

TYL Middle School: For their accomplishments as top runners for the girls' Cross Country Team ending the season undefeated, a first in Tyl Middle School History: Lily Tomczik, Karla Flores, Maya Suarez, Kate Bowman, Emma Bakoledis, and Jaisey Galvin.

Principal M.J. Dix presented the Marvels, supported by Board Member Dan Boisvert.

C) Palmer Building; PBL & Pathways Campus update

Board Chair Robert Mitchell introduced Heather Sangermano, Palmer Principal and Lynn Obomalayot, Palmer Assistant Principal who gave an update on the PBL & Pathways Campus.

Heather: As we prepared to set our school wide goals we began by looking at the district vision. At the PBL campus we continue to work on building relationships and establishing a school community with problem solving as a focus through our project-based work. We focus on social-emotional health and celebrate individuality while connecting to the greater community through our internships.

Community: At the foundation is the work we do to develop relationships through daily interactions, community experiences such as our breakfasts together, and our camping trip which will take place in the spring. We focus on restorative practices and developing individual plans for students.

Instruction: This year we added an increased content focus to our problem-solving projects. We continue to work on attendance through individual plans as well as the new makeup policy. Online credit recovery remains an option for our students.

Administrative Changes: There is a benefit to having one high school / Palmer principal who has an understanding of all high school options for students. There is also increased consistency between the two schools and have the sense of one community encourages Palmer students to access extracurricular opportunities at MHS..

Programmatic Changes: Staff changes allowed us to add another content specialist in Social Studies. Project block groups move to different content classes while maintaining the project focused curriculum.

Demographics: 2018-19 saw the largest enrollment number for the start of a school year and also the largest incoming freshman class.

Star Data: The STAR SGP (Student Growth Percentile) compares a student's growth to that of his/her academic peers. STAR's target SGP for January is between 30 and 60. Palmer's median SBP in math was 60.5 which means the students have shown more growth than 60.5% percent of their peers)

Lynn Obomolayat explained the implementation of the Social Justice Project, a cross disciplinary project: Students read A Raisin in the Sun, had a theater throw-down with MHS, and then decided the play required a sequel, wrote a screen play and filmed the sequel. In social studies students were given the choice of a mini-project; their subject choices included: Violence against Women, Transgender Rights, Gender Pay Gap, Racial Profiling, Minimum Wage, Veteran's Homelessness and Religious discrimination.

Internship: Internships are an essential and unique component of an education at Palmer. Connecting learning to real life opportunities allows more students to find success. Students attend two days per week beginning in 9th grade. There are currently twenty-one students in the program and twelve new community partners.

We continue to partner with High Hopes and the Waterford Country School for students with additional emotional needs. However, for next year we agreed with High Hopes that we would take a year off to reevaluate their role with our students.

Heather: Next Steps: We are reviewing the Pathways Structure, Pathways Community Experiences and Internship support options.

Item 4. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only)

None

Item 5. Letters and communications

Information on the world business forum pamphlet was received.

Item 6. Approval of the consent calendar

Motion: That the board approves the consent calendar.
Proposed by: Joe Aquitante
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Item 7. Unfinished Business

- a. Continued discussion to schedule Lighthouse Project presentation. Potential dates: January 22, 29, 30 and February 2, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21, 25 evenings, or any Saturday.

Motion: That the Board postpones setting a date until a Superintendent has been named.
Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Nick Caruso from CABE explained that the date should not be set until the Board decides on a new Superintendent. The training is a team process and should include the Board and superintendent once appointed.

Once the Board gives him the go-ahead, Nick will schedule a meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair to make sure the training best meets the needs of the Board and district. The materials used in the training are no longer funded by the State Department of Education so there may be a nominal cost for them.

- b. Continued discussion and possible action on Oakdale Solar panels project; update on Tyl/MHS Solar projects.

Motion: That the Board postpones moving forward with this project until the concerns surrounding the contract are resolved.
Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Laurie Pallin: Would like to defer action until next month. Kathy, Steve, and I reviewed a sample contract and there were several items which concern us:

1. *The agreement holds the district responsible for ensuring the building is structurally sound and capable of bearing the weight of the panels, and we had been led to believe ConEd would provide this engineering guarantee.*
 2. *We are held responsible for approval of a waiver from the holder of the roof warranty*
 3. *If the roof needs repair during the 20 years of the PPA, the district is to pay all costs for disassembly, storage, and reassembly of the system and pay for all solar services and for lost revenue if the repair takes more than 10 consecutive days.*
 4. *The contract language appears significantly different than our current MHS / Tyl contract, and we don't want to incur attorney fees for review an entire new contract.*
- We are waiting for response to these concerns.*

Planning and Zoning meeting is scheduled for the 22nd for the Tyl and MHS project. However the drawings required for this meeting still needs some revision. We are hopeful they will be ready in time for the meeting.

