

**SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM
May 30, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

2018-2019 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 5:01 p.m. All stood and pledged the flag. Board members present were: Robert Mitchell, James Wood, Sandra Berardy, Colleen Rix, Monica Pomazon, Dana Ladyga.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Administrators Paula LaChance, Kathy Lamoureux, Jill Mazzalupo, Amy Espinoza, Rob Alves, Denise Dunning, and Heather Sangermano, Student Board Representative Ashley Seldon, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay and Town Council Liaison Wills Pike. Board Members Joe Aquitante, Daniel Boisvert, and Steven Loiler were absent.

Item 2. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only)

None

Item 3. Discussion and possible action on transportation changes for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the adhoc transportation committee.

Motion: That the Board moves to improve transportation services to our public schools by increasing the number of walkers to school, expecting students to walk to group stops and eliminating transportation to RMMS, ISAAC, Three Rivers Middle College and Marine Magnet.

Moved by: Collen Rix
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie Pallin explained the discussions of the ad hoc transportation committee which consisted of parents, Board members, Kathy Lamoureux and Laurie.

Issues –

- Finite number of drivers
- New drivers require at least 3 months to be licensed
- Finite number of mini-busses / vans for special education transport

- Narrow time window between runs for high, middle and elementary schools
- Need to transport across whole town to special elementary school programs
- Number of special arrangements parents request
- Need to transport from across entire town to magnets and other choice schools.

By trying to meet everyone's needs and failing to, we are generating a lot of dissatisfaction. Possible solutions to address our current inability to transport all students in a timely fashion need to result in the use of fewer buses and shorter routes.

They include:

- Increasing the number of walkers (e.g. within Manor to Oakdale) based upon policy
Walking to Oakdale from streets within the Manor would free up an entire bus (56 students). We could replace the driver with one or two crossing guards as we have for the Murphy walkers. All students within the Manor would walk to Oakdale, longest walk is 0.7 miles. Board policy says students can walk up to one mile in grades K-5, 1.5 miles in 6-12.
- Reducing the number of students picked up at their houses and use more group stops as per policy. Each stop takes about 3 minutes.
Over time we have set up more and more door-to-door stops. We need to go back to the policy and have students in neighborhoods walk to group stops when safe to do so. We need to be consistent in enforcing this policy and assessing safety of stops (based upon ability to walk safely to the group stop, location of the group stop, and the number of students at the stop.) We know this change will be controversial and will use the summer to evaluate concerns and consistently implement the policy.
- Discontinuing elective transportation for choice schools (ISAAC, RMMS, Middle College Magnet, Marine Science Magnet)
We are not required to provide transportation to any of these sites (We do have to transport to Tech Schools, St. Bernards, and Ledyard Vo-Ag.)
We currently have 4 RMMS / ISAAC drivers who pick up students throughout town who could be freed up for MS, Elementary and PK runs.
New London currently picks students up at Montville Town Hall to transport to New London magnets. This model is used by LEARN in other area districts.
Kathy has spoken to the director at LEARN (Eileen Howley) and their director of transportation (Cathy Heath) and they have indicated that LEARN will set up transportation at a hub stop in Montville for RMMS students as they do in other area towns.

- Change start times and dismissal times to increase window between schools
This was reviewed but we believe we do not need to take this action if the other changes are approved.
- End practice of providing transportation based upon weekly schedule changes.
The student's home address is the pickup and drop off location unless a request is made in writing. We can accommodate different a.m. and p.m. stops on different days of the week, but not week by week changes or, except in rare occasions, more than two different a.m. and p.m. stops.

Colleen: This is for next year, not in the next few weeks? Superintendent Pallin: Correct, we just want to get the letter out as soon as possible to ensure that parents have ample time to plan accordingly.

Jim: I was at the meeting, and I thought the changes were very positive. Laurie, you have said you want to be successful and God knows you have tried. If we can reduce the Curtin bills then we should do what we can. I think that this really does make sense.

Dana: You had me at "we will save four buses." I think we have to make these decisions, which are well thought out. I think if you choose to put your children in a school outside of Montville, it is your responsibility to arrange for transportation.

