

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 23, 2016, 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.

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

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Interim Director of Special Services Katherine Shaughnessy, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Athletic Director Phil Orbe, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patton, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan were absent.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Motion: **That the Board amends the Agenda to move Presentation A, Montville Marvels, Presentation C, Update on Palmer Building Programs – Heather Mileski, and Item 6, Student Board Representatives to the March Board meeting.**

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

This Agenda item was moved to the March Board meeting.

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

Presentation: B) Leonard J. Tyl Middle School Chamber Choir, led by Judy Abrams, Performing: Star Spangled Banner and Ani ma'amin

This Agenda item was postponed.

Presentation: C) Update on Palmer Building Programs – Heather Mileski

This Agenda item was moved to the March Board meeting.

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: For acting as the champion of the Problem-Solving Initiative at Tyl Middle School, Jennifer Desillier-Fleming.

For the integral role which they each play as members of the Robotics Team, utilizing strong problem solving skills in designing, building, and driving the robots to first place; Derrick Debbis, Toby Leonard, and Shannon Huang.

Montville High School: For his outstanding academic, dramatic, and musical achievements during his four years at Montville High School, Shaun Radgowski.

For his support of Montville High School programs and his work towards improving the climate and culture at the school, Mr. Robert Alves.

For her excellence in teaching and her dedication to the students at Montville High School, Ms. Susan Laurencot.

Palmer Building: For demonstrating a sense of commitment and generosity to his internship site and the work that they do, Bradley Farr.

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

Item 4: Letters and communications. -- None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

This Agenda item was moved to the March Board meeting.

Item 7. Unfinished Business. -- None

Item 8. New business.

- a. Consideration and action for recommendations/approval of the proposed budget for 2016-2017, with submission to the Town by March 15, 2016.**

Per discussion, Board member K. Navetta commented about the summer school function report regarding the number of students requesting ESY, and asked about the number of schools open during the summer and regionalization of summer programs. Superintendent B. Levesque responded that one elementary school in addition to the middle school and high school are open for summer session. Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin responded that students need one-to-one attention that is a factor in opening up the summer sessions to schools outside of the district.

Motion: That the Board appoints Board approves the proposed budget for 2016-2017 and submits it to the Town by March 15, 2016.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

- b. Consideration and action to appoint a Board member to serve on the secretarial negotiating committee. (5 - Positive Community Relationships)**

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque stated that Items 8.b and 8.c concern contract negotiations that will be done one after the other. At present, there are no set dates and times, but he expects to complete the negotiations by spring before school lets out for the summer. Board member J, Wood volunteered for the secretarial negotiations.

- c. Consideration and action to appoint a Board member to serve on the paraprofessional negotiating committee. (5 - Positive Community Relationships)**

Motion: That the Board appoints Board member Jim Wood to serve on the paraprofessional negotiating committee.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

- d. Consideration and action to approve Policy #4111, Recruitment and selection, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Per discussion, Board member J. Wood stated that the primary focus of the policy is diversity.

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #4111, Recruitment and selection, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

- e. Consideration and action to approve Policy #4111.4, Selection Procedures for School Principals, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #4111.4, Selection Procedures for School Principals, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Per discussion, Board member J. Wood stated that the policy sets the criteria and make-up of the committee.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

- f. Consideration and action to appoint the new Director of Special Services.**

Motion: That the Board appoints Paula Lachance as the new Director of Special Services.

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque thanked and identified the members of the search committee that included, Board members B. Mitchell and C. Rix, teachers, Lori Middel, Christopher Podeszwa, Administrators A. Espinosa and M. J. Dix, a parent, Lori Comforti, and the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Of the seventeen applicants, four (4) of them were interviewed, and they met with three (3) for second interviews. Superintendent Levesque spoke about P. LaChance's background in special education and her work in the Torrington school district where she will be missed. P. LaChance thanked the Board and said, "I'm honored."

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

- g. Consideration and action to approve Revised Capital Improvement Projects removing bus and wheelchair bus replacement in the amount of \$178,000 from the funding year 2016-2017.**

Superintendent Levesque stated that he met with the Town Council two weeks ago regarding the funding for two (2) large buses and one (1) wheelchair bus. The Town Council approved \$150,000 to complete the bus purchase. Superintendent thanked Town Councilor J. Jaskiewicz and the Town Council stating that the buses would support the district's bus fleet going forward. He added that there would be no need to include the items in next year's capital request.

