

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
November 17, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Interim Superintendent James Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. He congratulated the candidates who ran and won in the recent Town election. New Board members Carrie Baxter and Steve Loiler were introduced.

Board members present were Carrie Baxter, Sandra Berardy, Steve Loiler, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, David Rowley, and James Wood.

Also present were Interim Superintendent of Schools James Connelly, Assistant Superintendent Brian Levesque, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Lorilyn Caron, Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Thomas Giard III, Mark Johnson, Jeff Newton, Tatiana Patten, Sheila Reagan, and Eileen Richmond, Student Board Representatives Jason Alexander and Jessica Semmelrock; Town Council members Chair Donna Jacobson, Vice-chair Ellen Hillman and Liaison Gary Murphy

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers.

Motion: That David Rowley is nominated for Chair of the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Robert Mitchell
Seconded by: Thomas McNally

Motion: That Sandra Berardy is nominated for Chair of the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: James Wood

The nominations were closed on a motion.

Vote by hand to elect David Rowley as Chair of the Board of Education:

Yay Vote: Carrie Baxter, Steve Loiler, David Rowley, Thomas McNally, Robert Mitchell

Nay Vote: Sandra Berardy, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, James Wood

Final Vote: 5-4

Vote by hand to elect Sandra Berardy as Chair of the Board of Education.

Yay Vote: Sandra Berardy, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, James Wood

Nay Vote: Carrie Baxter, Steven Loiler, David Rowley, Thomas McNally, Robert Mitchell

Final Vote: 4-5

David Rowley was elected as Board Chair.

Motion: **That Thomas McNally is nominated as Secretary of the Board of Education.**

Proposed by: Robert Mitchell
Seconded by: Steven Loiler

Motion: **That Todd Pomazon is nominated as Secretary of the Board of Education.**

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Deborah Reed-Iler

The nominations were closed on a motion.

Vote by hand to elect Thomas McNally as Secretary of the Board of Education:

Yay Vote: Carrie Baxter, Steven Loiler, David Rowley, Thomas McNally, Robert Mitchell

Nay Vote: Sandra Berardy, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, James Wood

Final Vote: 5-4

Vote by hand to elect Todd Pomazon as Secretary of the Board of Education.

Yay Vote: Sandra Berardy, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, James Wood

Nay Vote: Carrie Baxter, Steven Loiler, David Rowley, Thomas McNally, Robert Mitchell

Final Vote: 4-5

Thomas McNally was elected as Board Secretary.

Congratulations were extended to all. D. Rowley entertained Board Committee assignments as follows:

Educational Evaluation Committee

Carrie Baxter
Robert Mitchell
Todd Pomazon
Deborah Reed-Iler

Policy Committee

James Wood (Chair)
Sandra Berardy
Steven Loiler
Thomas McNally

A chair will be elected at the first meeting for the Educational Evaluation Committee. B. Levesque will notify the Committee of the next meeting date. Other assignments were as follow:

Deborah Reed-Iler
Robert Mitchell

Montville Education Association and LEARN
CABE/NSBA and Montville Youth Services
Bureau

Thomas McNally
Todd Pomazon & Carrie Baxter

MetroCast Communications Advisory Council
School Building Committee

J. Wood resigned his position on the School Building Committee due to scheduling issues.

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 Tom Giard and Assistant Principal Mary Jane Dix recognized Margo Myers, Andrew Bakoleidis, and Erin Dolan for dedicating an enormous amount of time over the last three years to the implementation of Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS). Ashley Bonagura was also recognized for her extraordinary commitment to community service. Also recognized was Thomas McGrath for making a wonderful transition to eight grade, with a marked improvement in his behavior and grades. Board members T. Pomazon and R. Mitchell presented these certificates.

Montville High School: Assistant Principals Tanya Patton and Jason Daly recognized Jing Fan for being appointed to the Connecticut State Student Advisory Council on Education and for being selected as one of only a dozen high school students nationwide to work with Dr. Robert Brown in the study and research of genetics. Robert Thorn and tutors Conam Lee, Kathy Dykes, Ming Lu, and Jack Fiedler were recognized for their dedicated service to all students in the English Language Learners program at the high school. Board members C. Baxter, S. Berardy, and D. Reed-Iler presented these certificates. D. Rowley asked all ELL students to stand and be recognized.

Palmer Academy: Principal Sheila Reagan recognized Alysia Larkie for demonstrating amazing resilience during the past few weeks. Board member S. Berardy presented the certificate.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:27 p.m. and resumed at 6:34 p.m.

Item 3. Citizens' comments.

There were no citizens' comments.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

There were no letters and communications to report.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deborah Reed-Iler
Seconded by: James Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 5b. Budget Projection – Kathy Lamoureux. (*This agenda item was moved up without objection.*)

K. Lamoureux reported to the Board on the October Budget Projection for the current school year. She said that the Board had expended and encumbered 24.17% of its annual budget. She pointed out that spending was at 23.74% at the same time last year. K. Lamoureux reported that all line items were within budget, to date. She noted that all accounts would be closely monitored, particularly electric and fuel costs for a lock-in rate for 2010-2011, tuition accounts that cannot be projected, and employee benefits and actual claims that may impact next year's premiums. She also reported that summer school remedial and special education programs and the costs for three special education teachers were funded through ARRA grants.