Colleen: I know that these decisions will be made with safety in mind. I know we will field a minimal amount of complaints of those impacted.

Dana: It is efficient.

Laurie: The parents on the committee were very supportive of these changes; they realize transportation is not going well and changes need to be made to ensure it runs efficiently.

Item 4. Consideration and action to approve revisions to policy 5141.21; Administration of Medication as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy No. 5141.21; Administration of Medication, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Moved by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie explained: The existing policy was modified by the addition of a passage requiring training of bus drivers in identification of symptoms of anaphylaxis and administration of epinephrine by June 30, 2019.

Sandra expressed concerns about this change, but Laurie explained that it is required by legislation.

Item 5. Consideration and action to approve revisions to policy 5144.1; Physical Restraint/Seclusion as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy No. 5144.1; Physical Restraint/Seclusion, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Moved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie explained that this would be the adoption of the CABE model policy which includes necessary language around the time limits for restraint and seclusion and steps which need to be taken in cases where a student has multiple restraints or seclusions in a month, elimination of a requirement for physical restraint training for all staff, and reference to a separate policy regarding exclusionary time out.

Item 6. Consideration and action to adopt Policy 5144.2; Exclusionary Time Out as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy No. 5144.2; Exclusionary Time Out, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Moved by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie explained that this would be the adoption of a new policy regarding exclusionary time out which is a temporary, continuously monitored separation of a student in a non-locked setting for the purpose of calming or deescalating the student. This is different from seclusion which is involuntary confinement in which the student is physically prevented from leaving. The change in policy is based upon legislation.

Paula added: Exclusionary time out is a strategy that may be used and included in an IEP. Mrs. Berardy: Are these done by trained staff? Mrs. LaChance: This is for the student who just needs a break or a breather from a part of the class.

Item 7. Discussion of 2019-2020 Budget.

Superintendent Pallin; I wanted to update you on what has transpired after the Town Council Meeting. As you know at the Town Council meeting, our budget was set at \$38,691,433. One concern that was raised at that meeting was the fact that the looming question of MBR played a factor in the approval of the budget. At question is \$670,367 which the State is saying needs to be added to the 2018-2019 budget by June 30th. If that does not happen, a penalty would be put in place which includes forfeiture of future ECS funds in the amount of \$1,340,734.

The Town has been working with legislators for a change in legislation. If there was a change in legislation indicating that we do not need to meet MBR this year, then the \$670,367 would not be part of the equation; to date this has not happened. Letters have been written by the Mayor and our legislators on the town's behalf asking the State to waive the forfeiture so that the Town would not be faced with the \$1,340,734 penalty deduction to ECS funds in 2020- 2021.

I reached out to Kathy Demsey at the State Department of Education and arranged a conference call with Bob, the Mayor, Wills and other members of the Finance Committee, Kathy and me. We were hoping for a better understanding of what possible changes might happen in legislation and what possible waiver there might be so that we could try to make decisions going forward. We did not end up with a lot of information from that call. We were told that the legislative session will close on June 5th. At that point we will know if additional legislation was written to change the current law regarding MBR and penalties. The other thing we were told is that the State will not make a decision about a penalty until after the MBR is not met. Kathy Demsey was clear that it is a significant gamble for the Town to not pay the \$670,367 by June 30.

After that phone call, it was agreed that we will wait until the legislative session closes on June 5th so we will have a better understanding of the options for going forward. We will then work with the Finance Committee determine how to navigate a lack of change in legislation if that is the case.

We are currently in a holding pattern and I don't believe we can talk about further reductions to the budget until we see where that ends.

I would love to have from you any questions, thoughts or comments you have regarding the budget prior to June 18th. This will allow Kathy and me time to research answers to your questions.

Monica: I think it is smart to wait until the next meeting to discuss this. Colleen: I don't think we have a choice.

Superintendent Pallin: Unfortunately I agree though this means that we will not be able to inform faculty about transfers until after the school year ends.

Reminder: CABE Lighthouse Workshop is scheduled for June 20, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

Item 8. Citizens' comments

None.

Item 9. Adjournment.

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by: Collen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education