

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 28, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

2016-2017 Board of Education Goals

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; James Wood, Sandra Berardy, Colleen Rix, Steven Loiler, Monica Pomazon, Daniel Boisvert, Joseph Aquitante and Carrie Baxter. Board member Colleen Rix was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators, Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Phil Orbe, Jill Mazzalupo, Nic Savoie, 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.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Assistant Principal Jason Daly recognized Jamarion Bandholtz for his innate capacity for problem solving, Jamarion can anticipate solutions or alternatives to scenarios without prompting and seems to most enjoy tasks of higher level thinking. The award was presented by Board member Monica Pomazon.

Also recognized by Principal Dix was Kendall Turney for her “can do” attitude which is necessary for a natural problem solver, her exemplary academic performance and the grit she demonstrates daily. The award was presented by Board Member Monica Pomazon.

Montville High School: Assistant Principal Tanya Patten recognized Caroline Ricupero for her excellent academic achievements, her service to the school and for the way she exemplifies Montville High School’s core values. The award was presented by Board Member Daniel Boisvert.

Also recognized by Assistant Principal Patten was Hailey Adcock for her outstanding character, high academic achievement and selflessness. The award was presented by Board Member Daniel Boisvert.

Palmer Building: Principal Sangermano recognized Legend Riley-Bowen for his perseverance toward achieving academic success in the face of great adversity while proving himself a leader amongst his peers. The award was presented by Board Member Joseph Aquitante.

Presentation: B) Palmer Building – PBL and Pathways campus update.

Heather Sangermano presented. Both staff and students from Palmer attended the meeting in support of their principal. Mrs. Sangermano presented both the academic and cultural goals of the program. Students establish their own personal goals at student-led goal meetings attended by their parents. The program has maintained 8-9 regular education students over the past three years, it has two out-of-district students from Groton and New London. 88% of the students with attendance concerns have improved their attendance. 67% of students arrive at the program off track for graduation. 85% of the students have experienced two or more Adverse Childhood Experiences, 50% have experienced four or more, 30% have experienced six or more. ACEs have a direct impact on students' success in school. Despite this, Palmer students have demonstrated growth in multiple areas.

STAR data from this year was displayed to demonstrate growth. Students with student growth percentiles between 30 and 60% are meeting STARs growth goals. Last year in reading 75% of students fell in the 30-60% range, this year 90% did. In math 78% met growth goals last year and this year 83% are in 30-60 growth range. In January 80% of students were meeting their year-end target goal score in reading. In math, 60% of students were on track, 45% of students had already met their end of year goals. One thing fostering students' growth is that 80% of students are choosing independently to redo/revise their work to improve. 60% of students had met year-end standards in three or more areas on their Standards Based report card at the end of semester 1. Over the past three years, average daily attendance has been stable at about 80% of students, this year it is up to 87%. Discipline referrals remain very low. College and Career readiness goals are being effectively supported by the internship program. New internships that match career goals include welding and charter fishing; all internships offer authentic learning. Thirteen internships have turned into employment.

The business members who provide internship opportunities to Palmer students have formed an organization called Community partners for Student Success; the group will have its first meeting as a committee this spring.

The students will be visiting four colleges this spring.

Carrie Baxter inquired about the factors which led to improved scores in reading. Mrs. Sangermano indicated that STAR data was used to develop intervention groups in reading and students were focused on tracking and improving their progress.

When asked by a student from the audience what Mrs. Sangermano felt was the driving force behind the success of the program, Mrs. Sangermano replied that it was the close knit community which students and staff have built which makes the program so successful. A case worker for this same student addressed The Board in order to thank Mrs. Sangermano and The Superintendent for the impact their decisions had made in making this particular student so successful.

Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

None.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

None.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.
Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Joseph Aquitante
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Item 6. Unfinished Business. -- None

Item 7. New business.

- a. Consideration and action for recommendations/approval of the proposed budget for 2017-2018, with submission to The Town by March 15, 2017.**

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed budget for 2017-2018 with submission to The Town by March 15, 2017.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Sandra Berardy indicated her concerns regarding the reduction in language programs. She would like to look at the language curriculum in Montville in the future if things change. Specifically, she asked that we consider how we can bring back different languages. Superintendent Levesque indicated that a voluntary retirement incentive has been offered. Two letters have been received so far. This will result in no layoffs to teachers in proposed budget, only the reduction to French.

- b. Consideration and action to approve Policy 4118.222; Employee Drug Testing with no revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee at its January Meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy 4118.222; Employee Drug Testing with no revisions.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Jim Wood indicated that the committee felt the policy was good as written.

- c. Consideration and action to approve the revisions to Policy 4119; Teacher's Responsibilities, as recommended by the Policy Committee at its January Meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy 4119; Teacher's Responsibilities.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Jim Wood indicated that there were grammatical changes but no substantive changes. Attendance will be changed to electronic submission.

