

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
March 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**

2017-2018 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

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 Wood, Sandra Berardy, Colleen Rix, Steven Loiler, Monica Pomazon, Daniel Boisvert, Joseph Aquitante, Colleen Rix and Dana Ladyga.

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, Phil Orbe, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, Rob Alves and Jeff Theodoss, and Student Board Representatives G Chouhan and Joshua Archibald.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels

Mohegan Elementary School: Principal Will Klinefelter recognized Austin Lin for taking two new students from China under his wing and serving as a mentor to them.

Also recognized by Principal Klinefelter was Schultz for working to research, organize and teach the fifth grade class a lesson about Native American Dance.

The awards were presented by Board member Steven Loiler.

Murphy Elementary School: Principal Amy Espinoza recognized Bus Driver Tracy Clark, for acting quickly to extinguish a fire in the wheel well of her bus, ensuring the safety of everyone on or near the bus.

Also recognized by Principal Espinoza was Lorena Huapaya Rojas for selflessly and patiently using her talents as a Spanish speaker to help acclimate a new student from Puerto Rico.

The awards were presented by Board Member Joe Aquitante.

Oakdale Elementary School: Principal Mazzalupo recognized Lydia Steele, Katalena Martinez, and Melinda Siismets for their perseverance and persistence, which was demonstrated while working on a long-term Project.

Also recognized was Mrs. Pamela Green for going above and beyond to assist at Oakdale School during a long term absence.

The awards were presented by Board Member Monica Pomazon.

Presentation: B) Recognition of Board of Education Members. Superintendent Levesque recognized the members of The Board of Education along with the two student representatives. Each were presented with a token of appreciation for the contributions which they make to the schools by serving on The Board.

Presentation: C) Leonard J. Tyl Middle School – Standard Based Grading

MJ Presented and explained the work of faculty to analyze present grading practices and issues which were uncovered. Average of overall performance does not reflect students strengths and weaknesses. Developed committees, brought in an expert to present to faculty. Realized don't all learn at the same pace, but grades should reflect final mastery. Developed a test re-take policy which was described. This policy has been highly successful. Many math and ELA teachers have set up Standard based grade books already though reports cards do not reflect it yet. Teachers have developed learning scales for skills on standards in each course. These list skills and methods of demonstrating these skills, including both formative and summative assessments. In addition to assessing content, also will show effort, motivation, participation but that would be a separate grade under category called 21st century skills. MJ showed what the report card would look like with an overall letter grade for the subject and then numbered grades for standards under that course.

Dan; Big fan of SB grading. Is there a chance for project revision? Yes

Presentation: D) Montville High School – NEASC Visit

Jeff Theodoss, Robert Alves and Ted Richmond presented an overview of the upcoming NEASC visit, scheduled for October 21-24, 2018. Opening night will be a meeting of committee members with BOE, teachers, etc. Jeff explained schedule of four day visit and end result of accreditation visit. The self-study began at the end of last year. Entire staff is on standards committee, in the process of peer review of these reports. The presentation included an overview of the NEASC process, the MHS core values and beliefs and learning expectations. Also included was a breakdown of costs associated with the visit along with an outline of what the Board of Education can expect at their meeting with the committee in October.

On October 21st the committee will meet with the Board and the questions the board members will be asked were provided to the board. The NEASC report will come several months later. The process is expensive and includes the training attended, accommodations and meals and travel expenses for the visiting team. The budget is \$20,000. Sandra; They look at facility correct? Ted; Yes, community resources standard includes facility- they will take a tour. We are proud of what we do and we are looking forward to showing it off.

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: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Item 6. Unfinished Business.

- a. Continued discussion; Pay to Play.

With the help of Rob Alves, surveyed area districts. Three currently do have pay to play; Bacon, Killingly and Ledyard and this is only for athletes.

- b. Budget meetings

- Public Hearing on General Government Budget, April 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Montville High School Auditorium.
- Public Hearing on Board of Education Budget, April 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Montville High School Auditorium.

Bob urged all to attend.

Item 7. New business.

