

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 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 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie T. Baxter, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, Valerie Smith, James Wood and David Rowley. Board member Steve Loiler was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Athletic Director Walt Sherwin, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinha, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville.

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

Mohegan School: Principal Allison Peterson recognized Karina Huang for being chosen as a county winner in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Thomas Heberding, Haley Marino, and Lizzie Morse were also recognized for helping and comforting kindergarten students during a recent fire drill which took place at dismissal time and the kindergarteners thought it was a real fire. The certificates were presented by Board Member Todd Pomazon.

Oakdale School: Principal Jill Mazzalupo recognized Lynn Littlefield for organizing the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart at Oakdale School for the last 15 years. Also recognized was Nina Wang for being chosen as a County Level Winner in

the 2014-2015 Connecticut Fire Prevention Recognition Program. Board Member Bob Mitchell presented these certificates.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Amy Espinoza recognized Rebecca Boyles for always going above and beyond in helping everyone at Murphy School. Tammy Hudson was also recognized for the extraordinary effort she makes in creating a "children's museum" at Murphy School. In addition, Kate Bowman was recognized for being counted on to be consistently kind, thoughtful, and an all-around good student. These certificates were presented by Board member Kim Navetta.

Presentation: B) Recognition of Board of Education Members – Brian C. Levesque.

Superintendent Levesque stated that March is Board of Education Appreciation Month and said it is an honor to work with the Board who provides the support and tools for students' education and performance that enables him to do his job. He also thanked the Student Board Representatives who he said are appreciated as well. Board members were presented with a pin and another gift that Superintendent Levesque said was "not enough" to show appreciation for all that the Board does.

The Board recessed briefly at 6:12 p.m. for a cake and punch in honor of the Board and resumed session at 6:22 p.m.

Presentation: C) Eureka Math at the Elementary Level – Oakdale School.

Principal Jill Mazzalupo and Math Coaches Michele Lathrop and Liz Dumond gave a PowerPoint presentation on Eureka Math that Principal Mazzalupo described as a math program that 1) deals with real world problems; 2) encourages dialog between students; and 3) encourages doing math in the head. The program begins with an application problem, concept development to build new learning, student debriefing so students can review and process the lesson, and makes homework something that students are comfortable doing. Ms. Dumond spoke about the group of educators, administrators, and community members across the nation who have vetted the textbooks for the Eureka Math program. She added that the first round of reviews for the program came out a week ago. Principal Mazzalupo then read quotes from teachers about the math program and all of the feedback was positive. Board member C. Baxter asked about how much of the lessons are scripted and about students who struggle academically. Ms. Dumond responded that sample conversations are provided and that foundational skills are built in to the lessons. Chair D. Rowley suggested that the program presentation be broadcast on Access Channel 22.

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

Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. Coach Wilcox, the MHS wrestling coach, spoke about parents' concerns surrounding changes regarding the ECC and the possibility of a new regional sports conference. He talked about the ramifications of the

district moving to another conference—losing meet dates, placing, and seeding. Chair D. Rowley stated that Coach Wilcox's comments referred to Item 8.g on the agenda that evening. Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz thanked the Board on behalf of the people of Montville.

Item 4: Letters and communications. -- None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

The student representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinja gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. The annual blood drive was concluded on February 27 and more than 65 donors signed up to participate. However, students were eventually turned away as the Red Cross workers were understaffed and got backed up quickly. MHS students supplied 39 blood units and willingly helped with the event.
2. The Class of 2018 held a tag sale at Fair Oaks to raise money for future activities such as prom and the Senior Outing.
3. Recently, Dime Bank representatives visited Montville High School to talk to students about savings accounts and other aspects of personal finance.
4. MHS students received great "press" last week after 41 students attended the "Money Madness" seminar held by Chelsea Groton Bank. The event was featured on news channel 8, WTNH.com and in *The Day* and the *Norwich Bulletin* newspapers where several students were interviewed about matters pertaining to personal finance.
5. The MHS Drama Club and director Susan Walsh concluded performances of their winter musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," this past weekend. Students, staff, and community members alike enjoyed a production that was humorous, well-performed, and well-produced.
6. The English Department made enough money during its recent basket raffle to be able to present \$250 awards to two graduating seniors excelling in English.
7. On March 19th, a regional college fair is being held at Fitch High School where over 100 colleges and universities will be present to talk with students.
8. MHS English Language Learner students are planning another trip to Harkness Park for April that is a great opportunity for the students to see some of the Connecticut coastline.