- d. Consideration and action to rescind Policy 4212.6; Job Sharing as recommended by the Policy Committee at its January Meeting.**

Motion: That the Board rescinds the policy.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Joseph Aquitante
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Jim Wood indicated that this is a policy which is not used and was written decades ago for an isolated event. The committee does not feel that job sharing is educationally sound. Carrie Baxter asked if it would be beneficial to the budget to retain the policy. Superintendent Levesque indicated that it would not benefit the budget at all.

- e. Consideration and action to approve Policy 4300; Voluntary Sick Leave Bank with no revisions as recommended by The Policy Committee at its January meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves the policy with no revisions.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Sandra Berardy questioned the fact that the voluntary leave bank indicates it would support administrators in long illness and it should say teachers. Superintendent Levesque indicated that he would revise the policy.

Motion: That the policy be amended to change the word “administrators” to “teachers”

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board approves the policy with amendments.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- f. Appraisal of field trip, Leonard J. Tyl Middle School to Washington D.C. from May 30, 2017 to June 2, 2017 for ninety-five students.

The board was apprised of the field trip. Sandra Berardy inquired as to the number of chaperones. Twelve chaperones will attend the trip.

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

A new policy surrounding fingerprinting was brought to the committee, the policy is mandated by The State of Connecticut. The policy addresses how to collect and store the fingerprints and who has access to them. This policy is required in order to continue fingerprinting. This process will be audited by The State of Connecticut.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).

M.J. Dix reported to the committee on the implementation of new exploratories in library research, enrichment, and developmental guidance. All are going well. The E&E Committee addressed three action items during their meeting, they included; Approval of A.P. Physics textbook, the approval of a new culinary textbook and the approval of Readers Workshop, Units of Study reading comprehension program for grades K-5.

c. Communications Committee.

The meeting scheduled for February 9, 2017 was rescheduled until March 7th at 5:00 p.m. as a result of the schools being closed on the 9th due to a snow storm.

d. Montville Education Foundation.

Kim Navetta was the liaison for the MEF which meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:30; or possibly even less than that. The focus of the MEF is to raise money through various fundraisers including a golf tournament and to review and fund grant requests. Robert Mitchell asked for a volunteer for the MEF and received none. He asked the members of the board to keep this in mind.

e. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

No report, Colleen Rix was absent.

f. CAFE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

Robert Mitchell reported that at the most recent meeting, the scheduled trip to D.C., the IDEA Grant and the Child Nutrition Act were all discussed. He will be testifying tomorrow on Bills which are coming up.

g. School Building Committee.

No Report.

h. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).

Channels 24 and 25 are community access only. Frontier customers can see only 22/24, access to additional channels is on hold. Atlantic Broadband is looking to be the network provider rather than t.v. They can offer 1 gig to consumers' homes.

i. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

First meeting on March 9th after hiatus.

j. Administrative Quarterly Reports.

Robert Mitchell said good things are going on and he liked it. A decision will be made at the end of the year as to whether they should be made monthly again. Steven Loiler thanked the administrators for the reports.

k. Student Board Representatives.

Joshua Archibald

- Yesterday, there was a hair collection drive, organized by junior Ryan Radgowski. Eighteen students donated their hair, which will be used to make wigs for cancer patients.
- On Friday, student government is hosting our annual blood drive. Over fifty people have signed up to donate so far. The blood drive is always a popular event among both faculty and students.
- High school math teachers Mrs. Grills and Mr. Stone are getting ready for their annual prom dress closet initiative. Students who cannot or do not want to spend

hundreds of dollars on a prom dress or suit can choose from a wide selection in the “prom closet” to borrow for the special night. This is the prime season to donate, so if you have an extra dress or suit, the program will gladly accept it.

- These events are great examples of how our faculty and students strive to help others in the community. They demonstrate the generosity instilled in our school’s culture.

Karishma Chouhan

The New A.P. Computer Science Class received a very positive response from the students and Karishma has been promoting the class to other students to encourage them to sign up.

Eugene O’Neill Theater is offering a playwriting workshop for English students. There is a great interest in A.P. Physics and Government and Politics classes.

The dance was a huge success; 250-300 students were in attendance. MHS will be hosting a March baking contest to raise money for a local charity or family.

l. Chair’s Remarks.

Robert Mitchell mentioned the horrendous budget season and the importance of Board support for the budget which was just passed. The Board would like to take tours of our buildings to see firsthand the projects set forth in the capital plan so they understand what the needs are. They will be held on April 4th (MHS, Palmer & Mohegan) and 6th (Tyl Murphy and Oakdale) and will start at 5:30 pm. Steve Carroll will be present and it will be posted as a Special BOE meeting. Each tour will take about three hours.

m. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent’s Report.

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

Mrs. LaChance was unable to make it back to the district for the meeting and submitted the following report which was read by Superintendent Levesque.

I have been busy working on transition planning with visits to other programs within the area. The CT State Transition Task Force has identified sixteen key areas determined to be critical to the post-school success of any student with a disability. These key areas are referred to as the CT CORE Transition Skills. Last year the state added a new skill which was that each student with a disability, to the maximum extent possible, will be able to utilize effective self-determination skills including areas such as: choice-making, problem solving, goal-setting, communication, and self-advocacy. I have been working to align these skills to our program design.