Item 8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action to approve the revisions to Policy Number 6146; Graduation Requirements, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion: That the board approves the revisions to Policy Number 6146; Graduation Requirements, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Jim Wood: The Policy and E&E Committees met jointly both last month and this month to discuss the changes to the policy. Input was provided from department heads, students and parents. Some of the requirements are mandated by the State, others were recommended by Laurie and Heather. Much of the change is driven by legislation, some by choice, such as changes to career and life skills requirements. Students taking a course in the middle school that mirrors a course at the high school will bring that credit with them to the high school. There is a new requirement of 1/2 credit in the fine arts. Students also must earn one credit in a course which requires a mastery-based assessment which is a performance assessment rather than a test-based assessment.

Changes to the policy are outlined in the document in OneNote.

b. Discussion of Principal Quarterly reports.

The Communications Committee had a suggestion that the BOE might prefer principals' verbal input at BOE meetings rather than quarterly written reports. The committee proposal is that verbal reports given at BOE meetings might alternate between elementary and secondary principals every other month. It was also suggested that dialogue between Board members and the principals be encouraged at meetings with the chair's permission.

Motion: That The Board approves future Principal Reports to be given orally at alternating Board meetings rather than submission of written quarterly reports.

Proposed by: Dana Ladyga
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

c. Consideration and action to approve the 2019-2020 school calendar.

Motion: That The Board approves 2019-2020 school calendar.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Laurie Pallin: At this time the new calendar preserves the potential snow day dates set within the school year. Since we have not seen how this will play out yet, we can revisit the calendar if needed. Of note is next year's Christmas holiday. I am proposing that rather than hold a half day on Monday, Dec. 23rd, students would have vacation both Monday and Tuesday and the Friday prior to this vacation would be a full day.

d. Discussion and action to set a budget forum at the Senior Center on March 1, 2019, set the budget timeline and meeting dates for presentation of the budget and for approval to forward to the Town.

Motion: That the Board sets the date of March 1, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. for a Budget Forum at the Senior Center.

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Motion: That the Board sets February 12th at 6:00 P.M. for the presentation of the Board Budget.

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

Motion: That the Board sets February 19th at 6:00 P.M. as the Budget Workshop,

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

Additional Dates:

Feb. 26th Regular Meeting – Approval of Board's budget

March 15 Budget and Capital Request to Town

April 24 – Public hearing for general government budget

April 25 – Public hearing for Board of Education proposed budget

- e. **Consideration and action to request that the Montville Town Council deposit \$260,675 into a dedicated, non-lapsing account, the unexpended educational appropriation which is reflected in the auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. This amount does not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation for fiscal year 2017-18, as allowed under CT State Statute Sec. 10-248a.**

Motion: That the Board requests that the Montville Town Council deposit \$260,675 into a dedicated, non-lapsing account, the unexpended educational appropriation which is reflected in the auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. This amount does not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation for fiscal year 2017-18, as allowed under CT State Statute Sec. 10-248a.

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

Laurie Pallin: Kathy and Terry agreed upon this figure based upon the auditor's report. The majority of this year's surplus was in Employee Benefits (workers' comp., FICA, medicare, insurance) and a little was in salary. The use of these funds to pay the costs of the settlement agreement reached with the former superintendent is critical as this settlement was not in our 2018-2019 budget. Kathy and I are increasingly concerned about the 2018-2019 budget especially in the areas of out-placed students' tuition and transportation. We know subcontracted out-placed students' transportation is already over budget and as you know we had very little room for margin in this year's budget after cuts were made.

Sandra: Would this money have any impact on the money they owe us? Bob: No this has no impact on the MBR which is a separate issue with the state.

f. Discussion of future agenda items.

Interim Superintendent Laurie Pallin advised the Board of the following requests for future agenda items for their approval:

- 1. IT Dept. – State of our Network, May 2019 with a follow-up in the fall*
- 2. Lou Rubino, Murphy Student Enrichment Group Presentation, March, 2019*

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports:

- a. Policy** – *Jim Wood: The committee met with the E&E committee earlier this evening to discuss the new graduation requirements as described in Policy 6146 Credit requirements. Among other things the number of credits required for graduation would change effective for the class of 2023. There are also some changes to the course requirements. The committee approved the requirements to forward to the Board for final approval this evening.*
- b. Educational Evaluation** – *Dan Boisvert: The committee met in a joint meeting with the Policy Committee this evening as Jim explained.*
- c. Communications Committee** – *Monica Pomazon: Committee Chair Monica Pomazon reported that Laurie reviewed a flyer with survey information for distribution. Locations suggested for distribution in the community include: Raymond Hill Library, Herbs, Oakdale Pizza, Montville Hardware. Laurie reported that 20 people had already*

completed the survey and the link was posted on the website and through Twitter. Parents and teachers are also posting the link through social media, and Laurie has requested that it be publicized in the Montville Times.

