

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
November 21, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

2017-18 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 Robert Mitchell, Daniel Boisvert, Monica Pomazon, Joseph Aquitante, Colleen Rix, Sandra Berardy, Steven Loiler, Dana Ladyga and James Wood.

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, Tanya Patten, Phil Orbe, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Joshua Archibald and G. Chouhan, and Town Council Liaison Wills Pike.

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 Robert Mitchell as chair of the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Motion: That the Board nominates Sandra Berardy as chair of the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: James Wood

Vote by Ballot: 5-4 Robert Mitchell, 5- Robert Mitchell (Mitchell, Loiler, Aquitante, Ladyga, Rix) 4-Sandra Berardy (Pomazon, Boisvert, Wood, Berardy)

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 Colleen Rix as Secretary of the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Joseph Aquitante
Seconded by: Dana Ladyga

Motion: That the Board nominates Monica Pomazon as Secretary of the Board of Education.

Proposed by: James Wood
Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

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

Vote by Ballot: 5-4 Colleen Rix; 5-Colleen Rix (Ladyga, Loiler, Rix, Mitchell, Aquitante) 4-Monica Pomazon (Boisvert, Pomazon, Wood, Berardy)

Board Chair Robert Mitchell congratulated Colleen Rix on her new position as Board Secretary.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair B. Mitchell appointed new Board member Dana Ladyga to the Educational Evaluation Committee due to openings from the recent Town election.

The appointments for liaisons to various committees will remain the same; MEF; Boisvert, LEARN; Colleen Rix resigned from the position of Liaison, no volunteers were received to fill the position, CABE NSBA; Robert Mitchell, Atlantic Broadband; Monica Pomazon, MYSB; Dan Boisvert.

3. Presentations: 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:

Assistant Principal Jason Daly and Monica Pomazon recognized the following students:

For his amazing work ethic, persistence and wonderful attitude in the face of extreme adversity; Joseph Kolashuk.

For her support of local charities and for embodying the spirit of giving through her support of charities; Amy Richter.

For working with their team to create and implement a plan to include a classmate in a Friday night football game; Justin Potter and Demetri Ryan.

Montville High School:

Principal Jeffrey Theodoss and Steven Loiler recognized the following students and staff:

For her exceptional academic achievement and her support in promoting the values and expectations of Montville High School; Ashley Weekly.

For their support and dedication to the Food Services Program at Montville High School; Catherine Biltcliffe, Heather Brown, Suzanne DiLuzio, Carol Mugavero, Johanna Postma, and Cheryl Stewart.

Palmer Building: Principal Heather Sangermano and Joseph Aquitante recognized Mr. Tom Sullivan for developing an exceptional internship program by using his unmatched ability to develop relationships with students and business leaders.

Presentation: B) Charles E. Murphy School: Academic Parent Teacher Teams.

Principal Amy Espinoza presented on the five components for school improvement; Leadership, strong teachers, safe orderly environment, curriculum alignment and parent involvement. The goal of the team; that families can work with teachers as genuine partners to maximize student learning. Goal is to engage them in student learning in a deeper way. Students spend 12% of their time at school. Three grade level teams volunteered to pilot a use of conferences to build stronger parent relationships and empower families to make stronger contributions to student achievement. Teachers meet with parents three times per year during the evening as a classroom group. They begin with a team building activity so parents get to know each other and teachers introduce foundation shell students and parents will work on and classroom and student data. Teacher models two activities parents can do to build their shell at home and parents practice the activity and then set individual child goals. First round of meetings have been help. Parent council meetings are very positive. Sandra Berardy requested a follow up report at the end of the year.

Item 4. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only). – None

Item 5. Letters and communications. -- None

Item 6. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Joseph Aquitante
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously; vote: (8-0)

Item 7. Unfinished Business. -- None

Item 8. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to approve the agreement between The Montville Board of Education and the Montville Education Association for the period of September 1, 2018-August 31, 2021.**

Motion: That item 8a. it moved to the end of the meeting for executive session to discuss contract negotiations at 7:28 p.m.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

- b. Consideration and action to approve and submit the 2016-2017 annual report to the Mayor.**

Motion: That the Board approves the 2016-2017 Annual Report and submits it to The Mayor.

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Daniel Boisvert
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

- c. Consideration and action to approve the request of a Board of Education member to attend the NSBA Conference in San Antonio Texas at a cost estimated to be \$2,300 plus various expenses.**

Motion: To remove item 8c from the agenda in light of the current budget situation.

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

Sandra Berardy indicated that she would like the board to consider this item in the future and also mentioned that board members could pay themselves.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. **Montville Education Foundation (Daniel Boisvert).** Golf tournament is scheduled for August 20th at Fox Hopyard. Four grants were awarded totaling over \$7,000.
- b. **LEARN (Colleen Rix).** Nothing to report.
- c. **CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).** Good conference. Bob Mitchell was elected president and will serve a two year term. The board congratulated him. Bob will serve on the digital citizen, internet safety advisory media safety council. First meeting was held. Council includes L.M.S., Superintendent will bring input to future meetings.
- d. **Atlantic Broadband Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).** Working on encryption, 2nd wave begins in December. Adding Channel 99 – same as channel 22. Talking student scholarships \$750, \$500, \$250 based on student projects.
- e. **Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).** Cancelled, the next meeting will be December 14th.
- f. **Student Board Representatives.**

G. Chouhan; A big congrats to josh for the All-national Honor Choir which he will be going to over break! It's a prestigious Choir! Many students were looking to the break, very excited for it but however were dreading the tests the day before the breaks. Examples: Physics, Calc, Pre-Calc, essays for English; BUT really excited for the Holiday season!