I am also attending a Professional learning opportunity tomorrow to learn about a number of new instructional and assessment strategies that will enable teachers to promote student self-determination.

I have spent some time this month conducting interviews for nurses and tutors and was able to add to our substitute nursing roster which we were in great need of. I have also been working on ESY logistics. I plan on holding ESY for 4 weeks from July 10th to August 4th. I surveyed surrounding districts and this schedule is consistent with most other districts.

This month I have also been working closely with our legal counsel and an out of district school to prepare for two complex PPT's scheduled for March 8th.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Next Generation Accountability Reports: Today the state released the 2015-2016 Next Generation Accountability Report which includes scores from last year's SBA, SAT, and CMT assessment data and other school performance statistics.

Based upon that data, Oakdale Elementary School has been named a School of Distinction for the second year in a row. This year's accomplishment is even more significant because Oakdale has been recognized in three different categories. Only ten schools in the entire state were recognized in three categories. Oakdale was recognized as one of the highest performing elementary schools in the state and they are also among the schools which had the highest growth for all students and highest growth for high needs students.

91.9% of Oakdale's 4th and 5th grade students met the state's growth targets in ELA and 98.2% met the growth targets in Math!

Across the elementary schools' math growth was very strong. On average 85.7% of our grade 4 and 5 students met their growth targets in mathematics. 75.2% of those same students met their ELA growth targets. Our flat growth in ELA over a number of years has led our ELA committee to recommend the addition of the Columbia Teacher's College Reading Units of Study to our instruction in reading comprehension.

Mohegan's Cozy Book Night: I look forward to participating in Mohegan's first annual cozy book night on Thursday. One hundred and twenty kindergarten through second grade students and their parents have signed up to attend in their p.j.'s! Mohegan second grade teacher Laurie Shugrue brought this program with her from Oakdale when she joined the Mohegan faculty.

Spring Assessment: Last Thursday, I reviewed the procedures for administering this spring's state assessments including the CMT, SBA, SAT, CAPT, the CT alternative

assessment and the skills checklist. We will begin testing at the end of March. Nic and his IT staff has been hard at work setting up computers at each of the schools.

Reading Assessments: Paula and I have met several times to discuss specialized assessments in reading used in district to diagnose the source of individual students' reading difficulties. I will meet tomorrow with the reading consultants to ensure these assessments are used consistently throughout the district.

c. Monthly Update from the Superintendent.

Budget: Superintendent Levesque has been meeting with staff whose positions may be impacted through bumping. He has been answering questions regarding the retirement incentives and may be able to ultimately reduce the budget request based on those retirements received. Will have all of that information next month. In the process of reviewing all of the bus bids and reviewing references for the companies.

Sandra asked the status of the water issues. Superintendent Levesque indicated that he had met with an Engineer three weeks ago along with Kathy and Steve. The engineer is working on plans to connect a new well behind the tennis courts at MHS and to connect to Tyl. Three wells will be added. Will separate fire suppression and drinking water at Tyl. He is very confident solution for remediating the Manganese in the pipes by using hypo chlorinated water to wash it out then coat the pipes. Would be looking for reimbursement from The State for part of the total cost of \$300,000. Local cost would be less and he is waiting to hear from the engineer on the full proposal for long term solutions to multiple problems including chloride at Tyl, Fire Suppression - expects to have a report by March Meeting. The would have to be done while school was not in session. Unsure if it could be done this summer or not. Will try to expedite through The State. The goal is to open school next year with the water issues resolved.

Item 10. Information Items.

Robert Mitchell reminded the board of the upcoming CABE Day on the Hill on March 8th.

Sandra inquired as to the progress on the water situation. Superintendent Levesque replied that a meeting was held about three weeks ago with the water engineer and they are working on plans to connect a new well behind the tennis courts to Tyl. In total three wells will be added in order to separate the fire suppression system from the drinking water at Tyl and to provide manganese-free water at the high school. The total cost would be about \$300,000 before state reimbursement. The work would have to be completed when school is not in session. The goal would be to complete the work this summer, but that would require expediting the approval process. Superintendent Levesque expects to have a report for the March Board meeting.

Item 11. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).

Board Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz asked whether WPCA was asked about solutions to the water problems. Superintendent Levesque indicated that Brian Lynch was included in a

meeting and indicated that he would not be interested in the remediation only in running the clean system for profit and was unable to fix the problem.

In addition, Mr. Jaskiewicz asked the board to hold off on submitting the approved budget to The Town of Montville as the State has asked towns to delay approving town budgets. Superintendent Levesque responded that The Board will meet the March 15th date as is the Board's obligation to The Town of Montville. The approved budget will be sent tomorrow in order to meet Town Charter requirements, however the budget may require some revisions at a later point.

Item 12. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Joseph Aquitante

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____