

MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
April 21, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

Item 1. Call to order.

Chair Sandra Berardy called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Sandra Berardy, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, Kendrick Strickland, and James Wood. Donald Dykes and David Rowley were absent.

Also in attendance was Superintendent of Schools David B. Erwin, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Administrators, Lorilyn Caron, Mary Jane Dix, Thomas Giard III, Mark Johnson, Jeff Newton, Eileen Richmond, Tatiana Patten and Head teacher Jason Daly; Student Board Representatives Raena Beetham and Jake Alexander, Town Councilors Gary Murphy and Rosetta Jones, Board Liaison, and State Representatives Betsy Ritter and Kevin Ryan.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation A) Montville Marvels.

It is recommended that the Board of Education acknowledge the following students, teachers, and community members in the areas noted:

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Principal Thomas W. Giard, III recognized Jill Paglino for taking the lead in organizing the Community Resource Fair. Tsering Dolma was also recognized for helping fellow Tibetan students adjust to the community and the school and for her hard work in learning the English language. Board member Jim Wood presented these certificates.

Montville School: Assistant Principal Tatiana Patten recognized the Montville High School Drama Club, represented by President Jake Alexander and Vice President Haley Drago, for the outstanding spring musical production of Beauty and the Beast. Jessica Bennett was also recognized for becoming the first female wrestler in state history to achieve over 100 career wins. Board members Jim Wood and Tom McNally presented these certificates.

Palmer Academy: Principal Sheila Reagan recognized Kassaundra Pinal for her positive attitude and sense of community and for sharing her cooking talents at Palmer Academy. Board member Ken Strickland presented this certificate.

Presentation B) Presentation: World Language Department: Authentic Experiences Montville High School: Thomas Amanti, Tatiana Patten, Victoria Galarza-Clifford, Jaclyn Brush, Rachel McCabe, and Alexandra Plack.

T. Patten introduced the World Language Department teacher Victoria Galarza-Clifford, and students Jaclyn Brush, Rachel McCabe and Elaine Edgecomb who gave a presentation on Authentic Experiences. The students spoke highly of Ms. Galarza-Clifford who they said motivated her students to learn and speak English. They also

spoke about what it was like visiting Mexico, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica and having to rely on their knowledge from the classroom and each other to communicate in these countries. V. Galarza-Clifford narrated a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted some of the sights of the Mexico, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica trips. She said that the next trip would be to Argentina.

Motion: That the Board moves up Item 8c on the Agenda.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8c. It is recommended that the Board of Education listen to a presentation regarding the proposed field trip to Argentina from April 9 – 16, 2010, and approve this trip in order to begin to involve parents and students.

Motion: That the Board approves the April 9 – 16, 2010, class trip to Argentina in order to begin to involve parents and students.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously

Presentation C) Legislative Discussion: Senators Edith Prague and Andrea Stillman, Representatives Tom Reynolds, Elizabeth Ritter, and Kevin Ryan.

D. Erwin introduced State Representatives Elizabeth Ritter and Kevin Ryan who gave the Board an update on the 2009-2011 State budget to date. K. Ryan stated that ECS funds for the Town would be held level. He also said that legislators review the budget as an ongoing project. He added that since the initial budget was completed earlier than normal, he hoped that the final budget would be finished by the June 3rd deadline. B. Ritter referenced the fax sent earlier by E. Prague when speaking about the current estimates for State aid. She said that Governor Rell and the legislature were now negotiating on the budget. She added that estimates would be forwarded to the Towns as quickly as possible so that their budgets and revenue collection processes could be finalized.

D. Erwin asked K. Ryan to talk about supplement versus supplant as it relates to the Federal stimulus funds. K. Ryan discussed the same and explained that there is a formula that is used for the appropriation to Towns. Also discussed was the cut to the Pequot Fund and its impact on Town budgets. It was said that the Federal Stimulus Program is strictly run and the State Legislature has no involvement in the process. Some grant allotments have been dispersed for shovel-ready projects that would complete within 60 days.

Item 3. Citizens' comments.

There were no citizens' comments.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

D. Erwin referenced information that the Norwich YMCA would close by the end of April. The closure would end the Murphy School after-school program. D. Erwin said that the district would work with other agencies to provide before and after school care for the students, at no cost to the district. Unfortunately, there were not enough students to sustain an after-school program once the YMCA closes on April 30, 2009. D. Erwin also said that MHS is the recipient of a \$10,000 Carl D. Perkins grant awarded by the State Department of Education that will be used to implement the robotics program in September 2009.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 5b. Budget Projection – Kathy Lamoureux.

