

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 6:00 PM**

2013-14 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 David Rowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie Baxter, Deborah Reed-Iler, Steve Loiler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, James Wood, and David Rowley. Absent was Board member Valerie Smith.

Also present were Interim Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Director of Facilities Matt Bialowas, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux; Administrators Mary Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, Will Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patten, Allison Peterson, Eileen Richmond, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representatives Kevin Fitzgerald and Hanna Marchini; and Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

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

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Principal M. J. Dix and Assistant Principal W. Klinefelter recognized Joshua Archibald for being a multi-talented young man who is extremely intelligent, witty, has a wonderful sense of humor, and is kind, respectful, and helpful to others. Board member D. Reed-Iler presented this certificate.

Montville High School: Principal J. Theodoss and Assistant Principal T. Patten recognized Helena Sun for her outstanding academic and musical achievement. Julie Perry was also recognized for her tireless efforts working with teachers and students to provide innovative and current resources that enhance student learning. Board member K. Navetta presented these certificates.

Palmer Academy: Principal H. Mileski recognized Margie Faustino for overcoming obstacles, persevering through challenges, and remaining dedicated to her education. Board member T. Pomazon presented this certificate.

Presentation: B) Songs by the Montville High School Chamber Chorus.

D. Rowley introduced musical director Josh Cushing and the MHS Chamber Chorus who entertained the Board with two selections. This presentation was originally scheduled for the December Board meeting but was postponed due to a weather related cancellation.

Presentation: C) Project Based Learning – Palmer Academy.

Principal H. Mileski, staff member Ed Lilienthal, and student Margie Faustino participated in a Palmer Academy presentation on Project Based Learning (“PBL”). PBL subscribes to communication, collaboration, and critical thinking in an expanded two-block schedule that ends with a public presentation. E. Lilienthal reported on four (4) projects completed by students through PBL—*You are your choices, What’s in that burger?, Don’t tell me what to do;* and *Nuclear Power: Friend or Foe?* Student M. Faustino told her story and described PBL as “hands on, fun, creative, educational, and unique” that “teaches students respect.” H. Mileski reported that referrals are down since the inception of PBL last summer.

Presentation: D) MAPS Update – Jeff Theodoss.

Principal J. Theodoss updated the Board on MAPS (Montville Alternative Pathways to Success). He stated that each of the components of the program serves to support students. Preparation for the world of work; extra assistance in math and English, identification of struggling students, and reading intervention not only helped with increasing student credit but also with reducing disciplinary issues. J. Theodoss stated that tutoring is offered to students during the day as well as one-to-one intervention for students who need someone to just listen. Future goals are for more programs for upper level students, discussion with Palmer Academy on how to share resources, and meetings with parents.

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

D. Rowley asked three times for comments but there were none.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

C. Baxter reported there were none.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

B. Mitchell commented that he was not present at the February 4, 2014, meeting.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar, as amended.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Voice Vote: Motion carried 7-0-1; Deb Reed-Iler abstained

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

The Student Board Representatives Kevin Fitzgerald and Hanna Marchini reported on events/activities as follows:

1. The School Climate Committee organized and facilitated a Winter Pep Rally this past Friday. In a change from tradition, the committee acknowledged and recognized many of the clubs that students are involved with in addition to the winter sports teams. The rally celebrated ALL that is awesome about MHS. It was a great time and there was an abundance of Montville Pride. The rally was closed by the unified basketball team showing off some of their incredible talents that brought down the house.
2. The National Honor School is doing a Book Drive for the Raymond Hill Library. NHS students will deliver the books the first week in March. It is also working on a picnic for veterans.
3. The Academic Decathlon will be competing in the State Finals at Post University in Waterbury on Saturday, February 15.
4. The Math Team has two more competitions—one is this Wednesday after school and the last one is Thursday, March 8th after school—and both will be held at NFA.
5. The FCCLA/Culinary Club assisted with the catering of the administrators meeting on January 30th. The MHS Culinary Café and Bake Shop will be preparing take out lunches for staff this Friday, February 14th, at Professional Development Day.
6. The Student Government, along with the senior class, sponsored the Winter Ball this past weekend February 8. It was attended by 120 students. The students did a great job decorating the gym and café. The Student Government will also sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on February 28th.
7. The Robotics Team participated in the State regional Vex Championship on January 26th and competed against 47 teams from across the state. Montville finished in 21st place.
8. The *Chieftain* will be recruiting new club members this month by dressing up the Counseling mannequin as a reporter and promoting the paper during the lunch waves. The students would also like to go up to Tyl to recruit incoming freshman.
9. The Poetry Out Loud Competition was held on January 30th in the library. Stanley Kesilewski will represent MHS at the state competition at CCSU on March 12th. The runner up was Helena Sun.
10. The MHS Yes Club:
 - Two teams of tutors are at Murphy School helping with their after-school intervention program. Plans are being made to assist with the programs at Oakdale and Mohegan.
 - Bilingual members of the YES Club are assisting with the needs of ELL students at Mohegan School.
 - The annual Read Across America trip is being planned where students will travel to the three elementary schools to share a favorite children's book or books with K-2 classes and lead a follow-up, hands-on activity of their own design.
 - YES students will be attending the annual Future Teachers Conference at ECSU where at least one of the members will serve as a workshop presenter and receive a stipend.

