

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.**

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 Steve Loiler, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Valerie Smith, James Wood, and David Rowley. Carrie Baxter was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patten, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodore, Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan, Mayor Ron McDaniel, Town Councilors Tom McNally and Town Council Board Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. CT State Legislators were also present as follows: Representatives. Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th District, Mike France of the 42nd District, Kathleen McCarty of the 38th District, and Senator Paul Formica of the 20th District. Senator Cathy Osten of the 19th District was unable to attend.

Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Reception, 2016 Teacher of the Year – Kalyn Travis

Superintendent B. Levesque introduced Kalyn Travis, the Montville 2016 Teacher of the year and read a summary of her accomplishments. CT Legislators, Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th District, Mike France of the 42nd District, Kathleen McCarty of the 38th District, and Senator Paul Formica of the 20th District presented K. Travis with a proclamation on behalf of the CT State Assembly. Representative Ryan commented that Ms. Travis would also be recognized by the Montville Rotary. Superintendent Levesque then called upon the 2014 Teacher of the Year Robin Tamburrino, who presented the Montville Teacher of the Year plaque to Kalyn Travis. Mayor R. McDaniel then thanked K. Travis for the work she has done with the special education students and presented her with a “smaller award” on behalf of the Town of Montville. Board Chair D. Rowley presented the Teacher of the Year “golden apple” that will be returned to J. LeMay for engraving.

After the presentation, Board Chair D. Rowley invited Ms. Travis to say a few words. She stated that she was “overwhelmed with gratitude for the amazing honor” and thanked the teachers and administration for their support. K. Travis then introduced her family.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:11 p.m. for a reception in honor of Kalyn Travis. The meeting resumed at 6:32 p.m.

Presentation: B) Introduction of New Staff by Administration.

B. Levesque introduced the district administrators who presented the new certified staff for the 2015-2016 school year as follows:

OAKDALE SCHOOL:

Staci Girardin – PreK SPED

DR. CHARLES E. MURPHY SCHOOL:

Rachel Berube – Part-time Art Teacher

Shannon Craddock – Special Education Teacher

Montville High School:

Julia Berry – English

Bridget Buckley – Math

Sara Skubal – Social Studies

Dawn Schreiber – Special Education

Heather Silera – Part-time Spanish

Hired after the start of the 2015-2016 school year

OAKDALE SCHOOL:

Amy Austin – Librarian– start date 10/27/14

Lori Brehler – Speech and Language Pathologist- Start Date 01/05/2015

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School:

John Reed – Grade 7 General Science – start date 2/11/2015

Montville High School:

Brian Waddicor –Tech Ed Teacher – start date 2/4/2015

Item 2. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only). -- None

Item 3: Letters and communications. -- None

Item 4. Approval of Consent Calendar.

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

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Item 5. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representatives, senior Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan, the new junior class representative, reported to the Board on the following:

1. Students were welcomed back to school on August 26, 2015.
2. Students had their first advisory session on September 9th where they set goals for the new school year.
3. Back-to-School Night will be held tomorrow, September 16th.
4. The Class of 2017 will be having a tag sale at Fair Oaks to raise money for their class.
5. Spirit Week, organized by Student Government, will take place next week. Student Government has been working hard to organize the event and the fall pep rally leading up to the Homecoming Dance by speaking with administration, organizing decorations, and begging teachers to chaperone the dance. The half day on that Friday will allow for a catnap before the big game.
6. The "True Homecoming" football game is being held on Friday, September 25th and over 80 Montville alumni from 1965-1970 will be attending the event. A tour and concert will also take place on that date.
7. MHS teachers and administration are taking the initiative to help students develop skills and strategies in problem solving.
8. On Saturday, September 12th, the Montville Marching Band attended UConn Band Day at Renschler Field in East Hartford. They were joined there by over 800 high school band students from around the state in performing with the UConn Marching Band during halftime at the UConn v. Army game.
9. A Men's Choir and JV Acapella Choir have been added to the choral program and are going remarkably well.
10. The Drama Department is holding auditions for the female roles in *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon.

Item 6. Unfinished Business.

- a. Consideration and action to review/approve the Board of Education Goals for 2015-2016.**

Motion: That the Board approves the Board of Education Goals for 2015-2016.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Board Chair D. Rowley commented that some of the Board goals are similar if not word for word. He said that they wanted to have music education be considered as a “focal point of interest” in the district/curriculum and will have the Board Secretary see that it is moved forward. He also asked for the reinstatement of “senior community project” be reconsidered for the district.

Item 7. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to approve the Annual Report for 2014-15 and forward it to the Mayor.**

Motion: That the Board approves the 2014-15 Annual Report and forwards it to the Mayor.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

- b. Report on state assessment results from Laurie Pallin.**

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin gave a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of assessment results that were received late and are just now being reviewed. Upon a thorough review of the results a follow up presentation will be given along with the CAPT results and results from Smarter Balanced assessments. Per a preliminary review, district participation in English, mathematics, and reading are at 98%, two percentage points above the state with results near or right around State levels. Students are being pushed toward results that are “good” not “proficient”. L. Pallin gave a breakdown of the categories that make up the scores for the new state assessment. She also commented on the SAT and its new format and the PSAT that is being offered to sophomore and junior students each fall toward a growing readiness for college. In response to questions by the Board Chair D. Rowley, L. Pallin responded that videos are available for parents to assist students with their homework. She also responded that the report on DRGs is in Dropbox adding that the State has not recalculated the DRGs.

c. Special Education Presentation on the IEP process.