9. The SAT Prep class will participate in a trip to the Hartford National College Fair on March 26.
10. Recruitment for Read Across America is currently underway setting high school students up to visit elementary classrooms to read to students on April 10th.
11. The ALLI group is planning a fun run for May 3rd at Dodd Stadium.
12. Sports Update:
 - Girls' basketball lost in the ECC 2nd round to Waterford in the State tournament.
 - Tommy Wynosky placed in the New England Regional Tournament after finishing in the top 3 in the State.
 - Girls' cheerleading will be participating in the New England Regional Tournament at Lawrence High School for the first time due to its 2nd place in the State and ECC championships.
 - Spring sports begin on Monday, March 23rd.

Item 7. Unfinished business. -- None

Item 8. New Business.

- a. **Consideration and action to approve the revisions to Policy #5121, Grading, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy #5121, Grading, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- b. **Consideration and action to approve the revisions to Policy #6146, Credit Requirements, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy #6146, Credit Requirements, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- c. **Consideration and action to approve the revisions to Policy #6154, Homework, as recommended by Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy #6154, Homework, as recommended by Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Board member J. Wood thanked Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin for assistance with the revisions of this policy.

d. Consideration and action to rescind Policy #2134, Ombudswoman, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Motion: That the Board rescinds Policy #2134, Ombudswoman, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Board member J. Wood stated that the Committee believes that the district is in compliance. Superintendent B. Levesque added that the position had been vacant for years and that the Athletic Director is aware that the district complies.

e. Budget Meetings:

- **Public Hearing on Town Government Budget, Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Montville High School Auditorium.**
- **Public Hearing on Board of Education Budget, Thursday, April 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Montville High School Auditorium.**

Board members were apprised of these meetings.

f. Consideration and action to observe the week of May 4-8, 2015, as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees.

Motion: That the Board approves to observe the week of May 4-8, 2015, as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

g. Discussion of changes to the Athletic Conference.

The discussion, deemed informational, was led by Principal J. Theodoss who explained the proposed changes to the Eastern Connecticut Conference ("ECC")—18 districts with a wide disparity of enrollment that would be separated into 3 tiers based on enrollment. He said that at a recent meeting, a "Power A" alignment/scheduling option was discussed—Enrollment A, Power School, and Random School. With this option, athletic directors would come up with an athletic schedule for its teams that makes sense. Principal Theodoss said that one of the key issues is crossovers—districts who are willing to play other and/or larger schools. Under the "Power A," districts that stay within the ECC must have schedules whereby 80% of games/meets must be within the league and with enough crossovers to fill each school schedule; must have an opt-out policy, and be enrollment-based. The schools that Montville currently plays, there are 7 of them, would consider leaving the ECC for a proposed "shoreline" conference. Although the ECC is where the district would like to stay, there are several scenarios that would be considered: 1) fix the issues with the current league; 2) form a medium and small division conference; 3) become a "shoreline" league; or 4) become the smallest member of the ECC. Consideration would be given to the current teams within district and their ability to "hold their own" against their competitors. In response to questions by Board member J. Wood, Principal Theodoss said that the proposed changes will take effect in 2016 and will be discussed at a Principals' Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 19th.

Athletic Director Walt Sherwin commented on the coaches' concerns. He explained that schools wanting to enter the "shoreline" league would have to make application. Principal Theodoss added that it is not known at this time which teams would leave the ECC if their application is accepted. Board Chair D. Rowley also commented on input he has received from concerned parents.

h. Appraisal of field trip: Montville High School, American Studies II, New York City, April 27, 2015 – April 28, 2015, 10 students.

