thursday at MHS and next week at the elementary schools.

c. Monthly Update.

Superintendent B. Levesque reported to the Board as follows:

CAPPS: He serves on statewide CAPPS Legislative Sub-committee that is preparing for meeting on Friday, December 2 in East Hartford to lobby for important educational concerns.

Principal Meetings: November monthly principal meetings continue. He met with Principal Sangermano today and has another meeting scheduled for tomorrow. The one-on-one meetings provide him with a retrospective of the issues, needs, and accomplishments of the students and the schools.

Bus Garage: John Patterson continues to build on the positive morale momentum at the bus garage. Things continue to move in a good direction.

Enrollment: Declining school enrollment will be discussed at the CAPPs Legislative Sub-committee meeting on Friday, December 2nd. Board members D. Boisvert and S. Berardy will be attending. He asked the other Board members to notify him if they have an interest in attending the meeting.

Item 12. Information items.

Board member C. Baxter commented on the great experience she had with her son concerning Montville Loves to Read. She mentioned the corresponding letter and donation form for the event and also thanked the schools stating that the goal is to unite the community and the elementary schools.

Board member C. Rix stated that she attended the Murphy School Veterans Day Breakfast. She said the 5th graders did a wonderful job.

It was noted that Monica Pomazon was appointed by the Town Council to complete her husband's, Board member Todd Pomazon, term on the Board upon his unexpected death.

Item 13. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only). -- None

Item 14. Adjournment.

Motion: **That the meeting is adjourned.**

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____