Joshua Archibald; The high school Student Government is running a food drive to benefit Montville Social Services, which makes baskets to benefit local families each holiday season.

To incentivize participation, Student Government made the food drive a contest between the graduating classes. Students who bring in food items just place their donations into the shopping cart with their graduation year on it. The four shopping carts were graciously lent to us by Big Y.

The junior class won Part 1 of the food drive, beating the seniors by one can and receiving a donation from Student Government for its efforts. Part 1 concluded last Tuesday to meet Social Services' Thanksgiving deadline; we gathered 306 food items over the course of five school days. Part 2 will end on December 15 in time for the winter holidays.

- g. **Principals Quarterly Reports.**

No comments.

- h. Chair's Remarks.** Board Chair Robert Mitchell welcomed new board member Dana Ladyga and introduced Dana and new Board Liaison, Wills Pike. Wills advised the board that a Special Finance committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th at 4:00 at the Town Hall.
- i. Other.** None.

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

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

This month kept me busy conducting observations in the Transition Program as well as throughout the district. I took a trip to the local Firehouse where the students go on a regular basis to clean the trucks and common areas. They are also volunteering at Social Services on a weekly basis.

Also this month I have worked quite a bit with outside Psychiatrists observing and reviewing records for one of our students. We do have a number of students requiring outside evaluations that I am working on setting up. Many of our previous providers no longer offer school services so I have had to network to collaborate with new providers. Also this month I attended the Title IX Training in New Haven in order to remain in compliance with State guidelines.

Also this month Jen Russell organized a Handle with Care Training for new staff as well as existing staff that needed it. Denise Dunning arranged a presentation from BRS on the Level up Program for our older 16 to 21 Year old special education students. The DORS Level Up Program is all about providing students with the tools, training and resources to work competitively and foster a path to independence.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

Title I, II, III, and IV Grants: Today we submitted our final federal entitlement grant application. We have received notification that our applications for Title I, II, and III grants have been approved, and we expect to receive information about the Title IV grant shortly. We were not eligible to apply for a bilingual grant as the number of students at Mohegan who speak the same language dropped below the criteria for qualification (20 students speaking the same language) as a bilingual school this year. The entitlement grants enable us to provide limited funding for supplies, afterschool programming, and professional development during our current freeze on much of our spending.

Donors Choose: Our teachers are working hard to seek alternative funding to support their work in the classroom. I urge you to go to donorschoose.org and search for projects near Montville. You will find five Montville projects currently seeking funds, and nine projects which have already been funded this school year. I would like to recognize teachers who have put the time and effort into pursuing funding for materials to supplement their

programs. Mary Aledia, Sharon Brown, Cathy Brush, Genny Christensen, Shannon Craddock, Stacey Girardin, Deb Hamm, Wendy Rohde, and Paula Washburn all have received funding so far this year, and Janella Carroll, Joel Farrior, Robin Greenwald, Stacey Olendorf, and Erin Spurgas have active requests which have received partial funding.

Progress in Adoption of the Readers' Workshop Program: Our trainer has completed her first round of training sessions at the Tyl and the elementary schools. Teachers are already asking about her return in January. Preliminary reports are that our students at all grade levels, K-8, have re-captured the joy of reading which was one of our goals for adoption of this new program. Teachers report that students eagerly "shop" for new books and enjoy the increased one-on-one time as they confer with the teacher about their reading. We will be providing a report on implementation of the program at the December E&E committee meeting.

c. Monthly Update – Superintendent Levesque.

I would like to applaud Laurie for her efforts around Readers Workshop- Laurie was determined to make this happen and worked diligently all summer long to make it a reality. You should stop into the Elementary schools to take a look at the results of her hard work. Laurie, Kathy and I attended the Finance meeting earlier this evening. Less than a week ago we thought we knew what our funding was and had a plan in place – I received a call from our State Representative last Friday afternoon indicating that the Governor made a budget announcement which includes additional cuts to Montville in the amount of 1.6 million dollars and which they are calling it a hold back. In theory if the money becomes available they may release those funds to us. State Legislature will meet again in December to address the growing deficit. If we are forced to make these cuts (1.6 Million) by the end of December 39% of the school year would have been completed and staffing cuts would require an additional 40 % cut to reach the number and would be cutting well into the \$2 million dollar range and would include services, programs and staff. This is a complicated matter and will take everyone working together in order to do what is best for the Town of Montville.

I have many different scenarios which I am working to address the possible cuts and this is a very difficult challenge that we are facing. In theory the funds cut this year will be reinstated in next year's budget. With the deficit the State is talking about currently I do not feel confident that this will be the case.

Item 11. Information items. Monica Pomazon reported that the CAFE conference was very informative. A lot of information on policy was shared and it was beneficial.

Sandra spoke about the workshops and reminded the board not to respond to parents on Facebook- and not to use personal computers or phones for board business. Do not engage on Facebook- don't check personal email on Board devices with board email addresses.

You open yourself up to an FOI request on your personal emails etc if you do not follow this advice.

Holiday band, chorus dinner is scheduled for December 8th.

Item 12. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only). None

- a. Consideration and action to approve the agreement between The Montville Board of Education and the Montville Education Association for the period of September 1, 2018-August 31, 2021.**

Motion: That the board enters executive session to discuss contract negotiations; 7:28 p.m.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Motion: That the board exits executive session with no votes taken at 7:37 p.m.

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Motion: That the Board approves the agreement between The Montville Board of Education and the Montville Education Association for the period of September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2021.

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Daniel Boisvert
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Jennifer LeMay, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Minutes Approved: _____