Board members were apprised of this trip.

i. Consideration and action to waive the competitive pricing/bidding process to contract with LaFramboise Well Drilling, Inc., for the purpose of drilling a test well at Montville High School. LaFramboise Well Drilling, Inc., is the district's contracted Water Operator.

Motion: That the Board waives the competitive pricing/bidding process to contract with LaFramboise Well Drilling, Inc., for the purpose of drilling a test well at Montville High School. LaFramboise Well Drilling, Inc., is the district's contracted Water Operator.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque explained that water has been an issue in the district for a while. He spoke on his meeting with Town Council Liaison J. Jaskiewicz about the need for a viable source of water particularly with the expense associated with supplying bottled water. The drilling will confirm H²O contamination or well contamination. Additionally, fire suppression is also an issue. It has been deemed thus far that the proposed water extension discussed the WPCA would be the best move for the district and the State agrees.

- j. Consideration and action to transfer \$110,000 from the Health Insurance Accounts (various 213 – related to change of coverage and new hires) to Equipment/Vehicles (2700/730) to supplement the Federal grant which was awarded to Montville for the purchase of buses.**

Motion: That the Board authorizes the transfer of \$110,000 from the Health Insurance Accounts (various 213 – related to change of coverage and new hires) to Equipment/Vehicles (2700/730) to supplement the Federal grant which was awarded to Montville for the purchase of buses.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent B. Levesque talked about the EPA grant that the district received for five (5) buses or \$20,000 each. Three (3) 77-passenger buses and two (2) 47-passenger buses will replace buses in the district fleet that are 15-20 years old. The newest bus in the district fleet is a 2012. For a reason such as this one, the request was made to the Town for a 1% non-funding account.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. Policy (James Wood).**

J. Wood stated that a meeting was held earlier this evening and reviewed policies on competitive pricing and student insurance and tabled another on hazardous materials.

- b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell). – No meeting**

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

Superintendent Levesque reported that the Foundation is planning for its annual golf tournament that will be held on August 10. A recent fundraiser at the Montville Polish Club raised a \$5,000 profit.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that administrative and staff reports were heard. District administrators were thanked for their reports that Superintendent Levesque said were integral for teacher evaluations.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell commented that he would be attending the NSBA Conference in Nashville, TN, this weekend, March 21-23, 2015. He also said that the Day on the Hill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 in Hartford. He asked for those who plan to attend to email him. B. Mitchell added that Principal H. Mileski has applied to present at the fall CABE Conference.

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

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the government channels will be moved and that Mayor McDaniel has been notified of it. But, he is hoping that Channel 22 will remain at its present location. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for March 18 at 5:30 p.m.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau met yesterday and reviewed the budget. He also reported that the Juvenile Review Board ("JRB") is working well and has administered 103 diversions with only three (3) being sent back.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Board member D. Reed-Iler commented that she loved reading about the special events that take place at the schools.

j. Chair's Remarks.

Chair D. Rowley reported a portion of the minutes from the March 3, 2015, Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee Meeting about the "Board of Education ("BOE") hemorrhaging the Town at the expense of the Police and Public Works Departments." He said he found it unlikeable and that he had calls on it. He urged the Board to check out the school events sent out by Margaret Tripp. Chair Rowley also reported on the 100-200 dishes of ice cream he served to honor roll students.

k. **Other.** -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

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

- Montville Family With Service Needs Board (MFWSNB): The MFWSNB focuses primarily on truancy and school avoidance. Truancy is most often symptomatic of supports that the family is lacking. So, the idea of putting together a board made up of the police department, juvenile probation, DCF, a representative from the MYSB and the Southeastern Regional Action Committee, Principal Heather Mileski, and, a clinician from the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic for Children makes sense. It is the effect of providing wrap around services to the family to get at issues that need to be resolved and as a result you get at the truancy. Students, elementary through high school, are being services.

For example, we have provided things like a family membership for a wellness plan, helping with transportation so a parent can get a driver's license, with a box spring and mattress, to a total system of care including individual and family counseling. We have seen great success. Our staff and how much they care about our students are highlighted through the process since they move the referrals forward but are there with the families every step of the way.

