

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.**

**2015-2016 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, Steve Loiler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, Valerie Smith, and David Rowley. Board member James Wood was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; and Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan.

**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:

**Mohegan School:** Principal Allison Peterson recognized Montville Marvels Eli Boozer, Matthew Malbourn, and Maya Suarez for being the first fifth graders to earn their furry wolf ears by meeting all academic and behavioral expectations while serving as excellent role models for the rest of the school. These certificates were presented by Board Member Deborah Reed-Iler.

**Oakdale School:** Principal Jill Mazzalupo recognized Montville Marvel Karla Flores for keeping a calm and cool demeanor during the gas leak that was experienced at Oakdale. As soon as the announcement was made to evacuate the building, she asked her teachers how she could help and began rounding up smaller children and taking them outside to a safe location. Board Member Valerie Smith presented this certificate.

**Dr. Charles E. Murphy School:** Principal Amy Espinoza recognized Montville Marvels Marcia Wilcox, school nurse; Caroline Whittaker, school secretary; and Kathy Kerwin, school secretary for being the highly professional and exceedingly kind faces of Murphy School and in doing so, offering the warmth which provides instant comfort to families who are bring us their children. These certificates were presented by Board member Carrie Baxter.

Superintendent B. Levesque gave honor to retiring Board members Deborah Reed-Iler who has served on the Board since 2007 and Chair Dave Rowley who has worked in the district for 49 years as a science teacher, DARE Officer, and Board member since 1999. Superintendent Levesque thanked each of them for their support and service to the Board and to the students of Montville. A pen was presented to D. Reed-Iler and a plaque with a gavel on it to D. Rowley.

**The meeting was recessed briefly at 6:11 p.m. for refreshments in honor of Deb Reed-Iler and Dave Rowley. The meeting resumed at 6:17 p.m.**

**Presentation: B) *myON* – Jill Mazzulupo**

Board Chair D. Rowley introduced Principal Jill Mazzulupo who gave a PowerPoint presentation on *myON* assisted by staff members Kelly Teuner and Jennifer Lathrop. The *myON* is a personalized, online reading program with fiction and nonfictions books totaling 4,000 and came about through a grant written by J. Lathrop for 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is a reading tool that assists students at their own instructional level and is used in conjunction with the 45-minute daily curriculum component, Reading Workshop. Student reading data is reviewed by a team every six weeks to determine whether students' placements are working for them. The program was a pilot at Oakdale School last year with first-grade students and was successful for some but not for others who were not as independent. The *myON* program has several components-options for home use; imbedded audio; built-in dictionary; notes, highlighting, and writing capabilities; a Lexile Level that matches students' reading ability to text complexity--and it supports the ELA curriculum. The program is currently available for all fifth-grade students but will be expanded to all fourth and fifth-grade students within district. In response to a question by Board member K. Navetta, J. Mazzulupo explained that the program is built for all ages and that the available books can be downloaded to any reading device, 20 books at a time. Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin added that there would be a cost to the district for obtain reading devices for accessibility to students. Per a follow-up question by Board member K. Navetta, J. Mazzulupo replied that the available books are acquired from different publishing houses.

**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:** Carrie Baxter

**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

**Item 5. Report from Student Board Representatives.**

The student representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. On September 30, Mr. Alves and four students, Abigail Baukus, Stacia Tibbets, Amy Bergman, and Josh Archibald, attended the ECC summit at Waterford High School. They worked with 18 other schools to create a mission statement for the ECC Nation whose primary goal is to increase opportunities in the ECC by making it more comprehensive. The meeting began with a photo project entitled "Thanks to our Veterans."
2. Homecoming was a success with about 220 students in attendance.
3. At the end of October, the marching band will travel to participate in the New England State Championship.
4. The Montville ALLI chapter will hold the ALLI meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
5. The Montville Drama Club will present The Odd Couple on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for the show are available at the door for guests.
6. On October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>, AP Biology, Environmental and Blue Planet students went to Bluff Point with Project O to test water and environmental health.
7. The Student Government has started a canned goods drive at girls' and boys' soccer games and will also help out at 7<sup>th</sup>-grade and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade orientation on Thursday, October 22.
8. The School Store is up and running if anyone wants to buy MHS outerwear.
9. Sophomores and juniors took the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.
10. During the Columbus Day weekend, the tag sale at Fair Oaks raised \$400 to fund school programs.
11. At the Open House on Thursday, October 22, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be introduced to the high school from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
12. Principal Theodoss held his first meeting with the Governance Council which included parents, faculty, and administration.
13. The Band Perry surprised everyone by making a special appearance at this year's Homecoming Pep Rally.
14. Mr. Alves is starting a new club called Active Athletes whose purpose is to motivate and encourage student athletes to perform acts of community service. Members participated in the Walk for the Wounded Walk-a-Thon and raised \$600.
15. The Class of 2019 is hosting a movie/game night on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Raffle tickets will be sold to help fund the class.

