

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.**

**2014-15 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 David Rowley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie T. Baxter, Steve Loiler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, Valerie Smith, James Wood and David Rowley. Student Representative Rohit Sinja was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian C. Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patten, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representative Hannah Marchini, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**Presentation: A) Montville Marvel**

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

**Palmer Building:** Principal Heather Mileski recognized Bradley Farr for his social and academic growth over the last year. This certificate was presented by Board Member D. Reed-Iler.

**Presentation: B) Holiday Songs by the Montville High School Carolers**

- *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
- *Angels We Have Heard on High*
- *Let It Snow*

Montville High School Carolers were: Soprano 1: Jessica Hatch, Ryan Radgowski, and Sarah Wen Warykas. Soprano 2/ Alto 1: Mia Gambone, Casey LaRose, and Jenny O'Sullivan. Alto: Meghan Canastar, Melissa Seidel, and Carly Stewart. Tenor: Ben Coombs, Brian O'Sullivan, and Shaun Radgowski. Bass: Kody Mileski, Tate Turner, and Morgan Quintanilla.

The meeting recessed briefly for punch and cookies for the MHS Carolers.

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

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

**Item 4: Letters and communications.**

There were none to report.

Board Chair D. Rowley welcomed S. Loiler back to the Board. He congratulated him for graduating from the Connecticut State Police Academy.

**Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.**

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

**Proposed by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Seconded by:** Valerie Smith  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

**Item 6. Report from Student Board Representative.**

Student representative Hannah Marchini reported as follows:

1. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Theodoss and Ms. Bedard travelled to Tyl Middle School where they presented an overview of the courses and activities MHS has to offer.
2. Also on December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Counseling Department facilitated a Financial Aid Night for parents and students, explaining the process for getting money for college.
3. Recently a tag sale at Fair Oaks School was held to benefit the activities and clubs of MHS, raising about \$750.00.
4. Last night was the annual Winter Band Concert, which will be followed by the Choir Concert on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
5. The first MHS Athletic Hall of Fame meeting was held recently and plans have been made to announce the first “class” of inductees in March, with a dinner in May or June.
6. Mr. Theodoss invited the Board of Education to attend the Principal’s Breakfast this Friday from 7:00-10:30 a.m. – or until the food runs out!
7. The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club is raising money to buy fleece blankets for Montville’s senior citizens.
8. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, students will assemble in the auditorium for presentations about Internet safety, cyberbullying, and the like.
9. American Studies is conducting a Christmas Card and Christmas Carol fundraiser, with the carols being performed on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

10. The annual Holiday Concert will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Board members are welcome to attend.
11. Mid-term exams will begin on January 12<sup>th</sup>, a week after the end of Winter Break.
12. Girls Varsity Basketball debuted last Friday with a win over Killingly. They will be heading to Florida over Winter Break to participate in a tournament at the Disney Complex.
13. Wrestling, Boys Basketball, and Indoor Track will all begin season competition this week.

**Item 7. Unfinished business.**

**a. Consideration and action to adopt the proposed school calendar for 2015-16.**

Superintendent B. Levesque explained that Montville's calendar has been aligned with the regional calendar.

**Motion: That the Board adopts the proposed school calendar for 2015-16.**

**Proposed by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Seconded by:** Bob Mitchell  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

**Item 8. New Business.**

**a. Consideration and action to approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects.**

Superintendent B. Levesque noted that the items on the proposed Capital Improvement projects reflect items that have previously been on the list. The first nine items on the list are priorities that we need now. Included is a request for new busses as our bus fleet is old. We have received information about a grant for busses, which we've applied for and received tentative approval for. We will work with the Finance Committee and the Town Council to try to get some of the items on the list approved.

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

**Proposed by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Seconded by:** Bob Mitchell  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

**b. Discussion of budget development for 2015-16 and consideration and action to approve budget strategies for 2015-16.**

Superintendent B. Levesque said that we took the 2014-15 Board goals and aligned them to budget strategies as we build the budget for 2015-16.

**Motion:** That the Board approves budget strategies for 2015-16.

**Proposed by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

- c. Consideration and action to set the date of Tuesday, February 10, 2015 for the Special Meeting for the Board of Education Budget meeting and for budget discussions.**

Superintendent B. Levesque stated that he will bring forward the Superintendent's proposed budget at the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be a couple of weeks to study the budget and ask questions before bringing it back for Board approval at the Regular Board of Education meeting on February 24, 2015. The budget will then be forwarded to the Town.

**Motion:** That the Board sets the date of Tuesday, February 10, 2015 for the Special Meeting for the Board of Education Budget meeting and for budget discussions.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Valerie Smith  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

**Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.**

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

J. Wood stated that the Policy Committee met earlier in the evening. They approved the proposed meetings for 2015. They also looked at six policies for possible updates. Four policies were updated with no revisions, one had a one word change, and one will be brought back for further information. The committee will continue to go through the policies for the next several months to review current and past policies for possible updates.

