

**MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
January 20, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Chair Sandra Berardy called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Sandra Berardy, Donald Dykes, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Deborah Reed-Iler, David Rowley, Kendrick Strickland, and James Wood. Todd Pomazon was absent.

Also in attendance was Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools William J. Hull, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum Laurie Pallin; Administrators Thomas Amanti, Lorilyn Caron, Peter DeLisa, Mary Jane Dix, Thomas Giard III, Mark Johnson, Joan Joplin, Clara Kalnitsky, Jeff Newton, Tatiana Patten, Sheila Reagan and Eileen Richmond; and Student Board Representatives Raena Beetham and Jake Alexander.

S. Berardy stated that today is a momentous day and wished President Obama well in his task.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation A) Montville Marvels.

It is recommended that the Board of Education acknowledge the following students, teachers, and community members in the areas noted:

Mohegan School: Principal Lorilyn Caron and Assistant Principal Peter DeLisa recognized Tashi (Jack) Dhondup for providing volunteer language translation and assistance for Tibetan parents during teacher conferences. Robbie Justice was also recognized for his kindness in cultivating a two-year relationship with a special needs student. Board member Don Dykes presented these certificates.

Oakdale School: Principal Mark Johnson and Assistant Principal Clara Kalnitsky recognized Sarah Bigalbal, Seamus Barry, and Morgan Hah for being winners of the annual Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Caroline Whittaker and Sandy Kutterman were also recognized for their dedication and for support provided to one of the Oakdale parents. Board members Jim Wood and Deb Reed-Iler presented these certificates.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Jeff Newton and Assistant Principal Joan Joplin recognized Christopher Early for going above and beyond in learning, demonstrating, and modeling the Murphy Character Education Pillars. Ellen Lakowsky and the St. John's Rosary Altar Society were also recognized for their continued efforts to support and proudly give holiday gifts to many children in need. Board member Ken Strickland presented these certificates.

Presentation B) Presentation: Immigration Day – Mohegan: M. Larson, M. Mitchell, J. Scardina.

L. Caron introduced the staff and students who were involved in Immigration Day at Mohegan School. Teachers Mark Larson, Michele Mitchell, and Jean Scardina, in addition to fifth grade students Suzanna Fitzgerald, Emily Russell, and Stacia Tibbetts and 4th grade students Christianna Johnson and Annie Ricupero gave a PowerPoint presentation of the event that took place in the school gymnasium. The school gymnasium was transformed into Ellis Island for a day. Students researched the countries of their heritage, made passports, calculated the number of immigrants who came to the United States from 1881 – 1920, and mimicked the immigrants travels from their native country through their experiences at Ellis Island.

Item 3. Citizens' comments.

There were no citizens' comments.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

There were no letters and communications.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

The Student Board Representatives Raena Beetham and Jake Alexander presented a report as follows:

1. MHS students were encouraged to watch the historical inauguration of Barack Obama.
2. MSH Core Values has been implemented throughout the school. Good behavior in a positive way is promoted through the initiative.
3. MHS Diversity Day will take place on February 24.
4. The Poetry Out Loud competition occurred on January 8. Junior Cassandra Fish won first place and will take part in the state competition in Hartford.
5. Midterms will begin January 22 and end on January 27.
6. Student Government will host their annual blood drive in association with the American Red Cross on February 5th.
7. Winter sports are going well.
8. Sophomore Tyler Girard-Floyd received the All-State player award for football.
9. Senior Anthony Occhialini was awarded the prestigious All-American honor for outstanding goalkeeping skills in soccer. He attended a conference this past weekend in St. Louis to receive the award and met player and coaches from across the country. Anthony is the first MHS athlete to receive the honorable recognition.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

a. Discussion of budget development for 2009-2010.

S. Berardy reminded the Board of its annual Budget Meeting. The meeting will take place on Saturday, January 31 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the MHS Library/Media Center. D. Erwin added that Business Manager K. Lamoureux was working on the budget figures. He distributed to the Board a handout from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities regarding FY 2009-2010 education reduction options. He also mentioned possible cuts to ECS funds by Governor Rell. He added that the State budget may not be ready until next fall.

D. Erwin also asked that the Board adds an item to the agenda under New Business regarding Policy 6146: Credit Requirements to the Policy Committee for review.

Motion: That the Board of Education adds agenda Item 8f, Policy 6146: Credit Requirements for referral to the Policy Committee for review.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Dave Rowley
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8. New Business

a. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve a Teaching and Learning Collaborative course in Life Skills curriculum, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at their November meeting.

Motion: That the Board of Education approves the Teaching and Learning Collaborative course in Life Skills curriculum as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at their November meeting.

Proposed by: Dave Rowley
Seconded by: Bob Rowley
Vote: Carried unanimously

b. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve an Integrated Physical Science/Earth Science course, Grade 9, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at their November meeting.

