

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
June 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.**

2018-2019 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, Colleen Rix, Monica Pomazon, Sandra Berardy, Daniel Boisvert, and Dana Ladyga. Board members Joe Aquitante and Steven Loiler were absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Heather Sangermano and Rob Alves, and Town Council Liaison Wills Pike.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

Item 3. Presentation: A) State of our Network; Nic Savoie: *Board Chair Robert Mitchell introduced IT Director, Nic Savoie.*

The Informational Technology Department provides district-wide support for all information systems development, installation, and integration for Montville Public Schools. IT also provides support for the District's application systems and instructional and business operations. We provide technical and systems support for the planning, acquisition, implementation, training, and maintenance for the data networks, computers, and business and student applications. Programming, problem determination and resolution, training, customer service, and preventive maintenance of systems software are the core. It is IT's responsibility to keep the District's data safe and to provide redundancy in the event of a catastrophic event or equipment failure. Nic outlined the number of devices in each building and their locations and ages and explained future plans for his department.

Summer Plans for IT include:

- *Replace Firewall*
- *New Wireless for TYL (ERATE)*
- *Security Camera's*
- *Update Door Access Software*

- *PowerSchool*
- *Switch Replacement*
- *Teacher Lease Laptops for Elementary School*
- *Data Privacy Contracts*

Other future plans include:

- *Web Filter*
- *Servers*
- *Fiber*
- *Switches*
- *Elementary Wireless*
- *Student Devices*

Dan Boisvert: How many help desk tickets come in on a given day? Nic: It varies, but about 10-15 per day. Dan: Why aren't we looking at a lease option for all computers? Nic: We are because we could never afford to buy 500 computers at one time. I am currently working on a grant process with Dell for a 1:1 solution. Dan: The day is coming when the Board of Ed is going to have to come up with a lot of cash to make updates. Laurie: We are exploring the options for leasing and using less expensive devices such as Chromebooks to replace aging computers.

Sandra: Any idea what the costs to upgrade our aging computers will be? Nic: A Chromebook costs about \$200. The High School alone if we were to go to 1:1 would be about \$200,000. Currently we use carts in classrooms instead of a 1:1 solution. Dan: If a student brings in their own device, do they have access to the Cloud on their own device? Nic: This year they do, after this year they may not. Dana: My daughter goes to Murphy and she does a lot of her work through Google; is that helping? Nic: That is Google Classroom, you can log in from any computer and that is a good solution for students who have wireless and computers at home.

B) Presentation of MHS NEASC Report

Principal Heather Sangermano: We received the MHS NEASC report which resulted from the October visit at the end of May. However the letter notifying us of the committee's action on the report is anticipated in mid-July. The complete report is in OneNote for you.

The report provides commendations and recommendations. At this time we are required to present the report to you and the community.

Commendations include recognition of

- *Our inclusive process for the development and review of the school's core values and learning expectations*

- *Our common curriculum template and problem solving initiative that emphasizes inquiry and high order thinking skills*
- *Our focused study hall model and the collaboration between content teachers and special education teachers to address individual needs of students*
- *Our wide variety of courses for college and career readiness*
- *Our collaboration among principal, superintendent and school board for the work on a safe and positive school climate and facility*

Recommendations include the need to:

- *Clarify the relationship between problem solving, learning scales and learning expectations*
- *Ensure the written curriculum is fully aligned with taught curriculum in all content areas and that we develop a more formal process for the review of learning scales and assessment data*
- *Provide additional opportunities for cross-disciplinary learning*
- *Increase formal opportunities for teachers to collaborate on assessment and analysis of data*

Next steps:

*The July action letter will identify work for a 2 year progress report and any special reports
We have developed a follow up committee to start this work*

The NEASC 2011 standards have been changed and new standards will be in place for our next visit. The 7 standards have been streamlined to 5. The major themes are a culture of learning (environment, instruction and curriculum from the learner's perspective), a growth mindset and a vision of the graduate (holist view of the expectations, transferable skills, content understanding and disposition)

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

John Baukus, 23 Saltbox Lane: In regards to item 7c, what will happen to the Guard with this proposed change? Also, regarding Pay to Participate for Drama kids, it is my understanding that the drama club is funded completely by the Drama Club. I don't feel like this correlates to Pay to Participate for sports programs.

Item 5: Letters and communications.

None

Item 6. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix

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

Motion: To amend object numbers on agenda items 7g, h and i. Item 7g benefits accounts change from 213-222 to 204-222 (to include unemployment benefits), item 7h special education accounts change to 560-563 from 590-593, and 7i change to 560-563 from 590-593, and also for 7i, transfer the funds to accounts 111-121 (to include leave pay).

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0)

Item 7. New business.

