

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

**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 Steven Loiler, Colleen Rix, Joseph Aquitante, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Sandra Berardy, James Wood, Dan Boisvert, Carrie Baxter, and Monica Pomazon.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Tanya Patten, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Joshua Archibald and Geetanjali Chouhan, Mayor Ron McDaniel and Town Council Board Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. CT State Legislators were also present as follows: Representatives. Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139<sup>th</sup> District, and Senator Cathy Osten of the 19<sup>th</sup> District.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**Presentation: A) Reception, 2018 Teacher of the Year – Joshua Cushing**

Superintendent B. Levesque introduced Joshua Cushing, the Montville 2018 Teacher of the year and described his accomplishments. CT Legislators, Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139<sup>th</sup> District, and Senator Cathy Osten of the 19<sup>th</sup> District presented Joshua with a proclamation on behalf of the CT State Assembly. Mayor R. McDaniel then thanked Joshua for the work he has done with the students and presented him with a certificate on behalf of the Town of Montville. Board Robert Mitchell presented the Teacher of the Year “golden apple”.

After the presentation, Superintendent Levesque invited J. Cushing to say a few words. J. Cushing thanked the Town and School Administrators for giving him the room and trust to make the program one that he feels is best for the students.

**Presentation: B) Introduction of New Staff by Administration.**

B. Levesque introduced the district administrators who presented the new certified staff and the Director of Food Services for the 2017-2018 school year as follows:

**DISTRICTWIDE, Introduced by Superintendent Levesque:**

Carol Dodson – Director of Food Services

**MOHEGAN SCHOOL, recognized by Mr. Klinefelter:**

Corinne Schuman – Art Teacher – Absent due to illness.

**OAKDALE SCHOOL, introduced by Mrs. Mazzalupo:**

Jessica Acosta – Reading Consultant

Debbie November – Speech and Language Pathologist (Hired after the start of the 2016-2017 School Year)

**LEONARD J. TYL MIDDLE SCHOOL, introduced by Mrs. Dix:**

Meghan Coiro – Guidance Counselor

**Montville High School, introduced by Mr. Theodoss:**

Alyssa Donohue – Science – Absent due to illness.

Kristine Lindgren – Spanish

**Montville High School Transition and Vocational Program, introduced by Mrs. LaChance:**

Paula Washburn -Transition Teacher

*The meeting recessed briefly at 6:12 p.m. for a reception in honor of Joshua Cushing.  
The meeting resumed at 6:28 p.m.*

**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:** Sandra Berardy

**Seconded by:** Dan Boisvert

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

**Item 5. Unfinished Business.**

- a. Consideration and action to review/approve the Board of Education Goals for 2017-2018.**

**Motion: That the Board approves the Board of Education Goals for 2017-2018.**

**Proposed by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried; (vote 8 -0)

Superintendent Levesque explained that the goals are a result of the August board retreat and were written up by Patrice McCarthy. We have received confirmation that Patrice will attend the October Board meeting in order to provide training to the board and the board candidates.

**Item 6. New business.**

- a. Consideration and action to review/ratify the agreement between General Teamsters, Chauffer's, Warehousemen and Helpers of America Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2017- June 30, 2021.**

**Motion: That the Board approves the agreement between General Teamsters, Chauffer's, Warehousemen and Helpers of America Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2017- June 30, 2021.**

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Abstentions:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried; (vote 7-1-0)

Superintendent Levesque summarized the changes to the contract which may be found in OneNote. Sandra and Monica represented the Board in negotiations. The salary changes are 2.5% in 2017, 1.5% in 2018, and 2% in 2020. The contract has been ratified by the union.

- b. Consideration and action to approve the 2018 meeting dates for the Board of Education.**

**Motion: That the board approves the 2018 meeting dates for the Board of Education.**

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler

**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried; (vote 8-0)

**Item 7. Committee and liaison reports.**

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

There was no meeting held this evening.

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

Carrie Baxter reported that no meeting was held.

**c. Communications Committee (Colleen Rix)**

Colleen Rix reported that the committee met over the summer and set goals and they are moving along.

**d. Montville Education Foundation (Dan Boisvert).**

The date for next year's golf tournament will be August 20, 2018, this will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the tournament and it will be held at Fox Hopyard.