**b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met this evening and reviewed and proposed for approval by the Board this evening two new music courses – Guitar and Men's Choir.

**Motion:** That the Board approves two new music courses for the 2015-16 school year as proposed by the Educational Evaluation Committee at its meeting this evening.

B. Mitchell stated that the Guitar course would be a cost to next year's budget of \$4,000. Most of this amount would be for the initial purchase of 15 guitars. The Music Department has applied for a MEF grant to help defray the costs and the MHS Music Boosters will be fundraising to help with the costs. The Men's Choir has been proposed to concentrate on men's vocal ranges. The cost for this course would be \$700, which will be used for books and additional materials for the music library. The committee will continue their work on updating the district's grading and homework policies.

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell  
**Seconded by:** Valerie Smith  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

**c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler/Brian Levesque).**

S. Loiler reported that a \$5,000 grant was just awarded to St. Bernard's School. A fundraiser has been planned for Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Montville Polish Club, for dinner and a comedian/magic show. Cost for admission will be \$50.00. The foundation is continuing work on their Mission Statement and are looking for new members to serve.

**d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).**

C. Baxter reported that LEARN met this past Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and they heard from Superintendent of Schools Ruth Levy from Regional District #4. She gave her perspective on the region's work with manufacturing. L. Pallin has been in touch with her.

**e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell mentioned that CABE is sponsoring a Webinar on the social studies framework this Thursday from 12-1:00 p.m. If interested, contact Bob and he will give you information on registering for the Webinar. He informed the Board that Day on the Hill will take place on March 25, 2015.

**f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon). – No report**

**g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).**

T. Pomazon reported that the council met last month. A rate increase will be coming, along with expanded services. The next meeting will be held in January.

**h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).**

Board member B. Mitchell stated that the JRB had 3 new cases last week that they reviewed. The JRB has heard 84 cases and, of all of those, only 3 cases have been required to go to the Juvenile Justice System. The percentage of cases that the JRB has been able to help is outstanding.

**i. Administrative Monthly Reports.**

Board member C. Baxter informed H. Mileski that she is very glad Palmer's Project-based Learning has students studying music. D. Reed-Iler said she is pleased to hear of the progress of the Pathways Program and their work with animals. She also mentioned that she likes the format of the administrative monthly reports and the pictures that are included in the reports.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

D. Rowley stated that he was pleased to read to the first graders at Oakdale School. Principal J. Mazzalupo noted that the first grade classes bring in a reader once a week.

**k. Other. -- None**

**Item 9. Superintendent's Report.**

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

Mr. Johnson was absent from the meeting.

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

- State Testing Updates: A meeting was held with Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer at the CSDE, regarding state assessments for this year and next. Based upon the information received, we will work with administrators to finalize dates for CMT, CAPT and SBAC assessments and for our May/June district benchmark assessments (DIBELS, STAR). We were also led to believe we will receive some district-wide data on our students' assessment results from last spring's tests.
- Reading Survey: We received information from the State Department that the window for the reading survey required for early elementary teachers will be open from January 20 – May 15. District teachers will have the option of using in-service time to take this assessment or they can take it at home, if preferred. The results of the survey will be used to plan for future professional development needs.
- Social Studies Standards: New draft standards were recently brought to the State Board of Education. We will convene a Social Studies Curriculum Committee to revise our curricula based upon the new

standards. The greatest impact will be at Tyl where the standards differ the most from our current scope and sequence.

**c. Monthly Update from the Superintendent – Mr. Levesque**

- E-rate: There are significant federal changes in e-rate for 2015-16. They are phasing out the provision of providing reimbursement for telephone services; however, they are adding other items. We have always done e-rate ourselves, but this year we will be contacting an e-rate consultant to try to maximize the dollars that we will get back. You will hear more about e-rate as we go along.
- Happy Holidays: We wish everyone a happy holiday season.

**Item 10. Information items.**

D. Rowley noted that the newest edition of the *CABE Journal* had a photo of Montville's Board as they were recipients of CABE's Level II Board of Distinction Leadership Award.

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

Town Council Chair and Board Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz thanked the Board for everything that they do. He also thanked the teachers and administrations. Going into the budget season, he hopes that everyone understands the process. The Town has a job to do and he doesn't want the Board to take it personally as the council works to keep the budget down for Montville's citizens. D. Rowley thanked J. Jaskiewicz for all he does. He also thanked the Town Council for ratifying the administrators' and teachers' contracts last Monday night, along with the approval for the Board to put funds in their 1% account.

**Item 12. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:** Valerie Smith  
**Seconded by:** Steve Loiler  
**Vote:** Motion carried – 9-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Margaret Tripp, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

*Minutes Approved:* \_\_\_\_\_