16. The International Club got to explore world culture firsthand when they took a field trip to the Scottish Highland Games Festival in Scotland, CT.
17. Senior night for volleyball will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>; senior night for both soccer teams will be on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
18. The boys' soccer team has qualified for the State playoffs while girls' soccer, varsity football, and volleyball teams are attempting to qualify right now.
19. The cross country team had its first home meet at the high school on October 13<sup>th</sup> for the first time in 20 years. ECC's will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
20. Each sport has done a community service project this year including a walk-a-thon and a fun run.

**Item 6. Unfinished business. -- None**

**Item 7. New Business.**

- a. **Consideration and action to review/ratify the agreement between the Montville Administrators Association and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019.**

**Motion: That the Board ratifies the agreement between the Montville Administrators Association and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019.**

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell

**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler

**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Prior to the vote, Superintendent B. Levesque highlighted details of the contract and thanked Board member B. Mitchell for his participation in the negotiation sessions along with Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin and Business Manager K. Lamoureux.

- b. **Consideration and action to adopt the proposed school calendar for 2016-2017.**

**Motion: That the Board adopts the proposed school calendar for 2016-2017.**

**Proposed by:** Valerie Smith

**Seconded by:** Bob Mitchell

**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Prior to the vote, Superintendent B. Levesque explained that per State statute a regional school calendar must be in place by 2016 and must adhere to certain guidelines that outline the start of school (the last Wednesday in August); two common vacations (spring vacation will be the second week in April); five flexible days (will use the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a flex day); and barring snow days, June 12 as the end of the school year for students and June 13 for staff. This calendar was approved by LEARN.

**Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.**

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

In the absence of J. Wood, Board member T. Pomazon chaired the meeting earlier this evening. The Committee endorsed two policies for Security Checks for Personnel and Administration of Medication that will come before the full Board for approval in November. A smoke-free and a student discipline policy were tabled.

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

B. Mitchell stated that the Committee met earlier this evening and heard from Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin on the use of Microsoft One Note and legislative changes regarding curriculum.

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

S. Loiler reported that the October 10<sup>th</sup> Rascal Flatts concert at Mohegan Sun went well. He added that the MEF grant cycle will end on November 30 with grants of \$500 (minimum) to \$5,000 (maximum) can be applied for by nonprofits, schools and day care. An upcoming event for the Foundation is the Trunk-or-Treat event.

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

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

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

B. Mitchell reported that the CABE Conference will be held next month. He asked those Board members who have not register to contact J. LeMay or B. Levesque. B. Mitchell also reported that the NSBA Conference next year will be held in Boston from April 9- 11, 2016, with housing/early registration as of October 21, 2015.

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

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

T. Pomazon reported that MetroCast Communications is now known as Atlantic Broadband as of October 15, 2015. Superintendent B. Levesque said that name would be changed on the agenda.

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

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau had its annual pancake breakfast last Sunday. He also reported that all youth services bureaus across the state were affected by the Governor's budget. The afterschool program at the Bureau is full and has a waiting list. B. Mitchell said the Juvenile Review Board continues to do phenomenal work.

**i. Administrative Monthly Reports.**

D. Reed-Iler said that she will miss reading the administrative reports. Chair D. Rowley, as well, commented that he enjoyed reading the reports and that he would miss working with the schools.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

Chair D. Rowley reported that his interview on Cable Channel 22 with Kalyn Travis and Phil Orbe will broadcast until October 30. Tomorrow, he will interview two women with the UCFS, which is still in its infancy.

**k. Other. -- None**

**Item 10. Superintendent's Report.**

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

- PCES Training: Lori Brehler, Staci Giradin, and Janine Swartz facilitated a PES training for parents. PECS was developed in 1985 as a unique augmentative/alternative communication intervention package for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and related developmental disabilities using pictures. It is systematically taught using prompting and reinforcement strategies that will lead to independent communication.

Six people attended the training. It was well received. Some of the people there expressed how much they liked being able to just get together with the group. There will be a follow-up workshop for parents where they can come and use our resources to help make their own PECS books for home. Jill Mazzalupo talked about doing something every other month with the parent group.