- a. **Consideration and action to approve the Paraprofessional wage reopener for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the negotiating committee.**

Motion: That the Board approves the wages as recommended by the Paraprofessional negotiating committee.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carries (vote 7 -0)

Laurie: Monica represented the Board in this wage reopener for the fourth year of the contract. As you recall, paraeducators spoke before the Board last month as we were in the midst of negotiating because their perception was that raises given to other bargaining groups were much higher than we were proposing. In fact they had misread the contracts and when we showed the actual raises given to other groups, they agreed to accept a 1.5% raise increase and this has been ratified by the union.

- b. **Consideration and action to approve an increase for lunch prices of \$.30 for all school levels to ensure compliance with the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education under the State Department of Education, with the prices effective at the start of the 2019-2020 school year (Elementary \$3.00, Middle; \$3.25, High School: \$3.40)**

Motion: That the Board approves an increase for lunch prices of \$.30 for all school levels to ensure compliance with the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education under the State Department of Education, with the prices effective at the start of the 2019-2020 school year (Elementary \$3.00, Middle; \$3.25, High School: \$3.40)

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Laurie: The state has increased the reimbursement for free and reduced lunches by 10 cents to \$3.00. By law we can't supplement our paid lunch program with free /reduced funds. We are proposing increasing the cost by 30 cents at each level to get the elementary price to the Free/reduced reimbursement of \$3.00 and keep the current increment between the three levels. Based upon a review of increases in local lunch prices in nine area districts, we believe these increases are reasonable and will ensure we are in compliance with SDE Bureau of Health / Nutrition. At the high school and middle school our prices would be equal to or lower than 5 local districts and at the elementary school they would be equal to or lower than 6 districts, higher than 3.

Monica: Do we subsidize this program? Laurie: Yes by a little. Colleen: Is this program solvent? Laurie: We subsidize the program by a small amount. Dana: So we have to raise the prices in order for the group of students who received free or reduced lunch to continue to receive it? Kathy: Yes, we cannot subsidize the program with free and reduced reimbursements.

c. Discussion and action to end the MHS competitive after school Marching Band program and replace the program with a Pep Band.

Motion: That the Board moves to amend the motion to: The Board moves to suspend the MHS competitive after school Marching Band program and to replace the program with a Pep Band.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Motion: That the Board moves to suspend the MHS competitive after school Marching Band program and to replace the program with a Pep Band.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Laurie: Due to the projected low enrollment of students in the after school competitive marching band, the music department does not believe they can run the program. Only 20-23 students have expressed interested in participating and the range of instruments they play would not allow the balance to play the necessary music to compete. The music boosters were represented at the E&E committee meeting and they are in agreement that this change, stating that while regrettable, it is necessary. I have also received an email

of parent support. Students who wished to could participate in another area district's marching band. (We did that this year with Winter Guard where 6 MHS students competed with Plainfield.) The marching band would be replaced with a pep band which would play at football games and parades and be comprised of instrumental music students from the school-day program. The pep band would be open to middle school students as well. Area districts which no longer have marching bands include: Griswold, Stonington, Waterford, N. Stonington, Colchester, and Old Lyme. Locally the only competitive marching bands are at Fitch, Plainfield, NFA and East Lyme. It is expected there would be about a \$15,000 savings as a result of this change.

Dan Boisvert: There were some concerns expressed by the E&E committee because we try to save as many programs as possible, especially in the arts. Monica: How many students are in the Guard? John Baukus: We had six girls go to Plainfield. Jim: I thought the feeder program from Tyl was going to help build the instrument program? Laurie: Yes, this is not a new problem, we have been trying for years to ensure the feeder programs at the elementary schools and Tyl result in larger numbers of instrumental music students at MHS. We have an excellent middle school band teacher, and Jeff has been working on his own time, going to Tyl to try and build the program but his efforts have been unsuccessful. We have researched when the best time to begin lessons is, and research shows that the earlier the students begin an instrument the more likely they are to give up. Dan: One of my concerns is that three years from now things could change, and there may be a call for the Marching Band again; are the instruments going to be stored? Laurie: Absolutely. Sandra: Maybe the Boosters could help to reinvigorate the program? I hate to see the loss of the program. Dana: I agree with Dan and Sandra but Mr. Ventres himself said that it is difficult, and I respect his judgement. It is sad but the money for marching band should be redistributed among the entire music program. Dan: I respect Jeff's opinion also, but the next band director may have a different opinion. Mrs. Pallin: Jeff did a lot of work researching this program over the last six months, and recently gave his notice to go onto a bigger district which is a huge opportunity for him. Colleen: I have faith in the music department districtwide; they will ensure the students have opportunities to participate in other locations. Laurie: I want to be sure you understand the cost of the marching band is about \$45,000. Jim: Could we suspend the marching band? Bob; Yes you could move to amend the motion.

