

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.**

**2015-16 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.**

Superintendent Brian Levesque called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie Baxter, Daniel Boisvert, Todd Pomazon, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Colleen Rix, Valerie Smith, and James Wood. Board member Steve Loiler was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Superintendent Levesque asked for nominations for Board Chair.

**Motion: That the Board nominates Bob Mitchell as chair of the Board of Education.**

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Kim Navetta  
**Vote by Ballot:** 8-0; carried unanimously

**Motion: That the Board closes the nomination for Board Chair and takes a written vote for the appointment of Bob Mitchell.**

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote by Ballot:** 8-0; carried unanimously

Superintendent Levesque congratulated Board Chair Bob Mitchell, who then presided over the meeting. Chair B. Mitchell asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board.

**Motion: That the Board nominates Carrie Baxter as Secretary of the Board of Education.**

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Kim Navetta  
**Vote by Ballot:** 8-0; carried unanimously

**Motion: That the Board closes the nomination for Board Secretary and takes a written vote for the appointment of Carrie Baxter.**

**Proposed by:** Kim Navetta  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Vote by Ballot:** 8-0; carried unanimously

#### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Chair B. Mitchell appointed new Board members Colleen Rix and Daniel Boisvert to the Educational Evaluation Committee due to openings from the recent Town election. The appointments for liaisons to various committees will be done at the December Board meeting.

#### **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 Montville Marvel Owen George for being an athletic and academic role model. Montville Marvel Ashley Seldon was also recognized for being conscientious and continuously striving to improve. Board member Carrie Baxter presented these certificates.

**Montville High School:** The MHS Montville Marvels, Abigail Baukus and Stacia Tibbetts, were participating in a state swim tournament and unable to attend this evening. They will be recognized at the December Board meeting.

**Palmer Building:** Principal Heather Mileski recognized Montville Marvel Voula Barbour for her hard work and perseverance both in the classroom as well as the community. Board member Todd Pomazon presented this certificate.

**Transportation:** Interim Transportation Director Jackie Dubois recognized Montville Marvel Laurie Goodrich for going above and beyond during the transition period in the

Transportation Department, by independently preparing the Tech runs for days which are early dismissals. Board member Kim Navetta presented this certificate.

**Presentation: B) Charles E. Murphy School: Creating a Culture of Learners.**

Principal Amy Espinoza gave a PowerPoint presentation on Creating a Culture of Learners, a program at the Murphy School to motivate students. The idea for the program got started in Professional Development in the 2014-2015 school year and utilizes feedback, movement/brain and learning, classroom lessons and parent education. Students are introduced to a question--“What is your grit level?”--that relates to a student’s ability to work hard on a Grit Scale. Level 3 or 4 are the grit level goals with improved motivation and attention on focus needs to attain that level. Another aspect of the program is the No Opt-out Policy whereby a student’s response would be “I don’t know yet.” The 2015-2016 goals for the program include Striving for Mindset or mindfulness—getting students centered before learning and to create a culture of problem solvers. In response to a question by Board member C. Baxter, Principal Espinoza said home/parent integration is done through newsletter and PTC’s.

**Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only). -- None**

Chair B. Mitchell congratulated new Board members Colleen Rix and Daniel Boisvert. He stated that his door is always open for discussion.

**Item 4: Letters and communications. -- None**

**Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.**

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

**Proposed by:** Kim Navetta

**Seconded by:** Valerie Smith

**Vote:** Carried – vote: 7-0-1 – Jim Wood abstained

**Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.**

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

1. Twelve MHS students auditioned for the Eastern Region Honor Ensemble Festival and results will be available for next month’s meeting.
2. Montville Carolers will be starting their performances around southeastern Connecticut next month and their schedule can be found on the MHS music website under choirs.
3. Marching band will conclude their very successful season at this Friday’s senior night football game and on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Parade.