- a. **Consideration and action to approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects.**

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed Capital Improvement projects.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante

Brian stressed need for new carpet at Tyl. Need for busses if we continue to operate our own bus program. Need for drainage at bus garage parking lot. Opened to questions; Sandra – Anything need to be done before the NEASC visit? Brain – Maybe instillation of down draft work tables in Tech Ed classrooms. Sandra – Will NEASC look as bus condition? No.

b. Consideration and action to approve the week of May 7-11, 2018 as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees.

Motion: That the Board approves the week of May 7-11, 2018 as National Teacher Appreciation Week.

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

c. Next Generation Accountability report from CSDE.

Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin presented a brief overview of the Next Generation Accountability system. All of the resources and information may be found in the OneNote Binder. Below is an overview of the district's growth as displayed in the Next Generation Accountability Report.

Highlights from our report:

We significantly outperformed the state in performance including ELA, Math and science Performance and growth, absenteeism and graduation rates. The performance of our high needs students is especially significant – the size of the gap between non high needs and high needs in Montville is much smaller that the State.

Both Montville and the state saw declines in the percent of students achieving their annual growth targets in ELA and Math.

We saw a large amount of growth in the percent of students demonstrating CCR by taking coursework and passing exams for college credit.

We significantly underperformed the state in fitness.

Oakdale and Mohegan were recognized as schools of distinction for growth of their high needs students.

MHS moved from category three to category two (five categories of performance).

All participation rates exceed 99%.

We had the fourth highest index scores of districts in our region, outperforming several DRG D and E districts.

Montville was the third highest scoring district in our DRG.

Montville High was the highest scoring HS in the DRG, Tyl was the third highest scoring middle school in DRG F.

Final slides show our performance compared to area K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 choice schools (magnet and Charter Schools). Our school's performance is among the best of these groups of schools.

d. Consideration and action to approve the revised 2018-2019 school calendar.

Motion: That the board approves the revised 2018-2019 school calendar.

Proposed by: Joe Aquitante
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried 8-0

Superintendent Levesque presented the proposed calendar which includes five built in snow days. Questions asked; Have you sought the opinions of the staff? Yes. What about regional calendar? Major things remain the same throughout the region April Break, Regional PD. Legislation changed and regional calendars are no longer required. Might be slight cost for transporting to Tech Schools on days we aren't open but they are. This year we will transport tech school students for April break. Dan expressed support. Discussed the dates which would not use a day (eg notice by February 1st) Brian explained current process for set days, last day and proposed calendar with snow days embedded throughout the second half of the year. This new calendar would enable us to lock in graduation date.

e. Appraisal of field trip; Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, Washington D.C. Annual Trip, May 9, 2018 to May 11, 2018, 71 students.

f. Appraisal of field trip; Montville High School Chamber Choir and Concert Choir, Annapolis, MD Annual Trip, March 23, 2018 to March 25, 2018, 42 students.

- g. Consideration and action to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-215F, The Montville Board of Education certifying that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards During the period of July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion: That the board agrees to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-215F for the 2018-2019 school year as described.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried 8-0

- h. Consideration and action on whether the district will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the CNS, provided 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day/ “Location” means where the event is being held.

Motion: That the board agrees to allow exemptions of food items to C.G.S. Section 10-215F given the conditions outlined are followed.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried 8-0

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

The Policy Committee meeting was cancelled.

- b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Dan Boisvert)

District staff described summer reading program presented to students. No opt out process needed because both choices are optional. Letter w policy and forms will be sent to concerned parents.

c. Montville Education Foundation. (Colleen Rix)

April 30th deadline for \$10,000 grant applications. Looking for new members. Keith Urban concert \$125 per ticket. Golf tournament plans underway.

d. LEARN

This committee remains vacant.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

Upcoming NSBA convention. Day on hill was productive last week. Bob attended government's press conference on guns.

f. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).

Meeting is tomorrow.

g. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

Last meeting was cancelled. Next meeting scheduled for April 12.

h. Student Board Representatives.

