

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.**

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

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; and Mayor Ronald McDonald, and Town Councilor Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Palmer Pathways – Heather Mileski.

Principal H. Mileski gave a PowerPoint presentation on “the best practices and components of alternative education,” introduced as the Palmer Pathways. She spoke of the district’s cooperative relationship with LEARN and its one-year pilot collaborative that evolved from conversations with LEARN by Superintendent B. Levesque. The Palmer Pathways initiative includes Components of Vision and PBL Campus for students to earn elective credit working with business owners and internship. H. Mileski said that the target population referred to as pathways was looked at in promoting students’ emotional and social development and the approach for the same through staffing and scheduling. B. Levesque commended H. Mileski and M. Johnson for pursuing the relationship with LEARN that will result in a sharing of resources for district and LEARN students. In response to Board member questions, H. Mileski explained that there are currently six (6) students enrolled in the program, the rationale for the half-day schedule on Fridays, and the MEA’s endorsement of the program. Introduced were LEARN Executive Director Dr. Eileen Howley-Curtis, Director of Student Support Services Bridgette Gordon-Hickey and Doreen Marvin, Director of Development.

Presentation: B) CMT/CAPT Report – Laurie Pallin.

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the data from the CMT/CAPT explaining that the results were earlier this year as only one test was given. She spoke of the impact of full-day kindergarten introduced in the past year and Dibels, the benchmark for early literacy for kindergarten students, and the bump up in scores per the data. CMT scores in grade 8 at Tyl Middle School was 92.8% at or above goal and 80.8% at goal that showed a reduction in the number of students of concern. Grade 10 CAPT scores were 84.8% proficient or higher, a bit lower than the 2013 scores. L. Pallin also recognized the increase in the Montville High School AP scores, a result of an increase in AP exams and in the number of students taking AP courses. In response to a Board member question, L. Pallin also reported that she has heard nothing regarding Smarter Balanced results and said that the data from it would be very limited.

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.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Unfinished business.

a. Consideration and action to review/approve the Board of Education Goals for 2014-15.

The 2014-15 Board of Education Goals were read by Board member C. Baxter and comments were sought by Chair D. Rowley for appropriate or needed changes. Wording was changed on two of the goals.

Motion: That the Board approves the Board of Education Goals for 2014-15, as amended.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 7. New Business.

a. Consideration and action to review/adjust/approve the 2013-14 budget.

Superintendent Levesque reported that, although the 2013-14 budget audit is not complete, he is anticipating a return of \$185, 465. He will request the approval of the Town Council to have the return placed in a one percent non-lapsing account. An additional figure, \$47,366.39, which represents prior encumbrances will be returned to the Town.

Motion: That the Board approves the 2013-14 as reported by the Superintendent.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

b. Consideration and action to waive the bid process to contract with Standard Sprinkler Corp. for the purchase and installation of a replacement fire pump at Oakdale School. This project will be funded by the Capital Improvement Plan for \$30,000 and \$2,565 out of the Board of Education budget.

Motion: That the Board waives bid process to contract with Standard Sprinkler Corp. for the purchase and installation of a replacement fire pump at Oakdale School. This project will be funded by the Capital Improvement Plan for \$30,000 and \$2,565 out of the Board of Education budget.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously

Superintendent B. Levesque explained that the vendor is one previously used by the district and knows the facilities.

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood stated that at a meeting held earlier this evening Superintendent B. Levesque talked about legislative changes that will be presented at the October meeting. B. Levesque said that the work/school day policy, a “snowball” policy, and all other policies will be reviewed for action.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and heard the presentation on Palmer Pathways.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).

Superintendent B. Levesque reported that the MEA golf tournament held on Monday, August 11 had a great turnout and a meeting is set for Friday, August 15th to determine the final numbers. Fall activities will also be considered.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that LEARN meetings will resume in September.