- Family with Service Needs: We had our first Family with Service Needs Board meeting this morning. There was strong, well-balanced representation from the community. There was also an opportunity to think about problems in a lot of different ways. We seek doing great work around family restoration more than truancy which we see as an effect rather than cause.

- Title IX Representation: Title IX representatives for each of our schools are going through the writing investigation and report writing workshops offered by the State right now to freshen up on harassment issues, changes in the law, and if a harassment case were to arise, being able to effectively investigate and report.

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

- Statutory Changes Affecting Curriculum: The graduation requirements previously set to begin with the Class of 2020 will now take effect with the Class of 2021. A State task force will study the feasibility of requiring training in CPR as part of graduation requirements and the possibility of substituting participation in an interscholastic athletic program for PE graduation credit. We are required to add computer programming to our instructional program and to offer instruction in CPR and the safe use of social media. We are encouraged to provide instruction in financial literacy and labor history and labor law. By fall, 2016 we must provide instruction for students in grades K-12 in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention. Parents are permitted to opt students out of this instruction.
- Laptop One-to-One Pilot: This Friday, we plan to issue laptop computers to about 40 students at MHS for their use at home and during the school day as part of a pilot 1-to-1 initiative which we are conducting with small groups of students in grade 5, grade 8, and grades 11/12. The information we learn from this pilot will be used by the District Technology Committee as we explore the possibility of providing devices to every student over the next few years. Students were identified by looking for a cohort of students who travel together in shared classes so that they would use the laptops during more than one block. We started with the American Experience classes since those students all share two classes; we then looked at schedules to try to add other classes that had similar rosters. We only looked at singleton classes as we didn't want one section of a course to have access to laptops while another section did not. These students will come to all classes with their laptops (and laptop bags). We anticipate there will be some glitches in this pilot (and working these out is our purpose), but this is our first step toward a one-to-one program in our schools.
- Community Service Study Committee: As I mentioned in Friday's weekly summary, we held our first meeting last week and will meet again on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. We covered a lot of ground at this first meeting by reviewing current community service experiences available to students at MHS and at several other districts in the state. We discussed three avenues for elevating community service – promoting and incentivizing volunteerism, setting a community service graduation requirement, and incorporating service learning experiences into course curricula. I was very

impressed by the input provided by our student members, Karishma Chouhan and Josh Archibald.

- Fund for Teachers: A number of district teachers have begun to work on developing proposals for \$5,000 grants through Fund for Teachers. Fund for Teachers provides grants with the goal of enriching the personal and professional growth of teachers by recognizing and supporting them as they identify and pursue opportunities around the globe that will have the greatest impact on their practice, the academic lives of their students and on their school communities.
- Problem Solving Goal Work: All schools in the district have begun work focusing on developing students as problem solvers. Our initial efforts have been to develop district-wide strategies which students use to gather evidence from texts to solve their problem. Teachers are participating in Professional Learning in “marking the text” and developing two-column notes and incorporating these strategies in their classroom instruction

**c. Monthly Update – Mr. Levesque.**

- Transportation Department: The interim transportation coordinator continues to work with the department to ensure that we have a properly functioning department. She has implemented several changes at the garage that have been well received. Additionally, a big cleanup of the garage occurred a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to Ernie for all of his help as well as Steve Carroll and his crew for helping with this cleanup.

We have posted the permanent coordinator position. To date, we have received only three applicants. We will be doing some additional advertising this weekend to hopefully generate some additional candidates.

- Aspen Meeting: Nic Savoie and I had a great meeting today with Aspen. Two members of their administrative staff came to speak with us about our future use of Aspen. We identified several areas of growth and improvement with the program. We look forward to working with their staff over the next several months to make some much needed improvements.
- Shipman Goodwin Labor and Employment Fall Seminar: I will be attending a free workshop presented by our legal firm on Friday. This is annual event where they present to all of their customers on employment law and its impacts in our schools. This is always a very beneficial conference.

**Item 11. Information items. – None**

Murphy: Annual Veteran’s Day breakfast on Friday, November 6th at 9:00 a.m.

Tyl: Parent Advisory Group, October 14; 9:00 a.m.

Anti-Defamation League Assembly, October 21;9:00a.m.&11:00 a.m.  
Mohegan: Halloween costume Parade; 10/30 2:30 p.m.  
Grade 5 Pumpkin Decorating Display in the library 10/26-10/30

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

**Item 13. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:** Steve Loiler

**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter

**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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David Rowley, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

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Carrie Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Respectfully submitted by:  
Gloria J. Gathers, Board Recording Secretary

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