Jim: How is the search for a replacement for Jeff going? Heather: We have a committee and 23 applicants.

d. Discussion and action to adopt Pearson Chemistry textbook.

Motion: That the Board approves the purchase of the Pearson Chemistry textbook as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Sandra Berardy
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Dan Boisvert: The current chemistry textbook has been in use for about 20 years. Over time, we have replaced worn out copies and are currently using a number of different editions. This new text is much better aligned to the NGSS and provides better online resources and online support for students. The cost is \$10,316.78.

Laurie: To be clear on the money for that, this request was first placed last year and we have been holding it to ensure we can afford it

**e. Discussion and action to accept Town's Appropriation for 2019-2020
Education Budget.**

**Motion: That the Board moves to accept Town's appropriation for 2019-2020
Education Budget.**

Proposed by: Collen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Opposed: Sandra Berardy
Vote: Carries (vote 7-1-0)

Laurie: Yesterday we learned that the CSDE legal council decided to interpret Section 288 of the implementer bill to reflect the legislative intent which was to forgive towns the under-appropriation of MBR for the 2018-2019 school year. That means that the town will not need to pay an additional \$670,367 to make up the shortfall to MBR. It is my recommendation that the education budget which was passed by the Town Council of \$38,691,433 should be accepted as our final budget total (a reduction from the Board's budget of \$39,438,204).

I spoke with Town Council Chair Tom McNally at the end of May to ask about agenda items for the June Town Council meeting, and at that time we discussed next steps based upon various MBR scenarios. Based upon that conversation, I will write a letter to Town Council Chair Tom McNally asking the Town Council to act on our request to place \$260,675 into a dedicated, non-lapsing account based upon the BOE's motion from January 2019. Also, given that the town approved our appropriation when they believed that they might have to fund this additional \$670,367, I would like to ask Councilor McNally if the Town Council might reconsider its education budget appropriation. We will schedule a special meeting to go determine the cuts which the Board would like to make to meet the appropriation. I would like to determine if we can use the 1% account or receive an increase appropriation before finalizing the specific budget items.

**f. Consideration and action to transfer \$5,000 from unemployment account
(204) to dues (810) to fund overages in the student activity account.**

Motion: That the Board moves to transfer \$5,000 from unemployment account (204) to dues (810) to fund overages in the student activity account.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Laurie: We are currently over budget in athletic spending. The entrance fees for events have not brought in the funds necessary to pay costs associated with the athletic events. We are slightly under budget in unemployment. As you know, this is an area we reduced in next year's budget.

g. Consideration and action to transfer \$215,000 from employee benefits accounts (204-222) to purchased services transportation account (510).

Motion: That the Board moves to transfer \$215,000 from employee benefits accounts (204-222) to purchased services transportation account (510).

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Laurie: As we have communicated throughout the year, we are significantly over budget for our outsourced transportation services. As we expected, we do have funds in the benefits accounts (health insurance, Medicare, and MERS) which can be transferred to cover these costs. These unexpended funds are due to an increase in the number of people taking waivers for the health insurance with the switch to the high deductible plan and fewer bus drivers than anticipated leaving us with reduced costs for Medicare and MERS.

h. Consideration and action to transfer \$150,000 from Special Education accounts (560-563) to Purchased Services Accounts.

Motion: That the Board moves to transfer \$150,000 from Special Education accounts (560-563) to Purchased Services Accounts.

Proposed by: Collen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Laurie: As projected, we are under budget in special education tuition due primarily to 2 out-placed students who are no longer in the district. We need to transfer these funds to purchased services because we are over budget for services for special education students who are attending magnet schools and other purchased services (the majority of this will go to 321).

- i. **Consideration and action to transfer \$50,000 from tuitions accounts (560-563) to salaries accounts (111-121).**

Motion: That the Board moves to transfer \$50,000 from tuitions accounts (560-563) to salaries accounts (111-121).

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

Laurie: We also need to transfer funds from special education tuitions into the salary account to fund the settlement agreement. We are not over-budget as much as projected in the salary account because of the high number of teacher leaves this year.

8. Unfinished Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action to set a special meeting date to adjust the 2019-2020 Education Budget to meet the Town's appropriation**

Motion: That the Board sets July 11th at 6:00 P.M. as a special meeting to adjust the 2019-2020 Education Budget.