Budget Forums: The first forum took place at Murphy last night. We had a nice dialogue.

Principals have put out invitations to parents for their budget forums. The committee discussed setting up seating at the forums in conversational groups rather than as a panel to better facilitate conversation. The forum will start with an explanation of the importance of informal dialogue and a review of the Board's vision statement. A sample of the handout to be distributed was reviewed, and committee members discussed thoughts about ways to lead the discussion.

Senior Center Budget Forum: It was proposed that the Board visit the Senior Center at their monthly meeting on March 1st at 10:00 A.M. Laurie has requested cookies from our bake shop class to bring to the visit.

CABE Lighthouse Project was discussed as noted earlier in this evening's agenda.

- *Laurie has reached out to the Montville Times (Lee Howard) to request publication of a short article regarding the budget survey with the link to the survey and a more regular feature with news from the district.*
 - *Board Meeting set up: Committee members were pleased by the change in the meeting layout but asked that we try to create more of a U-shape at the next meeting to allow all members to see one another.*
 - *MHS Boosters Sign Board: The committee discussed use of the message board to recognize more students, especially for academic accomplishments, and to offer congratulations to Montville Marvels.*
- d. **Montville Education Foundation-** *Laurie reported that the meeting conflicted with a budget meeting and she was unable to attend. Three grants were awarded to the district.*
- e. **LEARN-** *Robert Mitchell: First meeting will be on February 7th.*
- f. **CABE/NSBA** – *Robert Mitchell: I will represent CABE at the NSBA conference.*
- g. **Montville Youth Services Bureau** – *Dan Boisvert: we are on a winter hiatus; our next meeting will be on March 14, 2019.*

h. Student Representatives Reports

Ashley Seldon; Junior Class Representative

Update: MHS students are gearing up for midterms and stressing out, but what else is new.?

Report: After my meeting with the communications committee I hadn't realized the room for improvement on how MHS values academics. Obviously, it is understood that administration and teachers value academics, but it's not made publicly clear to students. At the high school we have pep rallies to cheer on the sports teams and on the athletic booster's board outside the school, there are notifications of upcoming games, which is completely necessary. However, I think everyone here can agree that academics is the foundation for a successful high school career. There is one end of the year ceremony at the high school, senior awards,

and the new “shout out” board done by the counseling department. Also, every now and then students get handed an honor roll certificate from their teacher. Which are all meaningful, but more can be done for MHS to show appreciation for our students’ hard work. At TYL your honor roll certificate was presented at an honor roll breakfast in front of your peers. At the end of the year you got to eat all you can eat ice cream and skip class to watch a movie. You would think it’s harder to achieve honor roll distinction at the high school level than at TYL, so it should be honored more often here.

There are different ways to go about this. Something our underclassmen awards don’t recognize is the kid who always does their homework despite having a B in the class. Or the kid who improves from a D to a C. As well as those “MVP’s” who are always focused and excel in that particular course. At the underclassmen awards teachers can only recognize one student for academic achievement per course and I’m sure they would like more opportunities to recognize more students. I was thinking instead of only one end of the year ceremony, why not have another one between semester 1 and 2 after midterms. Maybe beginning next year. And starting third quarter recognize students for their daily academic accomplishments. This can be done on the morning announcements with a “student of the day” segment and a column of The Chieftain could report on this as well.

Geetanjali Chouhan (Senior Class Representative)

I think it’s safe to say that this past break was much needed for all of the students. Over break, students were relaxing and enjoying this time with their families, working on catapults for physics until the early morning, studying for midterms, or simply catching up on rest. The break provided us with time to do anything we needed to do. And now we’re here; back in school.

Because school has started again and it’s getting close to midterms, teachers have begun to review everything from the past semester. Students have been diligently studying to pass their midterms, which I doubt they will fail due to our amazing teaching staff and supporting staff. I even feel comfortable with all my midterms and classes because I trust my teachers with my education. Not only are teachers doing an amazing job and should be congratulated but so should students. The students I see on a regular basis, my peers and friends, have been working incredibly hard to keep their grades up. Student recognition should be more prominent at Montville High School, as Ashley will discuss.

i. Other

None.