Joshua Archibald

Last Wednesday, March 14, students at MHS remembered the school shooting in Parkland, Florida one month after it occurred. Led by myself and Ryan Radgowski, over fifty students left class for seventeen minutes and gathered by the flagpoles in front of the school as part of a nationwide protest against the scourge of gun violence in our society.

Ryan and I both gave speeches before reading aloud the names of the seventeen victims of the shooting in Parkland. We also coordinated with advisory, which was the following block, to distribute a presentation about citizenship to our peers. The presentation included information about how to be informed about policy issues, how to vote, and how to contact representatives.

Ultimately this event showed the civic engagement of students across the nation and that a sizable population here at the high school cares deeply about the issue of gun violence.

G. Chouhan

The blood drive, run by Student Government, was semi-successful. Due to the shorten day, we had to turn away all of our afternoon appointments, but we still got a decent amount of blood, an estimated 17 pints, according to the American Red Cross coordinator. On Saturday, it was officially the start of spring sports. From my understanding, there are many kids participating in this season. Also, I recently read the article on the Norwich Bulletin about our baseball team and how they hope their season will go. Saturday was also the Regionals for our cheerleading team; they received 4th place which is incredible. Tomorrow was the day that most kids were either stressed about or excited about. The SATs were scheduled for tomorrow and from being in classes with juniors who would also be taking the test, I understand that many students seemed prepared to take them while others wished they still had more time to study and de-stress. Most English and math teachers have been reviewing for the SATs in class along with some history teachers. After today's announcement, those who were ready to take the test were seemingly upset about the later date, due to the weather. Those who were not ready to take the test were pleased to hear they had more time to prepare and study, so they could do their best. Hopefully when we do take the SATs everyone will be fully prepared with help from teachers and after school programs, such as Mr. Richmond's SAT prep program.

i. Chair's Remarks.

District needs to maintain pressure on legislators to get act together as a fiscal organization.

j. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

Aside from the litigious PPTs, I have begun programming and staffing for ESY. As you know from last week's summary, we will have five separate programs this summer for ESY and it will run for four days for four weeks.

I have met with the preschool staff to review incoming students. We have four new preschoolers coming within the next month or so. We are required to conduct evaluations three months prior to a student's 3rd birthday and begin servicing them when they turn three. This means we are continually receiving new students throughout the year. This early evaluation process also gives us a glimpse of students coming due for start of next year as well. So far next year we have one very involved student that I know of that will require nursing care, as well as adult supports throughout the day. I have begun to look at staffing in that regard. I also attended a presentation last week on Early

Childhood Education which covered useful information on The CT Teacher Observation System as well as the NAEYC Accreditation Standards for early education.

During our professional development this month we held Handle with Care training for staff and there will be another session to train the trainers in April which is required every year.

Today I held our monthly FWSN meeting. We only had one family through this month. Lastly, the Transition Program continues to expand student opportunities within the community. They have begun working at Walmart and Salvation Army in Norwich with additional work at social services and the fire station. Last month they ran a fund raiser. They made heating/cooling pads and sold them throughout the district. Last I heard they sold 100 of them and this month they are making “We are Montville” T shirts which will have the school logo on them.

Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

MHS Graduation Rate: Over the past several weeks I have been working with the state department to review their data on our district and MHS four year graduation rates. For reasons we don’t yet understand the data about our graduates did not transfer correctly from Aspen to the state data system. After the exchange of many spreadsheets and phone conversations, we finally have everything corrected and we are pleased that our 2017 graduation rate remains high – at 94.3%

Project Oceanology Grant:

I have submitted a letter of support for Project O’s application for a NOAA grant. They have proposed a Thames River Resilience Project which will hopefully engage our students in efforts to improve the Thames River Basin. They propose to work with high school students and teachers living along the Thames River to educate them about regionally important environmental hazards, connect them to community leaders, and engage them in developing solutions. Over three years students would be involved in:

1. Scientific study of an affected shoreline ecosystem
2. Water quality and shoreline assessment aboard the R/V Envirolab
3. Laboratory programs and workshops
4. Engineering design challenge

Family Math Nights: The math coaches have planned two family math nights for our elementary students and their parents. The first will be this Thursday night at Murphy for families from Murphy and Oakdale. The second will be held April 4th at Mohegan.