Two new members have been added to the board: Officer Moorehead is replacing Trooper Smith who is retiring and Lisa Huggard who is the Care Coordinator for Montville and represents United Community and Family services.

We are making great headway in our elementary schools with attendance issues due to the diligence of Shilpa Nagaraj, social worker, and the building principals. Most often the list of referrals I am getting to move to the board are being rectified at the building level. This is due to the relationship building with families and the supports that are put into place.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

- Manufacturing Initiative at MHS: Brian Waddicor, our new MHS Technology Education teacher, applied for, and was accepted to, the College of Technology's Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (RCNGM) Externship Program this summer. Brian will be completing a four-week summer externship in a local manufacturing company, Acme Wire. The purpose of the program is to help stimulate connections between the workplace and classroom instruction and to assist educators in keeping current with

technology skills specifically applied in manufacturing, and to help them update their curriculum so that students will be better prepared to meet workforce needs. Brian will receive a \$4,000 grant for time spent at the worksite, for creating a curriculum work-based project, a summary report, and for delivering a professional development workshop for MHS teachers. This will directly support our efforts to create a manufacturing career pathway at MHS.

- SAT Redesign/CT's NCLB Waiver Application: The PSAT and SAT have undergone substantive revisions to more accurately measure college readiness and more directly align the test to classroom instruction and new Common Core standards. The new PSAT will be administered for the first time this fall and the new SAT will be in place for spring 2016 testing. The exam will call for evidence-based reading and writing about topics including science and social studies content, founding documents, and great global conversations regarding freedom, justice, and human dignity. Not only will students receive scores for reading and writing, but they will also receive sub-scores for analysis in science and analysis in social studies. Students will complete an essay in which they analyze the way an author builds an argument in a non-fiction text. The math SAT will change to include more multi-step, real-life application problems which include analysis of charts, graphs, and passages. Less than 10% of the test will focus on geometry as it is a topic which has not been shown to indicate college readiness and it is also de-emphasized in the new standards. Students' test results will be paired with Kahn Academy so that students will have access to video tutorials which target their areas of weakness. Versions of the PSAT will be offered to students in grades 8-11 and they will be scored on the same scale as the SAT. The state of CT is considering replacing the grade 11 Smarter Balanced Test with the SAT in its NCLB Waiver Application to the federal government. Brian and I are in support of shifting to the SAT for several reasons: it would provide a continuity of assessments available for students from grades 8-11, we receive extensive data (question by question analysis) regarding our students' learning based upon PSAT administration, we already administer the PSAT to all students in grades 10 and 11, the SAT is widely accepted and has been administered since 1926, and the link to Kahn Academy tutorials provides the opportunity for differentiated practice for students. There are several features of the Smarter Balanced test that are more attractive (it is untimed and adaptive), however we believe that the benefits of the SAT outweigh the downsides. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts about the State department's waiver request, an email address for feedback will be provided in Friday's weekly summary.

c. Monthly Update – Mr. Levesque.

- Teacher vacancies: The deadline for teachers to request voluntary transfers for next year has passed, and I have been working through the puzzle of doing these placements. Holly Pierce and I will be meeting with all teachers impacted by this on Monday of next week.
- Graduation Date: Hopefully winter has come to a close! I have been working with Project Graduation to set our graduation date for next year. As of today, I would propose Tyl for June 15, MHS for June 16 and Palmer for June 12. In this scenario we would have June 17 be the last working day for all teachers. We would have professional development in the AM and then have a district meeting at MHS in the afternoon where we would announce teacher of the year. This was a great ending last year and was well received. We hope to keep this as an annual tradition.
- Meeting Dates: The June Board meeting may have to be moved to a week later to accommodate graduations. I will bring this to the April meeting. Margaret and I have been working with Patrice McCarthy to schedule our Board retreat for this summer. She is not available on July 21, which would have been our regular meeting date. She is holding August 4 for us to have the retreat. I propose cancelling the meeting on July 21 and having the retreat on August 4. If the Board agrees, I can have this on the agenda for the April meeting for a formal vote.

Item 11. Information items. – None

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

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

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____