Director of Special Services M. Johnson accompanied by Denise Dunning and Jennifer Russell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the IEP Process. In his presentation, M. Johnson gave an overview of the process toward completing the multi-page IEP. He stated that the basics of IEP are “foundation” and “specialized” declaring that everything should be built around these tenets when “a group of people who care about a child to give them access to education.” M. Johnson added that the importance of specialized instruction is focus goal driven targeted to the needs of individual students that includes measurable goals, strengths and weaknesses, annual goals, meetings with students, and parental involvement. Board member D. Reed-Iler praised the “amazing amount of work” done by the department. M. Johnson praised D. Dunning and J. Russell and spoke of their ability to work hard and think smart to do the right things for the students.

d. Consideration and action to nominate Bob Mitchell for CABE First Vice President.

Motion: That the Board nominates Bob Mitchell for CABE First Vice President.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Board Chair D. Rowley commented on the CABE newsletter and stated that in two years B. Mitchell would be president of CABE.

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood stated that there was not a meeting this evening but one is planned for next month.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).

S. Loiler reported that the MEF is selling tickets for the Rascal Flatts concert on October 10th at Mohegan Sun. The tickets can be purchased from Superintendent Levesque. B. Levesque said that the tickets are selling well. He also reported that more than \$11,000 was raised by the MEF from its August 10 golf tournament, its most successful one thus far.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter). -- None

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that early registration is still available for the CABA conference in November. He also stated that the Philip Spencer Distinguished Award that is given infrequently will be given at the event to a non-CABA entity/individual.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon). -- None

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that effective August 20, 2015, MetroCast Communications was sold to Atlantic Broadband. The official name change will take place in October. The public access channel will remain the same. T. Pomazon also reported that the Council would meet tomorrow, September 16th.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that there are eight (8) youth on the waiting list for the fall startup of the Bureau. Homework for Youth sessions will be conducted at the Bureau from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Two new cases are pending with the JRB that acted upon 130 cases last year. B. Mitchell also reported that the annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on October 18 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Mohegan Firehouse and all goods for the event were donated.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports. -- None

j. Chair's Remarks.

Board Secretary reported that he will be interviewing K. Travis, the 2015 Teacher of the year, next week. He also said that he would address the Christmas music.

k. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

M. Johnson reported to the Board on the following:

- Today, he attended a meeting with the Bureau of Special Education.

- He will be attending a meeting in Cromwell tomorrow, September 16—a special education meeting with the state, the annual Back to School Conference.
- On Thursday, September 17 he will have a meeting in Hartford with Shipman and Goodwin concerning legislative workshops.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- District-wide Academic Goal: We have begun work on our district-wide academic goal to develop students who are effective problem solvers and persevere while solving problems. Most buildings have decided to begin their work by focusing on helping students gain evidence to solve problems by implementing active reading strategies. Students will be expected to annotate a text and take effective notes to enable them to apply their information read to solve a problem. The schools are also continuing work to cultivate grit and a growth mindset in students.

c. Monthly Update.

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- Legislative Changes: I continue to read and research the legislative changes. I attended a session with Shipman and Goodwin on this last week. There are some significant changes to curriculum and other school district operations that we are trying to understand. I expect bring some policy issues to the Policy Committee next month as a result of some of the changes.
- Water at MHS: We have a meeting tomorrow with our water consultant and Lamframboise Wells to discuss the test well that was drilled at MHS
- MAA Negotiations: We reached a tentative agreement with the MAA last night. They will be meeting to ratify it in October. I expect that it will be on the agenda for the board's approval at the October meeting.

Item 10. Information items.

Open House/Back to School Night Dates:

Montville High School, Wednesday, September 16, 6:30-8:30 PM
Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, Thursday, September 17, 6:00-8:00 PM
Palmer Academy, Thursday, September 24, 6:00 PM

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

State Representative Kathleen McCarty of the 38th District commented that she is a 20-year participant/chair of the Waterford Board of Education. She said that her legislative colleagues understand the regulations and repercussions to Boards of Education. She added that she hoped for a strong relationship with the district and said that she was impressed with the reports given this evening by L. Pallin and M. Johnson. K. McCarty also said that she knows B. Mitchell.

Motion: **That the Board adds Agenda Item 11A, Personnel Matter, to the agenda.**

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Item 11a. Executive Session.

Motion: **That the Board goes into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. for discussion and possible action regarding a personnel matter, and invites into Executive Session Superintendent B. Levesque and Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin.**

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Motion: **That the Board comes out of Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. with no votes or motions taken.**

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Item 12. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 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: _____