

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, April 21, 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 6:02 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.

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

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 Mary Jane Dix and Assistant Principal Will Klinefelter recognized Amy Richter for coordinating the Tyl Dress Down Fund since 2012. Kayla Hite, Amanda Plantier, John Plourde, and Chad Simon were recognized for being consistent and conscientious in assisting with the weekly High Five rewards drawing that is part of Tyl's PBIS Initiative. These certificates were presented by Board Member Deborah Reed-Iler.

Montville High School: Principal Jeff Theodoss and Assistant Principals Jason Daley and Tanya Patton recognized Josh Handler and Caitlin Turney for their recognition by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference as Scholar-Athlete Award winners. Josh Handler was at a baseball game so could not attend the meeting. He will receive his

certificate at the next Board meeting. Al Paul, Thomas Allen, Tammy Cyr, Donald Kutz, James Silverman-Wood, Eric Boozer, and Leon Wrobel were recognized for their outstanding effort to maintain a safe school environment in the face of a daunting winter. Board Member Valerie Smith and Jim Wood presented these certificates.

Palmer Building: Principal Heather Mileski recognized Kim Hayes and Nicole Caskey for their hard work, organization, and commitment to making the office at the PBL Campus run smoothly through a transition period. These certificates were presented by Board member Steve Loiler.

Presentation: B) Paraprofessional of the Year 2016 – Janet Wrobel, Oakdale School.

Board Chair Dave Rowley introduced Janet Wrobel of the Oakdale School as the Paraprofessional of Year 2016. He read and presented to J. Wrobel a State of Connecticut official citation signed by local State legislators recognizing her achievement. Principal Jill Mazzalupo congratulated J. Wrobel as well for her 28 years of service and pointed out current and former staff who were present to witness her honorary achievement. J. Wrobel then thanked her family, staff, and the administrators who "value what paraprofessionals do."

Presentation: C) Developmental Guidance Program featuring Naviance—Montville High School

Principal Jeff Theodoss introduced the school counseling staff who spoke about and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Developmental Guidance Program featuring Naviance. Staff members Sheila Bedard, Allison Delaney, Catherine Macri, and Kristen Raulerson spoke about the three domains of developmental counseling—personal/social content, academic content, career content—that are the requirements for academic achievement and success for all students, the Student Success Plan (SSP). The SSP features Naviance, a web-based tool that helps students and their families connect what students do in the classroom to their life goals' by assisting them with exploring goals, taking interest inventories, researching colleges and scholarships, submitting transcripts to colleges, and communicating with counselors and teachers. Naviance has access to 1000 scholarships and the tool is maintained by Deborah Ingoglia, Career Resource Coordinator. In response to Board questions, it was explained that students can access Naviance by logging in from home or through a mobile application: there is a section on non-career and certificate programs, it does include colleges outside of the U.S., it keeps records for a period of time, and it can retain letters of reference from teachers.

Motion: That the Board amends the agenda to move Item 8.i to Item 12.a for discussion in Executive Session.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

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

Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz asked that explanations be provided for agenda Items 8.j and 8.l.

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: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student representative Hannah Marchini gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. The first class of the Montville High School Hall of Fame, a group of ten students, will be given a banquet at the Mohegan Sun to celebrate their recognition.
2. Twenty students recently took a field trip to Three Rivers Community College to learn about career and program options.
3. MHS music recently hosted a "Blues Beard Guitar Fundraiser," an evening of jazz and blues featuring the MHS A Cappella Choir, Jazz Band, and the professional jazz band String of Pearls. The night was successful as the funds received exceeded their goal.
4. Mrs. Gregory's Teaching and Learning class recently took a field trip to Stop & Shop.
5. "Technology Day" was recently held at MHS and students brought in a device that connects to the wireless network to test the capacity of the school network.
6. A student forum was held by the Safe School Climate Committee to get students' feedback on the "good" and the "bad" about MHS.
7. Ben Conover recently won third place in the Wallace Stevens Poetry Contest at the University of Connecticut, and Helena Sun "rocked" the Poetry Reading at Mystic Arts Café on March 21st.
8. On April 8, the MHS Counseling Department sponsored College Knowledge Night and conveyed information about the college and financial aid processes and more than 50 parents attended the event.

