

**SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**

2017-2018 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/ Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., all stood and pledged the flag. 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, Joseph Aquitante and Dana Ladyga.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Education, Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jill Mazzalupo, Jeffrey Theodoss, Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, Steve Carroll and Phil Orbe.

Item 2. Community Comments

Board Chair Robert Mitchell established the ground rules for the meeting requesting that comments be limited to three minutes, for respect for all opinions expressed and to provide your name and address if you wish to speak.

Joe Jaskiewicz, 89 Park Ave.; Hopes the BOE will look at bus issue again, thought it was a good idea last time.

Karen Duhamel, 1 Fox Hollow Drive; Urges BOE to support proposal one, increase is nominal given lack of increases over the past six years. Small class size; spoke to importance of maintaining them. Please reconsider outsourcing transportation, explained the advantage of doing so over reducing teachers, increasing class sizes.

Jackie Meislitzer, 52 Pheasant Run; Support proposal 1, Reconsider outsourcing buses. Opposed to return to half day kindergarten, the benefits of full day kindergarten are research based- necessary for readers and writers' workshop and math program, science, Social Studies and social emotional wellbeing. The results of full day kindergarten are evident; received Blue Ribbon recognition and two schools of distinction.

Andrew Meislitzer, 52 Pheasant Run; Reduction of teachers at the High School level; spoke to OSHA limit of twenty- four students in a science classroom if labs are to be performed. Urged board to support proposal 1.

Sean Jengerson, 314 Chesterfield Road; Most of reading material students bring home is offensive. Gave example of book from 2015 summer reading that he felt wasn't appropriate. Topics in books should be taught at home. Wants to understand how books are chosen.

Nicole Gallagher, 26 Chestnut Hill Road; Really like idea of block schedules at middle school level to align with the high school and share teachers, which allows for acceleration of middle school students when able.

Dawn Jinkerson, 314 Chesterfield Road; Spoke to reading material being used at Tyl. Doesn't want 5th grade students at middle school exposed to those texts and having these materials available to them if they go to middle school.

Steve LaBranche, 53 Forsyth Road; Changing class size will impact student learning. Teachers are under water in Elementary schools with current class size. Students will get lost. Small ratios get our positive results. Need to look at bus garage before changing class size, the BOE should consider that as the first option.

Jen Kollowitz, 69 Perez Drive; Encourage you to not increase class size. Keep high quality standards we have moved here for these reasons.

Joe Jaskiewicz, Park Avenue; Board has a tough job-confident you can come up with a budget to satisfy the town and help everybody.

Item 3. Discussion on the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2018-2019

Monica – Library Media Specialists at Tyl to 2 Part Time Secretaries; How would this be replaced?

Pay to participate - \$40,000 – How does \$100 get to that total? Brian; we anticipate we would have about 400 students paying. Monica; Seems high given the number of students – is this a yearly fee? Brian; outlined what would be included, all after school programs which are NOT academic programs.

Dan – Transportation timeline, how quickly would we need to do that? Brian -We could make it happen still but would need to turn this around quickly, we would need to decide at the next meeting. Dan - How is the early retirement incentive going? Brian – We have already received several, will exceed the projection of \$130,000, incentive closes on Monday the 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Monica – Elementary reduction to adaptive P.E., how would this be achieved? Brian – We currently exceed requirement outlined in IEP's, with this reduction we would still meet the IEP requirements.

Jim – Transportation; Can you provide the cost for what we are paying Curtin. Brian – I can tell you that we paid in excess of \$35,000 a month in November and December to Curtin. We anticipate that we will need to make a transfer in the spring to cover this budget shortage. Kathy and I will work on getting a number for our outsourced transportation for the meeting on Tuesday.

Sandra – I would like to move the block schedule proposal for Tyl to budget #1, how would that work? Brian – explained that the changes in staffing at Tyl would also impact MHS. Both of the proposals should be done at once. Sandra – Would like to see if we could offer a second language. Brian – We have discussed Chinese as a possibility. Sandra – What do we need to do to reconsider outsourcing transportation? Brian – Boe members would need to ask for it to be put on Tuesday’s agenda to go out to bid.

Jim Wood – Could we direct you to go out to bid right now? Brian – No, because this is a special meeting the agenda could not be modified, you would need to authorize me to go out to bid at our regular meeting on February 27th.

Monica – Wants transportation request for bids on Tuesdays agenda. Reducing Athletic Director, what is the percentage of time which would be spent teaching? Brian – in the past the director taught two classes and the remainder of the time was spent as the AD with a stipend.

Colleen – Thanked public for coming out to speak, recorded all of the comments and will consider them. Wants to piece parts together from all three proposals – Brian you absolutely can do that this was the intention of the proposals.

Dana – Thanked public for coming out to speak, also wants to piece parts from all three proposals together and consider them all.

Sandra – Tuesday night, do we need to vote on final budget? Bob- We could put this off to a special meeting in March if we want. Brian- there will be an agenda item for discussion and approval of the 2018-19 budget which may be postponed, the budget is due to the town on March 15th. Will be hard to vote on mix and match package in one night.

Bob – Thanked public, email any of us with questions or comments.

Item 4. Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____