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell commented on early bird registration for the CABA conference in November. He asked Board members to contact M. Tripp for the same.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon stated there was no news to report on the State audit.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that no meeting was held.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that meetings would resume in September.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Board members received the annual reports in their packets. C. Baxter commented on the report submitted by Principal Espinoza and asked to be notified if parent help is needed with fostering motivated students, which is one of Murphy's goals for the year.

j. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley asked Board members to alert him if they plan to attend the Teacher Orientation so that he can recognize them.

k. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

M. Johnson reported to the Board on the following:

- Summer school: Programming was completed for the special needs students. We had 46 students from preschool to the high school. The work with the primary grades was to continue meeting IEP academic and social goals while the middle and high school students' focus was on social skills.
- Training: The first session of the districtwide training on Handle With Care, which is a de-escalation and restraint training, was held. We will have 11 staff members representing each school who will be trained to train other staff members. We will end up with a research-based and safe system that will be our exclusive procedure.
- Hiring: Special Education hiring for the 2014-2015 school year included Denise Dunning, Secondary Special Services Program Leader; Lisa Greenleaf kindergarten and grade 1, Timothy Thayer self-contained classroom and Lynn Martini grade 2 and grade 3, Charles E. Murphy School; Amanda Hergott preschool at Oakdale School; Shilpa Nagaraj social worker for the elementary and middle schools; and Natasha Singer, part-time school nurse.

D. Dunning thanked the interview committee and expressed the "warm feeling" she has about working in the district.

- Training: Response Abilities Pathway training was scheduled to take place on Friday, August 22, 2014. Staff members from Palmer and Tyl Pathways, the Project Based Learning Campus, administrators, district social workers and school psychologists were in attendance. Professional development plans for the year will focus on IEP compliance and co-teaching at the middle and high schools.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- Teacher Evaluation Training: On Monday we conducted training for new administrators and department chairs in the use of the Marzano protocol to conduct observations of teachers. Rather than bring in trainers from outside, Brian and I elected to develop our own district training since we foresee the need to offer this training each year and it is a significant expense to bring in Marzano trainers.

- New Teacher Training: Today we met with all of our new teachers. N. Savoie issued their computers and provided training in use of our district's technology resources, and I presented information about the TEAM process, our teacher evaluation system and district priorities regarding curriculum, instruction and assessment. The new teachers will return for another full day of training tomorrow on use of Aspen and an overview of district policies. We will also take our traditional bus trip around the town with Joe Jaskiewicz returning as our guide.
- Professional Development: This Friday all district teachers will participate in professional development activities. Continuing our plan to use our district teachers as presenters, our math coaches will present information about the use of our online math program, DreamBox, and three high school teachers will share with middle and high school teachers their experiences using TurnItIn.com to collect and score student work, check it for plagiarism and manage the resulting assessment data for their student learning goals which are part of our teacher evaluation system. We will be bringing in trainers from Microsoft to provide teachers with training in the use of Windows 8.1 and Office 2013 which have been loaded on their new laptops. The contract which we have entered with Microsoft will provide ongoing training for teacher throughout the school year.
- Summer Work: As in past years, the summer has been a whirlwind of curriculum work, and teachers who worked curriculum teams will present their work at grade level or department meetings.

c. Monthly Update.

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- Administrative Retreat: We held out annual administrative retreat with the entire administrative team on August 8 and 12. The two days were packed with a lot of information. The first morning's focus was on celebrating the successes of last year. The second half of day one was training in Windows 8 and Office 2013. Day 2 featured the morning with Anne Littlefield on special education and other legal issues. We finished day 2 with recalibration in the Marzano Teacher Evaluation Framework. The retreat was a great way to kick off our back to school plans.
- Commissioner's Back to School Meeting: I attended the Back to School meeting in Hartford today. At the meeting we heard about the commissioner's resignation. He will be leaving his position on December 31. We also learned more information about current initiatives at the state level. We were provided some useful resources that will help us with some of our current initiatives.

- Hiring Update: We still have 4 certified vacancies. These include library/media position at Oakdale, technology position at MHS and 2 kindergarten positions at Mohegan. We are currently working to fill all of these vacancies.
- Building Maintenance: Steve Carroll and his crew have done a great job in preparing the schools for the school year. The schools are ready to open next week.
- Custodial Negotiations: We have a tentative agreement with the Teamsters for a new contract. They will meet to ratify in early September. I hope to have this on the BOE agenda for September.

Item 10. Information items. -- None

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

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

Item 12. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 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: _____