D. Erwin said that the 2008-2009 budget projection was being closely monitored. He said that MERF would increase from 7% to 7.5% in 2009-2010. Tuition costs have been good with help from D. Maynard. The district is responsible for paying the \$6,000 in transportation costs for a student to attend a technical school outside our geographical area. D. Erwin also spoke about the costs to maintain the high school athletic field. He said that a dedicated custodian is not assigned to the field. He also said that the costs for maintaining the field should be considered to be shared since it is open for use by the public. D. Erwin handed out fee schedules for field use that had been used in other districts. He also mentioned donated fencing that was being installed around the ball field.

Motion: That the Board moves Item 8b on its Agenda.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8b. It is recommended that the Board of Education review and approve the Educational Technology Plan for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012.

D. Erwin introduced Nic Savoie and congratulated him on being a new father in the past two weeks. N. Savoie said that the Educational Technology Plan was drafted and completed with the help of a committee within a month, late January to February of this year. He said the plan is “to build on what we have and maintain current levels of technology.” He also spoke about *Open Source* that he said was a way to elevate technology without added costs. It was mentioned that the virtual high school was eliminated from the budget for this year. As for upgrading computers, N. Savoie said that on a 5-year plan, 150 new ones would be needed. He also said that one school within the

district is on a 6-year plan. It is hoped that Federal stimulus money can be used for new computers. The Committee was thanked for its work on the plan.

Motion: That the Board approves the Educational Technology Plan for July 1, 2009 – June 20, 2012.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

The Student Board Representatives Raena Beetham and Jake Alexander presented a report as follows:

1. The ECE Human Development class competed in a poster completion on April 1 at UConn.
2. The Environmental Club collected over 1,000 recyclable batteries during this month's battery drive. The Club plans to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.
3. An End of the Year Bash is being organized by Student Government for May 16. Activities and a dance are scheduled for that date.
4. MHS has four finalists, Harold Limkemann, Richard Riden, Gloria Creamer, and Lauren Specht, out of 12 for the Connecticut State University System IMPAC Young Writers Award. Winners will be announced at a reception on April 28.
5. The FBLA ran a coin collection drive for the March of Dimes Foundation. They are also planning their second annual talent show.
6. On April 5th, the MHS Robotics team competed in the Connecticut Vex Championship. They were first in two of the eight rounds and won the Innovate Award that is given to the team that demonstrates the strongest combination of ingenuity and innovation in designing their Vex robot.
7. Spring sports have begun and teams are off to a great start.
8. The Connecticut Association of Schools recognized senior Laura Davis for her musical talent and senior Heather Scoggins for her artistic skills.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

a. Review 2009-2010 budget issues to date.

D. Erwin reported on the issues to date regarding the 2009-2010 budget. He said that the public hearing for the education budget would be on Wednesday, April 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The public hearing for Town government would be Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. D. Erwin said that the Board had approved a budget with an increase of 3.81%; but the Mayor is recommending an increase of 0.81%. He said that with the Town's recommendation, the Board would need to find \$1,066,000 plus an additional \$25,000 to cover increased MERF costs, unknown at the time the budget was approved. D. Erwin mentioned potential budget cuts to offset the proposed budget decrease. Four elementary and one middle school position will be cut due to decreased enrollment. Also discussed was whether to fill the assistant superintendent position. The discussion regarding personnel was tabled for executive session.

Motion: That the Board tables the discussion to executive session regarding personnel matters.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8. New Business

- a. Appraisal of a field trip: Tyl Middle School, Nature's Classroom, Greenfield, New Hampshire, 60 students, October 12-16, 2009.**

The Board was apprised of this trip.

- b. It is recommended that the Board of Education review and approve the Educational Technology Plan for July 1, 2009 – June 20, 2012.**

This item was moved up on the Agenda.

- c. It is recommended that the Board of Education listen to a presentation regarding the proposed field trip to Argentina from April 9 – 16, 2010, and approve this trip in order to begin to involve parents and students.**

This item was moved up on the Agenda.

- d. It is recommended that the Board of Education schedule a reception to honor its retirees on May 19, at 6:00 p.m., and approve the writing of resolutions for the retirees.**

Motion: That the Board schedules a reception for retirees on May 19, at 6:00 p.m. and approves the writing of resolutions for the retirees.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

There are seven (7) retirees, one elementary, for this year.

- e. It is recommended that the Board of Education authorize the superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative grants and state and federal grants for various educational programs.**

Motion: That the Board authorizes the superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative grants and state and federal grants for various educational programs.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

- f. It is recommended that the Board of Education confirm the date of Thursday, June 18, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. for the Montville High School graduation.