Spring Assessments: We are in the middle of spring assessments. Our LAS Links assessments were just completed and submitted, and Smarter Balance and Science assessments begin in April. We are currently setting up alternative assessments in Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science for a group of special education students

and exposing students to practice tests and interim assessment blocks. We began to train teachers in online test administration last Friday. As you may have heard, unfortunately we felt it was necessary to postpone the SAT testing from tomorrow until the designated late testing date of April 24th due to uncertainty about the weather. Once students start the test, we are committed to completing the four-hour process, and we didn't feel comfortable with that given the forecast.

Montville Loves to Read Day is April 10. If you have not been contacted to be a reader at one of our elementary schools and are available that morning, please let me know; students would love to have you join them.

Readers Workshop: We are trying to kick off our second round of professional learning visits to support implementation of readers workshop with our consultant, Maggie Roberts. Unfortunately the first visit fell on last week's snow day and she is scheduled to visit Murphy tomorrow! Ultimately, we will reschedule and she will visit Tyl and each elementary school over the next two months.

CREC Science Bundles: We have been investigating NGSS Science units developed by CREC working with CT teachers in grades 9-11, and we have decided to pilot these units in grades 9-11. We are reviewing two possible sources of units for the middle school, the Jason program and the CREC units. I have a meeting with elementary teachers next week to receive feedback from them about CREC units which they have previewed. Several teachers from each grade level from K-9 attended CREC workshops to learn more about the units so that we can evaluate their potential adoption in the district. I will be providing the E&E committee with more information about the program next month.

Leonard J Tyl's Birthday: In closing, I cannot express to you how proud I was of our students and staff at Tyl on Thursday afternoon. The celebration they put on for Mr. Tyl was truly moving. As Mr. Tyl entered the room students spontaneously gave him a standing ovation and at the end as they were dismissed almost every single student lined up to give him a hug and personal greeting.

b. Monthly Update from the Superintendent.

I continue to meet with staff who may be impacted regarding transfers for next year and to look at placements. Water, Lombardi construction was the winning bidder, signed the contract next week. They have begun their work to confirm the orders and waiting for a break in the weather. They have 150 days to complete the project from the date the contract was signed. I have worked with Peter Bushway on the impacts of the project on the summer programs. If Tyl has to go without water Peter will bring in portable bathrooms at his expense. HS once they start to flush our system we will be without running water for a period of time. We have discussed portable bathrooms for the staff who work throughout the summer. We will work through this as we receive more information.

Received a letter from the CSDE indicating that we are in non-compliance with MBR as a result of the Governors holdback. We had consulted with the state while we negotiated with the town for the reductions and used that information to determine how we would address the holdbacks. The States reasoning is that the holdback from the governor is not a cut. In my argument I explained my reasoning that the money will not be restored so it is a cutback. If we do not restore the money to the budget we will be fined two times the reduction. I have written a letter to the state explaining the work we did with the town to reach these cuts. I have asked for reconsideration of the penalty. I will share with you the letter which I sent to the state and keep you up to date on any response which I receive from the state. It really does not make sense, we did this by working with our town and what is best for our town and the timing of this is not good as we work to build our 2018-2019 budget. MBR only speaks to the allocated budget not what we spend in the end. The State needs to acknowledge that their holdback is actually a cut.

Item 10. Information Items.

None

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

Wills Pike has spoken to all five representatives regarding ECS hardship to taxpayers in Montville. Questioned State increase to Greenville ECS while decreasing Montville's ECS. Made strong legitimate case for Montville's funding. Most districts east of the CT River are taking a cut. Town Carnival is June 21st. Brian said he has coordinated with Peter Bushway.

Motion: That the Board enters executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Motion: That the Board exits executive session with no votes taken.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

It is anticipated that the board may meet in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Item 12. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____