Proposed by: Collen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carries (vote 7-0)

9. Committee and liaison reports:

a. Policy- Jim: *Vin Mustaro met with the committee to review the mandated policies as well as the process for updating the district policy manual. We discussed a parent email regarding the school visitors policy, and Laurie will send a letter responding to the parent as a result of this discussion. The parent wanted to be able to participate in recess and in school assemblies meant for students. Parents are not invited to these assemblies and there are plenty of programs open to parents to attend.*

Laurie: I could not be happier that we made the decision to work with CAFE to update our policy manual. Vin has already sent three series of policies for us to review. Vin has done a tremendous amount of work. He went through the process and talked to me and the Policy Committee about our roles in adopting and reviewing these policies. Once the policy revision process is complete, CAFE will inform us when there are changes in legislation that require change to policy, and these changes do not have to come to the Board for approval because they are legislative requirements.

b. Educational Evaluation- *Dan: The committee met this evening to consider the proposed change to the Marching Band program, ending this program and changing it to a Pep Band program, and to approve the purchase of the Pearson Chemistry Book.*

- c. Communications Committee-** *Monica: No meeting was held this month.*

d. Montville Education Foundation- *Colleen: MEF held their family fun day at Camp Oakdale, we are looking for donations for the Gold Tournament and Mr. Cushing and Mr. Peterson received grants.*

e. LEARN- *Bob: We had our breakfast meeting; I am getting a feel for what the LEARN Board does. Dr. Howley has left, the assistant director Kathleen was hired as the new director. We heard a lot about the magnet schools, including two on the campus of Goodwin College and the new one on Ocean Ave. in New London.*

f. CABE/NSBA- *Bob: it is early registration for the convention, please return your registration form to Jen if you plan to attend. CABE has requested Board Resolutions, the deadline is August 5th.*

g. Montville Youth Services Bureau- *Dan: We had our last meeting and will reconvene in the fall. A Psychological Resiliency Campaign was launched, for the mental health of youth. They also launched the For What's Next Program, which is an extra health class which will count towards a health credit. The curriculum has been shared with the high school for their consideration. The Vaping presentation was not as well attended as they wanted, but the students that were here participated fully. MYSB received a \$5,000 grant for Opioid education.*

h. Other *None*

10. Superintendent's Report

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

As the year came to an end I spent time meeting with staff, finalizing year-end evaluations and correcting errors for state reports.

I worked closely with ESY teachers and nurses to ensure they have all the necessary IEP information to ensure goals and objectives are being addressed. I worked with Kerry at the bus garage to finalize transportation for our ESY and out of district students as well.

This year for preschool was different in that we have several students turning three over the summer which means they must be evaluated and PPT's held prior to their third birthday. We had some juggling with teachers in order to accomplish this.

Last Tuesday I attended a legal forum at Shipman and Goodwin on legislative updates. Some of the areas covered were an Act concerning the provisions for 504 students. There was no specific legal requirement in the past for the LEA to be fiscally responsible for these students when attending Magnet schools. Now the LEA in which the student resides must pay the cost of services for these students.

The other was an Act concerning Transitional Services for children with Autism which goes into effect July 1, 2019. The act lowers the mandatory transition planning age to 14 from 15. However it does not require Dept. of Rehabilitation Services to lower the age of their transitional services from 16 – 14.

Last Thursday we had a lovely moving on ceremony for the three Transition student who have aged out.

b. Report from the Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

The close of the school year was action-packed. All of the promotions and graduations went extremely well and provided students and families with meaningful closure as they transition to the next stage in their lives.

On the last day of school I had the pleasure of joining Murphy teachers and Amy at their grade 5 “clap out.” The emotions of students and teachers as they said good bye for the summer was an amazing reminder of how important our teachers are to their students. As the buses were coming in and students were leaving, there were a number of students and staff crying.

Transportation: I have heard very little in terms of the changes we made. I spoke with the interim principal at Isaac and suggested they reach out to LEARN to see if they might be able to arrange shared transportation from the Hub Stop.

Yesterday we began summer curriculum work. We are focused on NGSS science units, revising Math to include more of the topics taught on the SAT, creating a new SAT prep curriculum, and working on meeting NEASC recommendations for curriculum changes to name a few projects.

We are also working on contracts for employees whose contractual year begins on July 1. The average raise for unaffiliated workers is about 1.5%. Kathy and I tried to keep these raises in line with contractual increases as well as with research into the pay for this work at other districts.

Monica: Are you going to Algebra in 9th and 10th grade: Laurie: Our level one students take Algebra I in 8th grade, so Geometry is appropriate for them in grade 9. For our level 3 students, they will take Algebra I freshman year, sophomore year will most likely include half a year of algebra and half a year of geometry next year as we phase in some programmatic changes. MHS is hosting a meeting of principals and area math teachers to share ideas about changes to meet the SAT Career and College Readiness standards in math and hopefully we can work together on curriculum revisions.

11. Information Items

- a. Next regular Board Meeting; July 16, 2019 CABE Lighthouse Workshop beginning at 5:00 P.M.**

- b. In accordance with Policy No. 1101.1(a) Parent Involvement Reports may be found in your OneNote binders.**

Item 12. Citizens’ Comments.

None

Item 13. Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix

Seconded by: Monica Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____