4. Last Saturday, the MHS robotics team traveled to South Windsor and participated in the first statewide competition of year. The next event is on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Monroe, CT.
5. The Yes Club is currently in the middle of a food drive and is collecting nonperishable food items.
6. The Montville Arts Council attended a poetry reading in Manchester where poets read their favorite or original work.
7. Last month, students from ECE American Experience and American Studies classes visited the Whitney Museum of Art in New York City.
8. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, culinary and bake shop students took a trip to Johnson and Wales University to tour the culinary department.
9. Mr. Theodoss, Mr. Orbe, and Mr. Richmond visited Tyl to give an overview of high school to the middle school students who were introduced to sports, AP classes, and different clubs.
10. MHS is currently collecting personal care items for the women's shelter.
11. The drama play, The Odd Couple, will be performed on December 3, 4, and 5 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.
12. This Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the football team plays its last game against Waterford. Earlier in the season, Head Coach Tanner Grove became the schools all-time leader in coaching victories.
13. Freshman cross country runner Mady Whittaker earned all-state by placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the Class M State Championship meet.
14. Senior swimmer Abby Baukus qualified in two events in the Class championships.
15. Senior baseball players TT Bowens and Jeremy Sagun signed National Letter of Intent to attend Division 1 Central State University on athletic scholarships.
16. Senior football player Ryan Murtha has accepted a scholarship to play football at Bryant University.
17. MHS boys' soccer finished their season with a 13-3-3 record and qualified and advanced to the ECC Tournament quarterfinals for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in a row.
  - Qualified and advanced to Round 16 of CIAC State Tournament for the 9<sup>th</sup> time in a row
  - Won the 7<sup>th</sup> ALS Cup Championship in a row and combined with the girls' soccer team raised \$1500
  - ECC Division M Champions
  - Eight players named to the all-ECC team
  - Noah Cook named to the All-Area team
18. Karishma Chouchan found it interesting to be on the Community Service Committee where administrators, teachers, students, and parents were working to understand what community service is, how to implement it; and how important it is. I liked that they have taken into account student views on community service and how they are discussing how important it is in becoming a good citizen.

K. Chouchan also reported that on Veterans Day, MHS recognized and honored all veterans in the building who are as follows:

**Air Force:** Tammy Beaudoin, Paraprofessional  
Don Kutz, Night Custodian

**Army:** Larry Gavin, Computer Monitor  
Robert Thorn, ELL Teacher  
Don Kutz, Night Custodian

**Coast Guard:** Walt Sherwin, Math Teacher

**Marines:** Michael Collins, School Security Officer  
Jack Fiedler, ELL Tutor  
Ben Stone, Math Department Chair  
Gary Wilcox, Computer Room Monitor

**National Guard:** David Blanchette, Technical Ed Teacher  
Ted LaFemina, Coach, Permanent Substitute  
Thomas Hardy, Physical Ed Teacher  
Michael McLaughlin, ISS Monitor

**Navy:** Stacey Pittsinger, IT Technician  
Douglas Wheeler, Career Education/ Business & Tech Ed  
Department Head

To all of our veterans, thank you for your service to this country.

**Item 7. Unfinished Business. -- None**

**Item 8. New business.**

- a. Consideration and action to adopt the proposed schedule of Board of Education meetings for 2016, and file the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to December 31, 2015.**

**Motion:** That the Board adopts the proposed schedule of Board of Education meetings for 2016, and file the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to December 31, 2015.

**Proposed by:** Todd Pomazon  
**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

**b. Consideration and action to approve Policy 5141.21; Administration of Medications.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy 5141.21; Administration of Medications.

**Proposed by:** Todd Pomazon

**Seconded by:** Jim Wood

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

Per discussion, Superintendent B. Levesque stated that the Policy Committee reviewed the policy last month and revised it according to current practices and legislative changes.

**c. Consideration and action to approve Policy; Security Check/Fingerprinting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy, Security Check/Fingerprinting.

**Proposed by:** Todd Pomazon

**Seconded by:** Valerie Smith

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

Per discussion, Superintendent B. Levesque stated that the Policy Committee reviewed the policy last month and revised it according to current practices and legislative changes. He also said the policy was initially reviewed by the Committee in 2009 but did not come to fruition.

**d. Consideration and action to appoint a delegate to the CABE Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 19, 2015, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

Chair B. Mitchell stated that he would be parliamentarian for the CABE event. A delegate was not appointed but B. Mitchell said that one could be right up until the date of the event.

**e. Discussion of progress of the Community Service Study Committee.**

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reported that Board member T. Pomazon, student representatives, and parents participated in two meetings regarding the Board's goal of community service for students as a graduation requirement. At the meetings, expectations already at the high school were looked at as well as the view taken by other schools on the topic. The Committee identified community service as not being a job but instead as unpaid time spent outside of home and family on a voluntary basis that denounces the Board's goal as a graduation requirement. L. Pallin stated that the Committee also considered how to incentivize community service as being helpful and rewarding; to rally the entire school

with input from students who already volunteer; to create a student survey all of which to build well-rounded leaders with connections to community. Board member T. Pomazon commented on the same.