9. On Friday April 10th, the English Department held its annual Read Across America field trip that places pairs of students into kindergarten through grade 3 classrooms. This year 62 students participated and put groups in every classroom in the district. The response was overwhelmingly positive.
10. The Counseling Department facilitated a presentation from Safe Futures for many students today. A speaker spoke about what constitutes a healthy relationship versus an unhealthy one and gave tips and tools for dealing with abusive relationships.
11. On April 24th, MHS music will perform at the Waterford Jazz Festival.
12. The annual, "Mr. MHS" Talent Show will be held on Wednesday, April 29th.
13. On April 30th, English Language Learners will travel to the U.S. Submarine Naval Base in Groton to have a tour of the *Nautilus* submarine and receive a history lesson on the role of New London County with submarines conducted by Electric Boat Engineering Supervisor, Tim May.
14. The Botany class will hold a plant sale on Friday, May 8th to raise funds.
15. A summary was given of sports results for baseball, softball, track and lacrosse. This year 350 out of 700 students participate in sports.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

a. 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

The Board was apprised of these meetings.

Item 8. New Business.

- a. Consideration and action to schedule a reception to honor its retirees on May 19, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. and approve the writing of resolutions for retirees.**

Motion: That the Board schedule a reception to honor its retirees on May 19, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. and approve the writing of resolutions for retirees.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

- b. Consideration and action to authorize the superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative grants and state and federal grants for various educational programs.**

Motion: That the Board authorizes the superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative grants and state and federal grants for various educational programs.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

c. Consideration and action to approve Policy #3323, Competitive Pricing/Bidding, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Motion: That the Boards approves Policy #3323, Competitive Pricing/Bidding, as recommended by Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Board member J. Wood reported that the policy was reviewed but no changes were made to it.

d. Consideration and action to approve Policy #3532.1, Student Insurance, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #3532.1, Student Insurance, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Board member J. Wood stated that the Committee reviewed the policy but made no changes to it.

e. Consideration and action to change the 2014-15 school calendar, with June 16, 2015, as the last day of school for students, and with June 17, 2015, as a professional development day for staff members.

Motion: That the Board changes the 2014-15 school calendar, with June 16, 2015, as the last day of school for students, and with June 17, 2015, as a professional development day for staff members.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

- f. Consideration and action to confirm the date of Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m. for Montville High School graduation.**

Motion: That the Board confirms the date of Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m. for Montville High School graduation.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

- g. Consideration and action to cancel the Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015, and re-schedule a Special Board of Education meeting for Tuesday, June 23, 2015.**

Motion: That the Board cancels the Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015, and re-schedule a Special Board of Education meeting for Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

- h. Consideration and action to cancel the Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2015, and re-schedule a Special Board of Education meeting for Tuesday, August 4, 2015.**

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

- i. Consideration and action to approve salary/benefits for unaffiliated staff.**

Board members voted to move this agenda item to 12.a.

- j. Consideration and action to waive the competitive pricing/bidding process to contract with WR Allen Co., Inc. for the purpose of doing building modifications at Montville High School in order to establish a dedicated area for a school-based Health Clinic.**

Motion: That the Board waives the competitive pricing/bidding process to contract with WR Allen Co., Inc. for the purpose of doing building modifications at Montville High School in order to establish a dedicated area for a school-based Health Clinic .

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque explained UCFS, funded by their grant, would put in a health clinic at MHS that will care for students' health and behavioral concerns. There will be no costs to students as asking for money from them is not allowed. The modifications to the area where the health clinic will be housed were proposed by UCFS. Board member C. Baxter asked whether parents will be advised of their child's use of the clinic. M. Johnson stated that parents would be given information about the clinic and the services offered. Superintendent Levesque stated that the district will follow the laws associated with HIPPA and that parents will be notified when they can. Board member C. Baxter expressed concern about minors making their own medical decisions. B. Levesque reiterated that the district will not violate the law. He added that the clinic will be available to Palmer students and to staff who will be charged the appropriate co-pay. Principal Theodoss commented that the school nurse would be the gatekeeper for the district for the health clinic.

k. Consideration and action to transfer \$15,000 from salary accounts (11 – 117) to Contracted Services (2600/423) to fund building modifications at Montville High School for a school-based Health Clinic.

Motion: That the Board authorizes the transfer of \$15,000 from salary accounts (11 – 117) to Contracted Services (2600/423) to fund building modifications at Montville High School for a school-based Health Clinic.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

l. Consideration and action to transfer \$12,200 from salary accounts (111 – 117) to Contracted Services (2600/423) to fund repairs to the water heater at Montville High School, with work being completed by New England Mechanical.

