

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
--SPECIAL MEETING--
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
October 27, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Board Chair Sandra Berardy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, David Rowley, Kendrick Strickland, James Wood, and Sandra Berardy. Board member Donald Dykes was absent.

Also in attendance were Interim Superintendent of Schools James Connelly, Assistant Superintendent Brian Levesque, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Administrators Thomas Amanti, Peter DeLisa, Mary Jane Dix, Mark Johnson, Joan Joplin, Jeff Newton, and Sheila Reagan, Student Board Representatives Jason Alexander and Jessica Semmelrock.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

Mohegan School: Assistant Principal Peter DeLisa recognized Jacob Millbach for saving his money, purchasing plants, and putting together a team of people to work to beautify the front of Mohegan School. Frank Grabner was also recognized for being an “amazing” person who, despite many challenges, stays calm, maintains a sense of humor, and advocates in the best interest of his children. Also recognized was Dylan Grabner for the remarkable progress he made on his CMT scores from third to fourth grade. Board members Jim Wood and Bob Mitchell presented these certificates.

Oakdale School: Principal Mark Johnson recognized Jade Lounds for her generosity in asking people to make donations to a classmate with health problems in place of receiving birthday gifts. Bev Blackstone was also recognized for donating 11 ½ gallons of blood to the American Red Cross over the past thirty years. Board member Ken Strickland presented these certificates.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Jeff Newton and Assistant Principal Joan Joplin recognized Brianna Nixie and Brianne Hoffa for obtaining the highest standard scores and advanced level in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Math on the CMT. Liliana Beaton, Bryce Sullivan, Rachel Liang, Rebecca Radford, and Ben Choi were also recognized for reading the highest number of books at their grade level for the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge at Dr. Charles E. Murphy School. Board member Todd Pomazon presented the certificates.

Presentation B) Recognition of seven Montville High School students who performed at the Advanced Level on the 2009 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT): Amy Bleasdale, Kevin Fratoni, Sean Hanrahan, Ellen McNamara, Elizabeth Petrosus, Melissa Smith, and Thomas Todd.

J. Connelly read a citation from Commissioner of Education Mark McQuillan recognizing Amy Bleasdale, Kevin Fratoni, Sean Hanrahan, Ellen McNamara, Elizabeth Petrosus, Melissa Smith, and Thomas Todd who performed at the advance level on the 2009 CAPT. T. Amanti commented that “it was outstanding to attain what they did on that level.” Board member Deb Reed-Iler presented these certificates.

Presentation C) Alterna-tees – Palmer’s School Based Business – Palmer Academy.

S. Reagan, staff Ms. Mayer, Ms. Guntner, Mr. Gollsneider, Ms. Jaskiewicz, and Ms. Marquoit, and students Andrew Brennan, Ashley Coleman, Virginia Witherspoon, James Osborn, Mike Shaw, Alysia Larkie, Sean McMahon, and Mitch Kenney gave a fashion show of the products designed and sold by Alterna-tees, the Palmer Academy school-based business. Alterna-tees is a part of the vocational education component and is a prerequisite for employment. The school-run business gives students an opportunity to operate a business—design t-shirts, conduct inventory, filling and boxing orders for delivery, and billing. The business is advertised on the district webpage. Complimentary t-shirts were given to the Board. Last year, the business grossed nearly \$5,000. The funds are used to support field trips, yearly incentive programs, and scholarships. District and local vendors place orders for the t-shirts.

Item 3. Citizens’ comments.

There were no citizens’ comments.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

T. Pomazon reported on a letter from the Liberty Bank Foundation Academic Grants program notifying the district that the Tyl Middle School was one of twelve schools selected to receive a grant for the 2009-2010 school year. A reception in honor of the recipients will be held at Liberty Bank’s main branch in Middletown, CT, on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The district will be represented at the event.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: **That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.**

Proposed by: Tom McNally

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried 7-0; Deb Reed-Iler abstained

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representative Jake Alexander and Jessica Semmelrock gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. On October 23, MHS hosted the “Game of the Week,” the match between the undefeated MHS team versus the undefeated NLHS, biggest football game in Montville’s history. Although it was a tough loss for Montville, 5,000-6,000 attended the game. It is hoped that the game will be on Channel 22 soon.

2. Montville's ELL was featured on the Channel 8, "Good Morning Connecticut" and the Friday evening news, highlighting the Chinese, Tibetan, and Nepalese cultures. The MHS ELL program has had a 100% graduation rate.
3. Last week, the GSA/GLSEN hosted Ally Week to encourage students and faculty to take a stand for a safe and harassment-free school. Pledge cards were signed, and 145 students and faculty took the pledge to support.
4. The Culinary Club has advertised that it will be preparing healthy snacks for advisory groups year-round.
5. Today, ten students and Ms. Macri attended the annual Community Coalition for Children Conference at Connecticut College to hear Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia speak about building resilience in children and teens and participated in group discussions about the topic.
6. Most of the student population is complying with the limitations of the new cell phone policy that has been successful, with only a few infractions.
7. Spirit Week will be held from November 9 -13.
8. The Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, November 14 in the high school gymnasium. Board members who would like to chaperone should contact Ms. Woodman. The homecoming game against Waterford will be Friday, November 13.
9. A senior director of Sales and Marketing at ESPN will speak with students in the Business Department on November 5.
10. The choral director, Joshua Cushing, has recently organized an Acapella Choir from students in the high school Select Choir. The choir meets each morning before school and will perform at the Barbershop Association of CT on November 8 and at the Niantic Light Parade in December.
11. Alexis Sanchez performed at the Windham Arts Annex on October 23, as a member of "The Write Club" accompanied by Mrs. Brooks.
12. MHS will host Montville Marching Madness on Saturday, October 31. Seven bands along with the MHS band will compete.