**f. Consideration and action to add Educational Evaluation and Policy Committee meetings prior to the December 15, 2015 Board meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves meetings prior to the December 15, 2015 Board meeting for the Educational Evaluation at a date to be determined and a Policy Committee special meeting confirmed for December 2, 2015.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood

**Seconded by:** Valerie Smith

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

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque commented on the pending work of each committee.

**g. Consideration and action to request that the Montville Town council deposit into a dedicated, non-lapsing account, the unexpended educational appropriation for fiscal year 2014-2015 as determined by the auditor's report for the fiscal year, which ended June 20, 2015. This amount will not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation for fiscal year 2014-15, as allowed under CT State Statute Sec. 10-248a.**

Superintendent Levesque reported that the final audit figures for 2014-2015 are expected prior to the next Board meeting so that a letter can be sent to the Town Council regarding use of the funds by the Board for unanticipated expenses. The anticipated amount, \$236,000, would not exceed 1% of the current operating budget and is attributed to retirees who gave notice after January. As to the current operating budget, special education costs are expected to be high due to large number of students entering the district that require the services.

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

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

This item was discussed earlier by Superintendent Levesque.

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

B. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held.

**c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).**

S. Loiler was absent from the meeting.

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

C. Baxter was unable to attend the meeting this month.

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

B. Mitchell reported that the CABE event is this coming weekend. He also stated that the NSBA Conference will be held in Boston on April 9, 10, and 11. Registration is open and Board members were encouraged to contact J. LeMay about the same.

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

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

T. Pomazon reported that the Advisory Council of Atlantic Broadband, f/k/a MetroCast Communications will meet tomorrow, November 18. He also stated that high-speed Internet is hoped to be re-launched before Thanksgiving.

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

B. Mitchell reported that he was unable to attend the monthly meeting.

**i. Administrative Monthly Reports.**

Chair B. Mitchell stated that he enjoys reading them.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

Chair B. Mitchell thanked everyone for their support although the job is "a little daunting."

**k. Other.**

T. Pomazon reported that he finished his Adult Education Photoshop class in New London but there was so much material for 3-4 classes.

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

**a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Johnson. -- None**

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

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- Next Generation Science Standards: The state is gearing up to develop programs and provide training now that the State Board of Education has approved the new science standards. I recently worked with the State to review grant applications to develop professional learning programs and will attend a meeting next Monday to iron out the details of the roll out of the standards and related testing. At all grade levels and in all content areas, the standards call for an increase in evidence-based reasoning, using models and experimentation to build understanding, and developing and interpreting arguments. These key shifts are directly aligned to our district-wide problem solving work which means that adapting to the new standards will allow us to continue our focus on one goal.
- SAT: The administration of the SAT for the purpose of State accountability testing will take place during the school day on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are in the process of providing the College Board with the information needed in preparation for this testing.
- Project O: Interim co-directors have been hired and the Delegate Assembly will meet right after Thanksgiving to begin the search for a permanent director. We are very pleased with the initial work of the interim co-directors.
- Teacher Evaluation: The State Department of Education has identified Montville's Teacher Evaluation Plan as a model plan, and we continue to get requests from districts to share the plan; just this month I have forwarded our plan to two other districts who are in the process of revising their plans.

**c. Monthly Update.**

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- Transportation Department: Our interim coordinator continues to do an excellent job of filling in for us. We conducted five (5) interviews last week for the permanent coordinator. We hope to have someone hired in the next couple of weeks.
- Class Committee: The class size committees continues to meet. We are hoping to have some recommendations in the coming months.
- CABE/CAPSS Conference: I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference this weekend. It looks like it will be a great conference again this year.

**Item 11. Information items.**

Chair B. Mitchell welcomed new Board members.

Board member C. Baxter commented on opportunities for service to and in the schools and praised former Board Chair David Rowley who “did a lot behind the scenes” at the schools. Superintendent Levesque stated that D. Rowley was recognized at the football game on Friday, November 13.

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

Town Council Liaison asked about the current year student enrollment. Superintendent Levesque responded that there are 2300 students in district.

**Item 13. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:**           Kim Navetta

**Seconded by:**         Jim Wood

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

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