Motion: That the Board confirms Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. for the Montville High School graduation.

Approved by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

The 8th grade ceremony will be Wednesday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m.

- g. It is recommended that Board of Education approve the grade 3 math textbook, *Math Connects*, as approved by the Educational Evaluation Committee at its March 17, 2009, meeting.

Motion: That the Board approves the grade 3 math textbook, *Math Connects*, as approved by the Educational Evaluation Committee at its March 17, 2009, meeting.

Approved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

The Policy Committee did not meet this month. A meeting will be scheduled for next month to discuss the harassment policy.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (David Rowley).

D. Reed-Iler reported that changes will be made to the child care program curriculum to align with that of Three Rivers Community College. She also reported that a Microsoft 2007 textbook has been approved by the Committee. These textbooks will be brought to the full Board for approval at its May meeting. D. Reed-Iler also said that the Committee reviewed eligibility for school sports. She said that 585 students, 70% of the school population, enrolled in sports this year. There was no interest by the Committee for pay for play. Low enrollment classes were also discussed. These classes will be revisited once the upcoming budget is set.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that the MEF would hold a 2009 Inaugural Golf Tournament on Monday, August 10. The goal is to raise \$5,000 that will be used to issue grants twice a year for all the schools.

d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that LEARN is working on a grant for child development and student needs. She also reported that the Marine Science High School at Eastern Point School in Groton is on target.

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the next CABA meeting is Wednesday, April 29, 2009. He handed out information and a written report regarding the NSBA conference that he attended in San Diego on April 4 – 7. Some items discussed were outsourcing non-school related programs, customer service in schools, and the formation of a Citizens Audit Committee to have nonaffiliated persons review school budgets and spending habits.

D. Erwin added that a representative would be demonstrating the paperless Board of Education system to him.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon/James Wood).

T. Pomazon reported that the Committee met on April 15 and approved the payment of bills. He also reported that tiles in the promenade at the high school and the concrete beneath would be tested to determine why the tiles are not adhering. The new Murphy School well system was installed and landscaping issues remain to be completed. D. Erwin added that the Board would accept the Palmer Academy and the Oakdale Schools as complete at its next meeting.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally).

T. McNally reported no meeting was held by the MetroCast Communication Advisory Council.

h. Administrative Monthly Reports.

The Board received these reports in their packets.

i. Other.

There was no other information to report.

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Maynard.

D. Maynard reported that she and E. Richmond met with the district's attorney to review some outstanding cases. She also reported that she is working on a Readiness Grant for pre-school at Murphy and Oakdale Schools.

b. Monthly Update.

D. Erwin requested a sub-committee for three (3) expulsion hearings on April 29, at 3:45 p.m. T. McNally, K. Strickland, and S. Berardy will sit on the Committee. J. Wood agreed to serve as an auxiliary if needed.

Item 11. Information items.

Information items were not reported.

Item 12. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

R. Jones, Town Council Board Liaison, commented that the Town has been as generous as possible with the Board. She said that with the drop in the casino funds to the State, Pilot funds will also decrease. R. Jones also commented that a lot of Towns are asking for concessions to advert job losses. She also added that some schools have introduced pay-for-play with their sports programs. R. Jones also said that the Finance Committee met today and the proposed decrease for the Board budget may stand. She also mentioned that Governor Rell will release more monies for regionalization and asked has the Board discussed services and cooperative partnerships to defray costs.

D. Reed-Iler mentioned that the Town will have no layoffs to cover the budget, at least at this point in the process. D. Erwin commented that the Board has not discussed concessions. He said Boards must have a firm budget amount in place first. He added that the pay-for-play was discussed by the Board several years ago. He said that there were mixed reviews and pay-for-play comes with other accounting issues.

Town Councilor G. Murphy commented that he felt not enough money was added to the school budget. He said any stimulus funds would not be seen until late this year or next year and that money would go into the Town General Fund.

S. Berardy commented that the Town Council does not dictate where the Board should make cuts. But, cuts are problematic because people get used to a level of service.

Motion: That the Board goes into executive session at 8:28 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and invites the Superintendent of Schools to attend.

Approved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board comes out of executive session at 9:01 p.m..

Approved by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board makes the motion to add the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools to the agenda.

Approved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion: That the Board approves the appointment of Brian C. Levesque as Assistant Superintendent of School, effective July 1, 2009, at a salary to be determined.

Approved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Ken Strickland
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Approved by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Todd Pomazon
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary
Approved _____