11. Friends of Rachel and the International Club have been busy distributing kindness beads. The necklaces are designed to be passed from person to person as others continue to show acts of kindness towards others at MHS.
12. The Art Club continues to meet Thursdays for fun art activities. They are in the planning phase of a Spring Art Show.
13. The MHS Drama Club will be performing "The Drowsy Chaperone," a musical within a comedy, on March 13, 14, and 15. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful, heart-warming musical that will surely make you laugh.
14. The School Governance Council has developed a 5-minute communication survey for parents and will distribute it in two weeks. The survey seeks to determine the best way to communicate with parents as well as to establish what type of information parents would like to know.
15. On Thursday, February 13 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. there will be the Eighth Grade Curriculum Night that will be followed by AP/ECE Night from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at which time parents and students have the opportunity to listen to a college representative and get a chance to meet with educators who teach the AP/ECE courses.
16. Course selections will take place on February 20th and will be facilitated with an 8-block day.
17. The World Language Department will be sponsoring a chips and salsa contest on March 6th at 2:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. There are always an impressive amount of entries and of course all Board members are invited to attend.
18. There will be a combined choir and instrumental performance on February 26th in the MHS auditorium.
19. Sports Update:
 - MHS rifle team defeated Grasso Tech in a match at the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club on February 10th and is now 4-2.
 - MHS wrestling is now 21-2 and will compete in the ECC this coming weekend.
 - MHS boys basketball is now 3-13 and is looking forward to the ECC.
 - MHS girls basketball is now 11-9 and has qualified for the state tournament.
 - The cheerleading team placed 1st and Grand Champs at a recent competition in Torrington, CT.
 - MHS indoor track and field concluded its season on February 8th with the girls' 4 x 800 placing 6th in the Class S. The boys and girls teams also placed 3rd in the ECC Medium Division and senior Daniel Linkinhoker won three gold medals in the mile, two-mile, and 4 x 800 relay.
 - Winter sports pictures will be taken on February 12th in the gymnasium for all winter athletes.
 - Athletes and coaches are looking forward to a productive spring athletic season.
 - The lacrosse teams met today to sign up for the season; both teams received high participation and look forward to their first varsity season for the sport.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

- a. **Consideration and action for recommendations/approval of the proposed budget for 2014-2015, with submission to the Town by March 1, 2014.**

B. Levesque reported that a modification to the 2014-2015 budget should be considered. This is a result of continued research and further information received from our energy consultant. The electric generation and delivery rate now reflects \$.16 and not \$.19, an \$110,589 reduction. The modification decreases the operating budget and presents a \$37,199,779 budget for 2014-2015, an increase of \$567,045 or 1.55 percent over last year's budget. He asked the Board to consider the amended figures for the operating budget.

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed 2014-2015 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$37,299,779 and forwards it to the Town Finance Committee.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

b. Update on First Experience Communication.

B. Levesque provided an update to the Board on progress with First Experience Communication, a company contracted in the last school year to promote and market the Montville School District. He and J. Theodoss met with the representative and will meet again to decide how to market the schools as a means of decreasing student enrollment in area magnet schools.

Item 8. New Business.

a. Review of the SPI/DPI Reports.

L. Pallin reported that the future accountability system for district academic performance will no longer use the CMT and CAPT data which has been used to generate SPI and DPI scores. However, SPI and DPI scores were generated based upon the 2013 CMT and CAPT tests and were recently reported to districts. To determine initial SPI and DPI scores and set goals for improvement, L. Pallin explained that the State used baseline assessment data from 2010, 2011, and 2012. They then developed a target score for each school and the district for testing conducted in 2013. The target was based upon the state's goal that all districts achieve SPI and DPI scores of 88 by the year 2024. Each year we were to reach a goal which was 1/12th of the difference between the baseline score and the goal score of 88. However, since the CMT and CAPT will not be administered in 2014 in ELA and math, the district will not receive new targets for ELA and math. We will still have goals for students in science as state tests will continue to be administered in science. L. Pallin then reviewed the 2013 School Classifications. Data for math subgroups within district is low but work is currently being done to raise math achievement; reading and writing scored high; and graduation rates and holding power are on target. D. Rowley asked about the outcome of having had the staff take the Smarter Balanced practice test. L. Pallin responded that teachers have all looked at the test critically for both the content of the items and the technology which students would need to use to complete them.

b. Update on the Affordable Care Act.