Item 10. Interim Superintendent’s Report

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

I continue to work on recruiting substitute nurses for the district. We currently only have one on our list. As you know I have entered into a contract with a staffing agency to fill the gaps until we can build up a pool of substitutes. We will be utilizing this agency for Tyl’s Washington DC trip so we are working to finalize that securement.

Laurie and I held two phone conferences with the DMG group since our last board meeting. We reviewed necessary information required and organized the list of staff responsibilities so that DMG can perform their audit of special education services and staffing and prepare a cost / benefit analysis for the Special Education Department.

In that same vein I have spent quite a bit of time working with an outside agency that we hired for support

services to adjust their data keeping system for a student attending a charter school. I was dissatisfied with the lack of supporting evidence they were providing.

I held our monthly School Community Support Team meeting today. We reviewed four students from two different families. The team has been impacted by the lack of support from the judicial system but it is our hope we will have a new member from the judicial system joining our team within the next few weeks.

Special Transportation continues to pose its problems so I have spent quite a bit of time handling in and out of district issues.

On a positive note our special education teacher at the high school raised \$650 through Donors Choose to purchase a coffee cart that her students will use to circulate throughout the school for staff to purchase coffee, tea, hot chocolate or cider for \$1.00 a cup. She has termed the process “Creating independence one cup at a time;” this will begin with the new semester.

Our Transition teacher also raised over \$600 selling handmade neck warmers and will use her money to purchase a program for her vocational coaches to use to monitor and record student data that she will be able to access on a daily basis.

b. Report from the Acting Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

BOE email and calendar invitations: We are having some difficulties with people accidentally setting up or canceling BOE meetings. Please know that the only invitations you receive come from Jen or me. The issue seems to occur when people use their phones to schedule meetings and they type in BOE meeting; the phone automatically sets up a meeting and invites everyone.

Montville Times: I have heard from Lee Howard at the Montville Times that not only are they interested in publishing work from student journalists but they are open to a monthly column from the school system. I plan to meet with him to discuss details further.

Lockdown Procedure: A subgroup of the safety committee met yesterday to revise our procedures for lockdowns, shelter in place, etc. Karen Aleshire met with us and we have developed templates that can then be edited as needed for each school’s plan. Individual schools will meet now to review and revise the building-based versions of the plan.

MHS Exams: Exams begin tomorrow. We are watching Friday’s weather carefully and have developed a contingency plan that will work for the high school and the bus garage. We will communicate that plan tomorrow if Friday’s weather still looks questionable

Lip Balm: Notice was sent out last Friday from Mohegan School that students could not bring or apply Chapstick at school. We have discussed this and we will allow elementary students to bring and apply Chapstick at their parents’ discretion. We do ask that parents help us ensure students do not share lip balm with others.

Transportation to Webb Rd: There has been some communication with parents of students who live on Webb Rd. I drove that road on a bus and was concerned about the fact that it is a one lane road with a very sharp turn on a steep hill. We initially called parents to ask them to have students walk to the bottom of the hill, but subsequently decided we will do this only when there are slippery conditions. The parents were called and agreed that, in the case of winter weather, the bus garage will call them and discuss alternate arrangements for drop off and pick up.

Survey Link: There was consternation regarding the posting of the survey on Facebook. Our goal was to get as many responses as possible, as of last night we had 170 responses. Responses are not required for every survey question, and there are areas for written responses.

Free and Reduced Lunch: The cafeteria manager is contacting all families to remind them that free and reduced lunch prices are available for any families who are currently not receiving paychecks due to the government shutdown. They simply need to complete a form.

Item 11. Information Items: Reminder of Upcoming Budget Forum Dates:

January 24th: Mohegan Budget Forum in the Mohegan Library

February 4th: Tyl, MHS and Palmer Budget Forum in the MHS Media Center

Board members are also invited to attend a play at Tyl -

February 1st at 7:00 P.M. A group of forty students will perform their original production, “Bandits” at Tyl Middle School.

Item 12. Citizen’s Comments (non-agenda items only)

None

Item 13. Executive session for the purpose of interviewing Laurie Pallin for the position of Superintendent and for discussion of upcoming litigation.

Motion: That the Board enters executive session and invites Laurie Pallin for a discussion regarding impending litigation and for the purpose of interviewing her for the position of Superintendent. ** Joe Aquitante was unable to remain for the executive session to interview Laurie.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Dana Ladyga
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

The board exited executive session at 8:55 A.M. with no votes taken.

Motion: That the Board appoints Laurie Pallin as Superintendent of Montville Public Schools.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Dana Ladyga
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0)

Item 14. Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.
Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____