

**MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
SUPERINTENDENT'S LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
November 8, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Acting Superintendent Laurie Pallin called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and all stood for the pledge. Committee members present were Sandra Berardy, Robert Mitchell, and Monica Pomazon. Steven Loiler was absent.

Item 2. Consideration and action to approve 2019 meeting dates to submit to Town Clerk.

Motion: That the committee approves the 2019 meeting dates and submits them to the Town Clerk.

2019 Meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month.

The December, 2018 meeting will be held on Dec. 6, 2018 at 5:15

Proposed by: Monica

Seconded by: Sandra

Vote: 3-0; carried unanimously

Item 3. Review of draft dated 04/17 communication plan and discussion of next steps in development of the plan.

Committee members will read through the draft plan on their own and discuss continued work on the plan at a future meeting

Item 4. Discussion of strategies for communication as 2019-2020 budget is developed and promoted.

There was significant discussion about the best way to communicate with the community both to get input during development of the budget and to explain the Board's budget once it has been approved by the Board. Sandra raised the question of how to reach voters without children in the school system. The group felt that holding budget forums prior to development of the budget is important. Setting dates for these meetings will be a November BOE meeting agenda item. The committee discussed holding a forum at each elementary school and one for the two secondary schools and encouraging attendees to view the facilities. At each forum, successes should be presented along with highlights about students/graduates and programs. Displays of student work might also be visible. Board members might also use this time to walk through the school and note any facility needs.

Committee members discussed development of a flyer to be circulated in the Montville Times and left at locations in the community. The survey could be completed both on paper and or as an electronic survey. The purpose of the survey would be to receive responses from community members about budget priorities. Questions would seek information about community members' opinions regarding areas of need and potential savings. They might include: What does the school system need? What items (programs / services) should be added? What is provided now that you believe should be maintained? What could be improved upon? What are areas in which savings might be possible? The flyer could also indicate dates of budget forums and a place to add an e-mail to receive electronic communication from the Board. A sample insert for the Montville Times will be presented at the November 20th meeting. The committee members also discuss sending a second survey to gather information about whether community

members would be willing to support increases in the school budget to pay for programs that benefit the students of Montville Public Schools.

The committee discussed asking Katie Roy of the CT School Finance Project to attend the January Board meeting to provide an educational presentation on the process of State / Town funding for public education, explaining relevant terms and sources of funding.

It was also agreed that meetings of each school's parent group should be attended by Laurie and potentially several BOE members to increase communication during development and after Board adoption of the budget.

Methods for presenting and displaying the budget were discussed. It was agreed that the budget should be closely connected to the Board's Vision and that funding should be linked to achievement of that vision.

Item 5. Discussion of strategies for communication of school district successes and promotion of district progress and programs.

This will be an area of future focus for the committee once they have completed their work on communication around the budget.

Item 6. Discussion of Board's role in communication with legislators.

It was suggested that we ask Katie Roy for advice about the best way to communicate with legislators about budgeting for education.

Item 7. Adjournment

Motion: To Adjourn the meeting

Motion: Sandra Berardy

Second: Monica Pomazon

Vote: 3-0; carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Laurie Pallin, Acting Superintendent