Motion: That the Board transfers \$12,200 from salary accounts (111 – 117) to Contracted Services (2600/423) to fund repairs to the water heater at Montville High School, with work being completed by New England Mechanical.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque explained that the water heater is an emergency repair that must be done by New England Mechanical who is the vendor that services the district.

- m. Consideration and action to transfer \$15,000 from salary accounts (111 – 117) to Contracted Services (2600/423) to fund a test well at Montville High School, with work completed by LaFramboise Well Drilling, Inc.**

Motion: That the Board transfers \$15,000 from salary accounts (111 – 117) to Contracted Services (2600/423) to fund a test well at Montville High School, with work completed by LaFramboise Well Drilling, Inc.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque explained that the Board authorized the work last month and that this transfer will fund it.

- n. Consideration and action to modify the transfer of \$110,000 from Equipment/Vehicles (2700/730) to Vehicles (2700/732). This reclassification is necessary because vehicles are considered a specific property account.**

Motion: That the Board modifies the transfer of \$110,000 Equipment/Vehicles (2700/730) to Vehicles (2700/732). This reclassification is necessary because vehicles are considered a specific property account.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Valerie Smith
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque explained that the Board approved the transfer at last month's meeting and the reclassification puts the funds in the appropriate account.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. Policy (James Wood).**

J. Wood stated that a meeting was held earlier this evening and the Committee reviewed policies discussed at their last meeting that require more work and additional information.

The policies discussed were about sexual harassment, students' sports concussions, and hazardous materials in schools.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell stated the Committee had a short informational session this evening but would have a more extensive meeting next month.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler). – No report

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that she was unable to attend the meeting.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that he attended the NSBA Conference with Chair D. Rowley. He attended sessions on Common Core. The March 27th Day on the Hill was a “catch all bill day” and those who attended were able to see the legislature at work. Eighty-five board members, twenty superintendents, and twenty-five students attended the event. B. Mitchell also reported that the NSBA Conference next year will be held in Boston on April 9- 11.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that there have been conversations with the State but he had nothing concrete to report.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that at the last meeting the Council agreed to take under advisement keeping the district's Cable Access Channel 22 at its current location.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau met earlier this month and considered potential cuts in funding proposed by the State. He also reported that the Juvenile Review Board is doing well and had its best closeout of an issue and diversion.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Chair D. Rowley commented on activities that occurred at Murphy and Mohegan schools—the universe unit and the East Carolina basketball team that practice and read to students, respectively.

j. Chair's Remarks.

Chair D. Rowley stated he would reserve his comments until the Board Retreat on August 4th.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

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

- Extended School Year: The process for the Extended School Year has begun. Programs will include social skills instruction at the secondary level, preschool, and elementary classes. Requests from teachers have been received based on each student's individualized education program, permission slips have been sent to parents. The deadline is at the end of this week. Special education secretary Sara will call parents who have not turned in a slip to verify that their child will not be attending. The next step will be staffing. The special education programming for elementary school will take place at Mohegan Elementary School.
- IEPs: A goal for the special education department has been to write individualized education plans that reach the level of promising practice and that give evidence of specific educational benefit to our students. Both Jen Russell and Denise Dunning have been working deliberately and diligently with teachers to produce the best possible plans. The middle school staff has recently been provided with some direct support (which was at their request) working with some of their current IEPs. We have work left to do but are in a better place today than we were yesterday and expect to be in an even better place tomorrow.
- Staff Training: In a few weeks, a group of special education staff members will be attending part two of the Dyslexia workshops offered by the New England Assistive Technology Center in Hartford. Everyone learns in their own unique way, and there is sometimes a gap between what the student can do and what we want the student to do. We need to have a better understanding of learning differences and find the right tools to help our learners. There are more functional learning designs that we can use with students to help them close that gap and still maintain independence.

Board member D. Reed-Iler asked if there was a way that board members could see a redacted IEP since the Special Services Department is working hard to convey its importance and effect upon children.