Motion: That the Board approves the Integrated Physical Science/Earth Science course, Grade 9, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at their November meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Ken Strickland
Vote: Carried unanimously

- c. **It is recommended that the Board of Education approve a Dedicated Biology course, Grade 10, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at their November meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves a Dedicated Biology course, Grade 10, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at their November meeting.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

- d. **Appraisal of field trip – Tyl Middle School, grade 8, Washington, D. C., May 26 – 28, 2009.**

The Board was apprised that one trip will take place this year rather than the usual two.

- e. **It is recommended that the Board of Education review, consider, and approve the resolution on the reauthorization of NCLB.**

D. Erwin commented that there is a statewide push by school systems to have the new Federal administration take another look at the NCLB initiative.

Motion: That the Board approves the resolution on the reauthorization of NLCB.

Proposed by: Dave Rowley
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously

- f. **It is recommended that the Board of Education refers Board Policy 6146, Credit Requirements to the Policy Committee for review and consideration.**

Motion: That the Board refers Board Policy 6146: Credit Requirements to the Policy Committee for review and consideration.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Ken Strickland
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. **Policy Committee (James Wood).**

J. Wood reported that the Committee will meet on February 10.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (David Rowley).

D. Rowley reported that the Committee met earlier this evening. Derek Wainwright of the Social Studies Department presented a half-year course for juniors and seniors on Connecticut and Local History. On the agenda for the Committee's February meeting will be the discussion and approval of math intervention textbooks, *Math Triumphs*, for grades 3-5 and 6-8. If approved they will be brought forward for approval by the full Board at their March meeting. B. Hull commented that the intervention is similar to what is being done within district for reading. Students will be identified by common assessments that are being developed and by CMTs, chapter tests, and teacher assessments.

c. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that the LEARN Advisory Committee met twice in December. At the first meeting, the Committee heard from East Hampton Superintendent J. Golden who spoke about federal funding and Waterford Superintendent R. Collins who spoke about his recent trip to Peru. Patrice McCarthy from CABE spoke at the second meeting and gave a sobering talk about budget cuts.

d. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that he hosted the Area 9 Legislative Breakfast on January 13. All legislators attended with the exception of Edith Prague. CABE is looking to extend the resolution proposed by the Board concerning Teacher Certification Reciprocity. He added that the *Day on the Hill* will be held on March 4 at the Bushnell in Hartford. He urged the Board to attend. B. Mitchell also reported that CABE dues will not be increased for 2009-10.

e. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon/James Wood).

J. Wood reported that the January 7 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Committee will meet tomorrow, January 21. He also reported that the Referendum to complete the school renovation project was passed.

f. Capital Improvement Committee (Tom McNally).

T. McNally reported that the Capital Improvement Committee was disbanded. D. Erwin reported that he met with the Mayor and the Town Finance Director. The district may receive one (1) bus and a wheelchair van. The Board discussed sending a letter to the Town about the importance of the Committee.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally).

T. McNally reported that the Council would meet tomorrow, January 21.

h. Administrative Monthly Reports.

The Board received these reports in their packets.

i. Other.

There was no other information to report.

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Maynard.

D. Maynard reported that she has begun reference checks for two (2) part-time special education nurses. She is also working on revising the district's sexual harassment policy. D. Maynard also reported that she attended an informational meeting with the Town of Norwich regarding the Moving Memorial. The VFW will be offering \$500 savings bonds for a contest for categories that will be determined by the committee.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Hull.

B. Hull reported that he will be attending a planning meeting tomorrow, January 21, pertaining to CMT/CAPT testing. He also said that Community Resources Fair will be held on March 7, 2009, to those who have fallen on hard times due to the current economic climate. B. Hull also reported that he is working with a committee on a pandemic flu plan. On Friday, January 23, there will be a practice lockdown drill at Mohegan School. The police were invited to attend.

B. Hull also reported the following:

As called for per the Children's Internet Protection Act, the district has in place 8eb Technology as an Internet filter. The filter protects against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene and pornographic.

c. Monthly Update.

D. Erwin reported that the Uncas Health district has a new address. He also said that he has been busy for the past two weeks with school closings and delays due to inclement weather. On January 16, he spoke at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting about the building renovation projects and the state of education in Montville.

D. Erwin also reported to the Board that two (2) people have hit the Stop Loss with the district medical insurance; therefore, the district is 100% for monthly claims. On January 13, he spoke at the Mohegan PTO meeting about the district's budget. He said a nice crowd attended the meeting.

Item 11. Information items.

Information items were not reported.

Item 12. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

There were no hearing of delegates and citizens.

Motion: That the Board goes into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Approved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board comes out of executive session.

Approved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Approved by: Deborah Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary
Approved _____