J. Wood asked for feedback from the Student Representatives on the Internet policy. They both commented that the policy is working well.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

There was no unfinished business.

Item 8. New Business

a. Review/approval of Board of Education goals, 2009-2010.

J. Wood reported that the Board of Education goals for 2009-2010 were discussed by the full board at a policy meeting earlier this evening. The goals will be publicized on the district website.

Motion: **That the Board approves Board of Education goals, 2009-2010.**

Proposed by:	Dave Rowley
Seconded by:	Tom McNally
Vote:	Carried unanimously

- b. Appointment of delegates to the CABA Delegate Assembly, November 19, 2009, Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

Motion: That the Board appoints Bob Mitchell as the delegate to the CABA Delegate Assembly, November 19, 2009, Mystic Marriott, Groton.

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

B. Mitchell asked the Board to contact him if there was an item that they wanted him to vote on.

- c. Designate James A. Connelly, Interim Superintendent of Schools, and Kathy Lamoureux, Business Manager, as authorized signatures to file claims for reimbursement under the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.**

Motion: That the Board designates Interim Superintendent of Schools James E. Connelly and Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux as authorized signatures to file claims for reimbursement under the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

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

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

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

J. Wood reported that the Policy Committee met on Tuesday, September 29 to discuss the Board of Education goals, 2009-2010, approved earlier this evening. The new Board Policy for acceptable use of computers was also discussed and was voted for approval for this evening.

Motion: That the Board approves the new Board policy for acceptable use of computers as recommended by the Policy Committee earlier this evening.

Proposed by: Ken Strickland
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

Board Policy 6153 will be removed from the books.

- b. Educational Evaluation Committee (David Rowley).**

D. Rowley reported that no meeting was held.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler stated that the Montville Education Foundation is accepting grant requests until the end of October. An art show with food and auction items and the annual Golf Tournament to be held on August 9, 2010, are two fundraisers that are being scheduled. Smile Awards were accepted by MDF president Linda Patton Heller, Mark Johnson, Clara Kalnitsky and D. Reed-Iler. A road race is being considered, and Mr. Gollsneider has offered to help with the planning.

d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that the LEARN Advisory Committee discussed issues with the Marine Science Magnet School at its last meeting.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that at the last CABE meeting Commissioner of Education Mark McQuillan talked about the lack of funding. The "Race to the Top," an initiative to push federal standards for education as part of ARRA, was also discussed.

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

T. Pomazon reported that the School Building Committee met on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 and discussed the progress regarding the promenade tile at the high school.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally).

T. McNally reported the MetroCast Communications Advisory Council approved grants for audio-visual equipment for areas districts. He asked if the \$500 grant for the district was received. B. Levesque said that the grant had been received and would be used for a green screen and LED monitor at Tyl.

h. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Administrative Monthly Reports were administered to the Board 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 a due process case was withdrawn saving the district \$63,000.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported that the State Department of Education released \$100,000 of entitlements, Title 2, 3 and 4, that will be used for ELL tutors and teachers at Tyl. A consolidated curriculum grant was sent off this week. A technical grant due December 30, 2009, will be used to support professional development. B. Levesque also reported that the vacant office manager position at the high school garnered 240 online applications. Qualified candidates were sent responses that they met the criteria. Many have responded favorably about the electronic application process.

c. Monthly Update.

J. Connelly complemented the district for the big game held on Friday. He said there was a big crowd and a lot of excitement. He praised the high school administrators, maintenance department, the police, and the state troopers for pre-planning for the event.

He also reported on the status of H1N1 in state schools, stating that three school districts have closed schools. J. Connelly said that Betty Waselik sent out letters in August that encouraged parents to keep sick children at home, talked about when to return to school or work, and encouraged hand washing. After a meeting with B. Waselik, J. Connelly said that on October 28, each school in the district will be monitored daily for student absenteeism, those with flu-like symptoms, and are sent home. He will also meet with B. Waselik and Matt Bialowas to make sure that the schools are being properly sanitized. A triage area and an area to segregate ill students who need to be sent home will be discussed. Grade credit and student absenteeism as a result of illness will also be reviewed. Contact numbers of students will be updated. Buses will be sanitized as well as bathrooms and congregated areas.

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.

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Approved by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Todd Pomazon, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary
*Approved*_____