B. Levesque reported that he and K. Lamoureux attended a workshop entitled "Affordable Care Act (ACA)-2014 and Beyond Key Employer Requirements. He explained that the district has factored in key components of the Act such as expanded benefit/coverage requirements and fees/taxes and that it is accessible to 70% of full-time employees, a factor that was reduced from 95%. Other components such as the access penalty will be worked out with the insurance broker. Per B. Levesque, the Act will continue to be monitored and will be a consideration at the next teacher negotiation.

c. Consideration and action to approve new high school health textbook, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the new high school health textbook, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

B. Mitchell was re-elected as chair of the Committee.

d. Consideration and action to approve new high school PE courses for the 2014-15 school year, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee.

B. Mitchell reported that the new PE courses will allow students to have more flexibility in grades and more choices in grades 11 and 12.

Motion: That the Board approves new high school PE courses for 2014-2015, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

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

B. Levesque thanked K. Lamoureux and M. Bialowas for their work on the proposed Capital Improvement projects. He said that he included a cover memorandum with the project list that described coding for priority items and added that each request has backup documentation as well as the ages of items that require replacement. B. Levesque also said that the fees for the proposed water extension is being worked on with the Town.

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

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

f. Discussion of personnel matter. (It is anticipated that the Board will meeting in executive session.)

Motion: That the Board goes into executive session at 7:50 p.m. for discussion of a personnel matter and invites in Brian Levesque and Laurie Pallin.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board comes out of executive session at 8:05 p.m. with no votes taken.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board appoints Nick Savoie as Director of Technology.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that he was re-elected Chair of the Committee that met prior to the Board meeting and approved policy meetings for next year. The Committee also met with Town Councilors Joseph Jaskiewicz and Laura Tanner concerning a Board non-lapsing account with a fund limit of no more than 1% at the end of a fiscal year, per the Board's attorney, nor can it be added to. B. Levesque stated that he would talk with the Town Finance Committee about the account that would be used for unanticipated expenses, not for day-to-day ones. J. Jaskiewicz agreed to discuss the account with the Town Council attorney.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met prior to this evening's Board meeting, where he was elected Chair of the committee. The committee discussed a new health textbook request, new physical education course proposal, and parent communication concerning SBAC. The committee also reviewed dates for 2014 committee meetings.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).

S. Loiler had no report on the MEF.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that the next LEARN meeting was Thursday, February 13.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the CABE Legislative Breakfast has been rescheduled to February 25th. He also said that the Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 5th with workshops in the morning. B. Mitchell also said that students outnumber Board members at the event. He invited Board members and the Student Board Representatives to attend.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon stated he had nothing new to report on the State audit.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the Advisory Council will meet next in March and that he will run for the position as vice-chair.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

There were no comments on the reports.

j. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley invited J. Mazzalupo for the DARE culminations.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Mr. Johnson.

Compliance – M. Johnson reported on evaluation timelines and a letter dated February 7, 2014, that the district is at 100% compliance. He said the hard work of the staff made it happen. M. Johnson also stated that he, H. Mileski and others would meet with FSN regarding intervention to families.

b. Report from Interim Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- Smarter Balanced Assessments – We have received great deal of information from the state recently regarding our spring administration of the SBAC assessments including instructions to set students up on the SBAC portal to take the test, enter accommodation information for special education and ELL students, and set up and train test administrators. We will be sending home letters to parents of all tested students at the end of this week and will also offer two evening sessions to provide more information about the Common Core State Standards and the upcoming Smarter Balanced field tests. The sessions will be held on Feb. 26 for parents of elementary school students and on Feb. 27 for parents of secondary school students.
- Title III – We are currently working on entry of data on all of our ELL students in preparation for March LAS C testing. We are also in the process of completing a mandated self-assessment of our Title III program. Finally, because the district did not meet the Annual Measurable Achievement Objective for 2012-2013 on the mathematics CMT, we must send a letter to parents of our ELLs notifying them that we did not meet this specific target. We did meet the achievement targets on the CMT reading and writing tests and the number of ELL students tested on the CAPT was too low to be reported.
- Math Coach – We completed our interviews for a grades PK-2 math coach this afternoon and anticipate hiring our second coach by the end of the week.

c. Monthly Update from Interim Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported to the Board on the following:

- Principal Evaluation Meetings: I will conduct three mid-year reviews with Principals this week.
- Teacher Evaluation – He and L. Pallin met with Joel Farrior this morning to discuss the new flexibility options the state is offering with the teacher evaluation process. L. Pallin and he will meet with the administrative team to discuss these options on Thursday, February 13th. We will meet with the Evaluation Committee on February 25. He expects to have a few minor proposed changes to bring to the Board in March.
- MEF Meeting - He will attend the MEF meeting tomorrow night, February 12th. It is rescheduled from the snow day last Monday, February 3rd.
- DARE Graduations: Murphy's graduation was postponed last week and rescheduled for tomorrow night, February 12th. L. Pallin will be attending. He will attend Mohegan's on Thursday night, February 13th, if it does not snow.

Item 11. Information items. -- None

Item 12. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).

D. Rowley asked three times for citizens comments. There were none.

Item 13. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Steve Loiler

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____