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

- Kindergarten Readiness: This summer we will once again hold a kindergarten readiness program for incoming kindergarten students. This will be the third year of the program which has been funded by the Kindergarten Readiness Grant. At the conclusion of the program, we will be assessing what students' progress has been. If the results are positive, we will need to look at a way to fund this program in the future.
- Math CAMPY Program: This summer Montville will host a Math CAMPY Program. Some of Montville's students will be able to participate for free because we have agreed to host the program.
- Administrative Goal-Setting and Action Planning: Jonathan Costa, Director of School and Program Services for EDUCATION CONNECTION, will be working with district administrators this Thursday on strategic planning. He believes in Peter Drucker's statement: "One goal is a goal. Two goals are half a goal. Three goals are no goals at all." It is in this spirit that Montville will engage in Costa's practical planning process designed to move from compliance to multiple standards to instructional coherence. Costa will be working with our administrators to develop, facilitate, and support our strategic planning processes. "Coherence planning is about building linkages between a vision of success for students, measures of that success, and how practices at the student, professional, and organizational levels support achieving them." Our work with Costa will be continued in August when the administrators will work for two days on developing the action plan and strategies to implement focused goal work for the next several years.
- Next Generation Science Standards: The Next Generation Science Standards have been presented to the CT State Board of Education, and they will consider possible adoption of the standards this summer based upon feedback from stakeholders. Understandably, the board is proceeding cautiously in considering these standards given the political climate surrounding adoption of the Common Core Standards and the new Smarter Balanced assessments. Members of our Advisory Council have been asked to present the standards to our local boards of education and then, as a group, local boards are to complete a survey to provide our consensus feedback regarding future adoption of the new standards. I will make this presentation at May's E&E Committee meeting. We have been told that the earliest possible date for administration of a state science assessment based upon new standards will be spring of 2018.

c. Monthly Update – Mr. Levesque.

- Insurance Meetings: Kathy and I have had a couple of meetings this week with our insurance consultant. The first meeting focused on the Affordable Care Act. We are strategizing with the consultant about how to minimize our exposure to the costs of this act. At the second meeting, we reviewed our renewal and our stop loss insurance. We are looking at ways to reduce some of our administrative costs in our renewal.
- Interviews: I will be conducting interviews this week to hire Margaret's replacement. We have a good pool of candidates to interview. I hope to hire someone in the next week or so to begin on or about July 1.
- New Commissioner of Education: The State Board of Education recommended Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, who has been the Interim Commissioner of Education and Chief Academic Officer, for appointment as the Commissioner of Education and Governor Malloy accepted the recommendation. He will now present Commissioner Wentzell to the General Assembly for confirmation.

Item 11. Information items. – None

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

Board Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments.

Jayden Muniz, a student, spoke about his acceptance to the Science and Technology Magnet School and his interest in animation and digital art. He asked that the Board provide transportation from the district to the school.

Ramon Mendez, a 14 year old student currently in his last year at the ISAAC School and accepted at the Science and Technology Magnet School where they offer to grades 9-12 college courses at Three Rivers Community College at no cost. He explained that with the magnet school mentoring program he would eventually be hired to work at a local company. Ramon also asked the Board to consider transportation to the magnet school given that other districts provide transportation.

Austin Huang, a 15 year old freshman student at the Science and Technology School spoke about the district's lack of transportation to the magnet school and the problems it causes his parents getting him to and from school.

Parent, Tina Muniz-Jones, stated that she could top what the students had already said in advocating for transportation to the Science and Technology Magnet School. She spoke about the bus that the district provides for transportation to the Regional Multicultural Magnet School that is minutes away from the Science and Technology Magnet School.

Mr. Jones, a parent, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the Board for providing transportation to the dual arts academy and although he understands that the Board does not need to provide transportation to the Science and Technology Magnet School but he asked that they consider it.

Bob Manfredi of Hillcrest mentioned the school renovation project completed by the district stating with the present low enrollment there is no justification for three (3) elementary schools. He said that one of the elementary schools should be closed but the playground kept open. B. Manfredi also commented on the cost for teaching each student within the district. He added that he did not agree with the Board's vote to waive competitive pricing/bidding regarding agenda Item 8.J that he described as "carte blanche" and a similar issue regarding agenda item 8.L.

**Item 12.A. Consideration and action to approve salary/benefits for unaffiliated staff.
– Executive Session**

Motion: That the Board goes into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to approve salary/benefits for unaffiliated staff and invites in Superintendent Levesque.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Motion: That the Board comes out of Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. with no votes taken.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Motion: That the Board approves salary/benefits for unaffiliated staff as proposed by the Superintendent.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 9-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Respectfully submitted by:
Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____