

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
January 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

**2016-2017 Board of Education Goal:**

**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 Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were; James Woods, Sandra Berardy, Colleen Rix, Steven Loiler, Monica Pomazon, Daniel Boisvert and Carrie Baxter.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Tanya Patten, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, and Student Board Representatives Karishma Chouhan and Joshua Archibald.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**Item 3. Presentation: A) Montville Marvels**

**Mohegan School:** Principal Will Klinefelter recognized Montville Marvel Pema Tashi for being a role model and leader by always taking the initiative and helping others. The award was presented by Board member Monica Pomazon.

Also recognized by Principal Will Klinefelter was Tyler Chen for his academic and leadership achievements, as a new arrival at Mohegan he quickly mastered the English Language, and rose to the top of his class academically while at the same time quickly became a leader, earning the respect of his peers. The award was presented by Board Member Monica Pomazon.

**Oakdale School:** Principal Espinoza recognized Alexa Beams for consistently being an excellent student and strong peer role model and for coming out of her shell and rising to the top in the area of problem-solving and leadership. The award was presented by Board Member Jim Wood.

**Dr. Charles E. Murphy School:** Principal Espinoza recognized Katie Podziewski for consistently being a most valuable friend to students who are struggling. The award was presented by Board Member Colleen. Rix.

**Presentation: B) Dr. Charles E. Murphy School – Montville’s Social Emotional Curriculum.**

Dr. Charles E. Murphy Principal Amy Espinoza presented on curriculum implemented this fall which included skills and strategies to be present for learning and self-awareness of student’s emotions, motivation and behavior. During the 2014-2015 school year Murphy School focused on mindset/Grit and perseverance, Mindfulness was added to the objective during the 2015-2016 school year and this year a social emotional curriculum was added for all students. This curriculum helps the students in learning to deal with anxiety, their ability to pay attention, and with bullying. It is the anecdote for stressors experienced by our youth. This curriculum, when used in other schools, resulted in improved skills in focusing, behavior, empathy and attitudes. Students realized learning is an active process, and became aware of their emotions and were given a process to deal with them. The students built on their self-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, relationship building, and responsible decision making skills. Soft skills, which are needed to become lifelong problem solvers, were developed. Every kindergarten to grade five classroom participated throughout the first six weeks of school during morning meeting.

The feedback received from teachers indicated that the students were using common language, calm down strategies, and whole body listening as a result of this curriculum. The students report that they have strategies to stop, calm down and listen.

Board Chair, Robert Mitchell thanked Amy for her presentation.

**Item 4. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).**

Town Council Representative Joe Jaskiewicz asked whether item 8d. would be postponed until the end of the meeting Board Chair, Robert Mitchell indicated that it would be moved.

**Item 5: Letters and communications.** The board members each received an invitation from Claire Scott, Oakdale music teacher, to attend the upcoming band and chorus concert on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Item 6. Approval of Consent Calendar.**

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.</b>
<b>Proposed by:</b>	Steven Loiler
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Carrie Baxter
<b>Vote:</b>	Carried (vote 8-1)

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

**Item 8. New business.**

- a. Consideration and action to approve a field trip for Montville High School, to Germany; April 13, 2018 to April 28, 2018, for approximately twelve students.**

**Motion: That the Board approves the proposed field trip to Germany for approximately twelve Montville High School Students from April 13, 2018 to April 22, 2018.**

Sandra Berardy indicated that she was not in favor of the trip given the climate of unrest in the world. James Wood asked whether there was travel insurance. Carrie Baxter inquired as to whether the trip was aligned to the curriculum.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Opposed by:** Colleen Rix and Sandra Berardy  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-2)

- b. Consideration and action to approve Guitar Ensemble Class as recommended by the E&E committee at their December meeting.**

**Motion: That the Board approves Guitar Ensemble Class as recommended at the December meeting of the E & E Committee.**

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 8-0)

- c. Consideration and action to approve replacing Honor's Physics with A.P. Physics as recommended by the E&E committee at last month's meeting.**

**Motion: That the Board approves the replacement of Honor's Physics with A.P. Physics as recommended at the December meeting of the E&E committee.**

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 8-0)

**d. Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation (It is anticipated that the Board of Education will meet in executive session)**

**Motion:** That the Board postpones to the end of the meeting.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler

**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon

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

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

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

Policy Board Chair James Wood reported that four policies were reviewed at the meeting earlier in the evening. The Policy Board voted to eliminate one policy, reviewed two policies with no changes proposed, and has recommended changes on the Teachers Responsibilities Policy and voted to eliminate the Job Sharing Policy. All of these changes will be brought to the February Board of Education meeting for approval.

**b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).**

E&E Committee Chair Carrie Baxter reported that the board discussed the possible implementation of K-8 writing project in the future and an additional program is possible for computer coding, there will be more information on both in the future.

**c. Communications Committee.**

No chair has been elected. Superintendent Levesque reported that the committee held its first meeting last week. They have begun their work on establishing goals of the committee, a board communication plan, and reviewing model plans from others. The next meeting will take place on February 9.

**d. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).**

In the absence of a representative for this group, Superintendent Levesque reported that the meeting took place last week and they voted on a new member. The by-laws limit membership, no school employee can vote and the term is for six years. They are looking for new members. The board was asked to bring forward possible new members.

**e. LEARN (Colleen Rix).**

No report was given.

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

Robert Mitchell reported that he will be attending the DC Legislative advocacy at the end of the month. The big item is the reauthorization of IDEA.

**g. School Building Committee.**

Superintendent Levesque reported that Kathy spent most of the day at the Office of School Construction and is making progress towards closing out projects.