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

Colleen was unable to attend however she reported that they set the budget and the meeting dates.

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

The convention will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. At the October meeting the board will appoint a delegate to the delegate assembly at CABE- the assembly will meet on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November in the afternoon.

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

They meet every other month and the meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night.

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

Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a pancake breakfast on October 15<sup>th</sup>; tickets are \$7. "Lights after school" will be on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the new Communications Center. The after school program is full. There is a billboard campaign on suicide prevention which is underway.

**i. Student Representative Reports.**

New Junior Class student representative, G. Chouhan was introduced to The Board. Board Chair Bob Mitchell encouraged the students to bring student concerns to The Board.

The Homecoming Game is on September 29 this year. The Homecoming Dance is scheduled for the following day, September 30, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the high school. The high school's annual Spirit Week will be held next week, September 26-29. The student body is excited for the school year ahead.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

The start of school went smoothly. He also recommended The Board stay informed in regards to the budget.

**k. Other. – None**

**Item 9. Superintendent's Report.**

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

The Transition Program is off to a great start. The students are settling in nicely and the staff is working to establish community contacts in order to expand the opportunities available to them in the area.

Brian, myself and M.J. met with a team from UCFS to explore the possibility of providing services through UCFS at Tyl Middle School. The goal is to have this in place for the 2018-2019 school year.

This week I met with our mental health team. In addition, we held our first FWSN meeting and met with seven families.

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

Student Assessment – This week we received individual student score reports and student growth data for last Spring's Smarter Balanced Assessments. I am in the process of reviewing the growth data and collating and organizing data for administrators and classroom teachers to utilize in their work with students this year. I am studying the correlation between the Smarter Balanced assessment and our district STAR benchmarks while also looking at trends for data teams to review as they discuss grade level instruction and interventions. Student score reports will be sent home within the next week. I will be meeting with principals over the next few days to review building-specific data. New Teacher Support – I met with all teachers new to the district and have set a schedule of professional development sessions in topics such as Aspen, OneNote, Learning Scales and Teacher Evaluation in order to better support their acclimation to district and building resources.

English Learners – With Robert Thorn's retirement, we now have one teacher coordinating both the elementary and secondary EL program. Lisa Kaplan and I have been working together to review EL groups at each of our schools and ensure tutors are in place to accommodate their needs. We have more than 80 identified EL students in the district. We are also working to ensure tutors and teachers have the necessary professional learning to work with EL students.

In education, student engagement refers to the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education. Generally speaking, the concept of “student engagement” is predicated on the belief that learning improves when students are inquisitive, interested, or inspired, and that learning tends to suffer when students are bored, dispassionate, disaffected, or otherwise “disengaged.” Stronger student engagement or improved student engagement are common instructional objectives expressed by educators.

This exploratory study examined the current practices and challenges of student engagement. This study also addressed the question; How does student engagement influence academic achievements and reduce student disciplinary referrals? Although most teachers believe that their learning environments are effectively engaging, student academic achievements and disciplinary referrals from the classroom setting does not reflect the same sentiments. Implications for student engagement through effective instruction within the context of 21st century literacies are discussed and analyzed.

**c. Monthly Update.**

Superintendent Levesque reported that the start of school went smoothly. Maintenance worked to set up the rooms at Fair Oaks for the Transition Program. He thanked the Mayor and Parks and Rec. for working with the district and for allowing the district to use the facilities. Superintendent Levesque, along with Mrs. Diz and Paula LaChance, met with a team from UCFS to discuss the addition of services at Tyl Middle School for the 2018-2019 school year. The addition of services at Tyl Middle School would build on the UCFS model already at Montville High School. Sandra Berardy asked if we submit for Medicaid reimbursement, Kathy Lamoureux responded that we do, mostly for O.T. reimbursement and take out of Grants. The Board received a calendar invitation to participate in interviews with DMGroup, which is the group the Board voted to hire to conduct a study. This is a focus group and The Board has been scheduled for interviews on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:45-2:45 with anyone who is available. If you are unable to attend you may also set up a phone conference. In addition, Superintendent Levesque reviewed his recent emails to the Board regarding updates on the State budget process.

**Item 10. Information items.**

None

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

None

**Item 12. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy

**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Jennifer LeMay, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

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