Motion: **That the Board approves Revised Capital Improvement Projects removing bus and wheelchair bus replacement in the amount of \$178,000 from the funding year 2016-2017.**

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

- h. Consideration and action to approve a field trip for Montville High School, English Class, London, England, April 7, 2017 to April 13, 2017, 20 students.**

Per discussion, Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin stated that Vicky Clifford, World Language Head, and Kelly Brooks, English, work with a tour company to plan trips that are usually taken annually. This trip will introduce students to Shakespeare.

Motion: **That the Board approves field trip for Montville High School, English Class, London, England, April 7, 2017 to April 13, 2017, 20 students.**

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

- i. Appraisal of field trip, Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, Washington, D.C. Annual Trip, May 24 2016 to May 27, 2016, 95 students.**

The Board was apprised of this trip.

- j. Appraisal of field trip, Montville High School, Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Choral Festival, Annapolis, MD, April 8, 2016 to April 10, 2016, 54 students.**

The Board was apprised of this trip.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. Policy (James Wood).**

J. Wood reported that no meeting was held.

b. Educational Evaluation (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and heard information on Mindset and training teachers in addition to January benchmark data regarding math concerns at Tyl and improvement for the same.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

K. Navetta reported that she attended her first meeting this month. She spoke about the fundraiser on Saturday, March 19th, Jim Spinnato a comedic hypnotist. Tickets are \$50 and more information is available on the Foundation website. K. Navetta also reported that the grant period ends April 30. There will be a one-time grant of \$10,000 and mini grants are available.

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

C. Rix reported that she attended a meeting last week and heard from the president about national accreditation scheduled for next week. She also invited the Board to attend its opening day.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reminded the Board of the CABE Day on the Hill on March 2nd, a lobbying effort with State legislators. Registration will continue until the day of the event.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that “no news is good news.”

g. Atlantic Broadband (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the Advisory Council will meet next month. He stated that he has the minutes for the January meeting that he will forward to J. LeMay for distribution to the Board via Dropbox.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

D. Boisvert reported that he visited the Bureau last week on his day off and saw the Homework Club in action. The next meeting is in March.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports. – No comments

j. Chair's Remarks.

Chair B. Mitchell commented that the Board "will get out really early tonight" given the current inclement weather.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Interim Director of Student Services – Mrs. Shaughnessy.

K. Shaughnessy stated that she was thankful for having Paula LaChance hired to work in district. She said that she hoped to have the department in the right place and continues working on recordkeeping and shredding paperwork.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

Spring 2015 State Assessments: I am proud that last spring, 98.5% of our students district-wide participated in the new state assessment program. I believe this is due to our diligent efforts to establish understanding of, and support for, the CT Core Standards and to show parents the value of assessment data in promoting student achievement. By helping parents see the myriad of ways in which data teams utilize student assessment results to align programs and supports with student needs, we are able work with parents as partners to promote student growth.

TEAM Program – Our new teachers are progressing through the TEAM induction process on schedule. We met together last week to complete the TEAM Module 5 on ethical behavior together. We will meet again soon to brainstorm behavior management strategies.

Grants – I just submitted a grant proposal to the Liberty Bank Foundation and we are hopeful they will continue to support our Kindergarten Readiness Program. This program has enabled students who need work in basic skills to enter Kindergarten more fully prepared for our full-day academic program. I am currently working on two grants to increase the number of devices we can make available to students in the elementary grades to access online programs like myON and Dreambox. Most of our students in grades 4 and 5 using myON have made above projected gains in lexile scores (which is a measure of reading comprehension and text complexity).

Spring 2016 State Assessments: We are on track to begin spring assessments with the SAT and CAPT at MHS on March 2nd. Tyl and the elementary schools have established schedules for the CMT and Smarter Balanced Assessments. I have completed training of administrators who are working to train their faculty.

c. Monthly Update.

Superintendent B. Levesque thanked K. Shaughnessy for stepping in as Interim Director of Student Services. He also reported that he would be out on medical leave for two (2) weeks but that the district is in good hands with Assistant Superintendent Pallin, who is excited about calling her first snow day.

Item 11. Information items. -- None

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

Resident Sharon Morth, commented on an incident that occurred with her son that she discussed today with the Superintendent of Schools. She stated that she did not condone what her son did but added that the district failed to follow its policy, per the handbook, regarding due process.

Item 13. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 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: _____