**h. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).**

Monica Pomazon reported that the meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

**i. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).**

Daniel Boisvert reported that he attended a Holiday Party last week for the bureau which was funded by Pfizer. They celebrated the progress of the year and their plans for expansion. The next meeting will be held in March.

**j. Student Board Representatives.**

Joshua Archibald reported the following to The Board:

Health Classes at Montville High School: LGBT Inclusion

- Currently, LGBT issues excluded from curriculum
- CDC report<sup>1</sup>
  - 40% of LGB students have seriously considered suicide; 29% reported having attempted within past year
  - 34% of LGB students bullied at school, compared to 19% of heterosexual students
  - One can infer that LGBT students are at a greater risk of mental health issues because of social stigmas
- Anti-bullying efforts are ultimately ineffective if the general school population isn't aware of LGBT students/issues in the first place
- I propose that health classes should include:
  - Explanations of what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender
  - Explanations of the biological and genetic variances in nature that cause one to be LGBT
  - Lists of resources students may want to access outside of class to learn more about sexuality and gender
- The focus of this curriculum change, if it is made, should be on teaching students to accept and embrace LGBT students as full members of the community

Karishma Chouhan reported the following to The Board:

Talking to some kids who have been involved in the one to one computer program, they really enjoyed it and thought it was very efficient. The students with the most to gain would be the ones in history and English classes because interactive work on essays and short answers is enabled

Parking for seniors and juniors is becoming a hassle as the front lot is the only lot open to students and there really isn't enough room, I understand the privilege was taken away for a reason, but the kids who forced the administration's hand were all seniors who have already graduated. I've seen kids struggle to get a parking spot efficiently and honestly high schoolers aren't good enough drivers to be so packed together.

Mental Health is not something we spend a lot of time learning about unless we elect to take psychology or AP psychology. Is there any way to introduce this into the health curriculum already in place or maybe host a day for mental health awareness with workshops on different mental illnesses and treatments? It would mimic our previous Rachel's challenge or domestic violence days.

Quick memo Student government is hosting a dance and pep rally on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively!! On volunteer activities, if there are any things that you personally need help with, there is a group of sophomore and junior students who would be willing and looking to help. Please feel free to reach out to me so I can contact the correct people.

**k. Chair's Remarks.**

Board Chair Robert Mitchell thanked the Student Board Representatives for their contributions and indicated that they initiate good discussions.

**l. Other. -- None**

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

**a. Report from Director of Student Services – Mrs. Paula LaChance.**

Mrs. LaChance was absent.

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

Benchmark Assessments – We are currently wrapping up our January math and reading benchmark assessments and have begun to review data to assess student growth and identify students who would benefit from intervention. At a district level, I am reviewing the data to assess programs and professional learning needs.

The ELA curriculum study committee met today. We have almost 30 members from across the district in grades K-8 and are reviewing possible changes to the reading and writing programs. Committee members recommend that we change from Empowering Writers to the Writing Project Units of Study district-wide for grades K-8 however we are still discussing the

best timing for that change. We are also reviewing the Teacher's College Reading Project units of study and will be visiting classrooms in other districts which use the Lucy Caulkins Teachers College programs.

CSDE Test Coordinators Meeting – I will be attending a meeting this week for district test coordinators as we prepare for implementation of the state's spring testing including the SAT School day, the Smarter Balanced Assessments, and the CMT science assessments.

Marzano teacher observation element revision – The Marzano evaluation model has recently been revised based upon the most recent research into effective instruction. I will be participating in a webinar to review these changes and then share them with the administrators and our Teacher Evaluation and Professional Learning committee to determine whether we would like to continue to use the current elements or change to the revised elements.

**c. Monthly Update.**

Superintendent Levesque reported that he attended the Eastern Regional Music Festival over the weekend where Montville was well represented. Student Board Representative Joshua Archibald, along with three other students, was chosen to sign the National Anthem and did an amazing job.

It was reported that Gloria Gathers, Board Recording Secretary has resigned after eighteen years in the position.

Superintendent Levesque Reported that he met with Town Council Chairman and Board Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz to discuss budget issues. He thanked Joe for his time and support.

Superintendent Levesque discussed the District Management Council Group Conference which he attended last week. The discussion was surrounding innovation in education. He indicated that it was time well spent and the case studies presented were rich with information he will be using in the future.

Superintendent Levesque Reported that the CAPSS Legislative Agenda has been finalized by the Legislative Sub-Committee. The agenda will address bad policies such as Student Data Privacy and Hiring Reference Checks.

Superintendent Levesque Reported that he is continuing his work on the budget with Kathy. He met with the principals to brainstorm ways to keep the budget down.

Sandra Berardy commented that she would like Cathy Austin to give a presentation to The Board with information on our area. She feels that Cathy

knows a great deal regarding Southeastern Connecticut and she was very informative.

**Item 13. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).**

John Goodman, 82 Jerome Road spoke. Mr. Goodman commented on educating the LGBT community as well.

Christine Wright of 140 Oliver Road Lebanon (owns home on Orchard Drive in Montville) spoke regarding the feasibility study for outsourcing transportation. She mentioned that the drivers are worried and wanted to be sure that the drivers are allowed to look at the study. Superintendent Levesque indicated that this would not be possible. Mrs. Wright asked if it would be possible for the drivers to be consulted and indicated that as a whole, the drivers are willing to work with The Board.

**Item 8d. Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation (It is anticipated that the Board of Education will meet in executive session)**

**Motion:** That the Board goes into Executive Session to discuss the Mid-Year Evaluation of the Superintendent and invites Superintendent Levesque.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

**Motion:** That the Board exits Executive Session with no votes taken.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

**Item 14. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

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