Presentation: B) Presentation: SRBI – Mohegan School.

Principal Lori Caron and the district-wide Assessment Collaborative Team of Lisa Zablonksi, Karen Restivo, Tracy Zurowski, Rebecca Curtin-Brown, and Lisa Kaplan gave a PowerPoint presentation on Scientifically Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) at Mohegan School. L. Caron said that SRBI is a federal government initiative and is a three-tiered model that is data-driven through district-wide assessment by collaborative teams. Students are evaluated to assess their needs and progress and preventative and proactive measures. From the assessments, targeted students are given support inside the classroom or more intensely outside the classroom. The program piloted in grades K-1 in the 2008-2009 school years and will be coordinated to grades 2-5 next year.

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representative Jake Alexander introduced Jessica Semmelrock from the junior class, and they gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. Montville Spirit Week was successful with the Junior Class as the overall winner.

2. The Music Department will host a holiday dinner on Saturday, December 12 from 4-7:30 p.m. The Select Chorus and Marching Band will perform at the Montville Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 6. The Select Chorus will also be caroling at the Niantic Light Parade in East Lyme on December 13.
3. The Drama Club's fall play, "A Servant of Two Masters," will perform on November 4-5 at 7:30 p.m. and tickets will be sold at the door.
4. The Culinary Club will host a raffle for staff for a complete turkey dinner. Tickets are \$3 and \$5 with all proceeds going to a local food bank.
5. The American Studies classes will hold a dodgeball tournament and bake sale to help fund their trip to NYC in the spring.
6. The Mexican holiday, The Day of the Dead, was celebrated by the Spanish and ceramics classes on November 2-3 by making pottery celebrating the life of the famous who have died.
7. The MHS Marching Band concluded their competitive season with outstanding performances at Montville Marching Madness and at USSBA Northern States Championships in Allentown, PA.
8. The Montville varsity football team won its homecoming game with Waterford 45-12 with a season record of 8-1. The team will play in the CIAC state playoffs for the 2nd year in a row. Board members were invited to the Turkey Bowl against St. Bernard's on November 24.
9. Montville girls soccer team won the ECC Medium Division Championship for the first time in school history. The boys soccer team had a 9-7 record and lost in the 2nd round. Tyler Leeman set a school record of 28 goals, and Brett Sinica was selected to play in the 2009 CT Senior Bowl All-Starr Game.
10. The girls basketball team will hold a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on December 1st and Board members are invited.
11. The boys and girls soccer teams raised about \$1,000 for the ALS Foundation from donations at their ALS Cup Games and 50/50 raffles.
12. The National Honor Society is hosting a Can/Non-perishable Drive the week of November 16 to provide food for more than 200 families for the upcoming holiday season.
13. The MHS Robotic Team participated in the annual Connecticut Boosting Engineering Science and Technology (BEST) Robotic Competition on Sunday, November 1 and finished in fifth place.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

There was no unfinished business to report.

Item 8. New Business

- a. **It is recommended that Board of Education consider and approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects.**

J. Connelly reported that Board of Education capital improvement recommendations were reviewed and discussed with Matt Bialowas and Steve Carroll of the Facilities Department and the school principals. The 2008-09 plan was looked at and modified with some items being moved or eliminated from the five-year scope. Eligible capital budget items were defined by K. Lamoureux. It was noted by T. Pomazon that the

sidewalk at Palmer Academy, a capital item, was not part of the school renovation project as it was deemed Town-owned and would not be reimbursed by the State. It was removed from the list. J. Connelly said that capital improvement items are consistently evaluated to determine if there is another way to fund them. The Board's capital improvement plan will be forwarded to the Town Finance Department for review and consideration.

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed Capital Improvement Projects.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: James Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

b. It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt the proposed schedule of meetings for 2010, and file the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to December 31, 2009.

Board members received the proposed 2010 schedule of meetings in their packets with the meetings scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month. C. Baxter proposed changing the meeting time to 7 p.m.

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed 2010 meeting schedule with the meeting time at 6 p.m. and files the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to December 31, 2009.

Proposed by: Robert Mitchell
Seconded by: Thomas McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

c. Discussion and action on 2010 Proposed Resolutions for CABE Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 19, 2009.

Board members received the 2010 Proposed Resolutions for CABE in their packets. They were asked by delegate B. Mitchell to email him before 3 p.m. on November 19 with any concerns that he should raise.

d. Receive the report on the Strategic School Profiles (SSP's).

J. Connelly reported that the Board would receive the Strategic School Profiles data by the end of the week. He talked about how the District Reference Groups (DRGs) evolved and the criteria for the same. He also reported a discrepancy in SSPs that indicated that the district had 38 home languages at MHS instead of the actual 11 languages. B. Levesque added that enrollment declined 3% last year and is expected to do so next year; the number of students receiving free lunch increased by 27%; and minority population within district has increased from 21% last year to 28%. Reporting for the drop-out rate, how students are counted, will be reviewed as the rate increased from 3% to 6% from the 2008-09 graduating class. This agenda item will be revisited at the December Board meeting.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that the Policy Committee did not meet.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (David Rowley).

D. Rowley reported that no meeting was held.

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

D. Reed-Iler reported that the Foundation met but she was unable to attend. B. Levesque reported that the Montville Education Foundation received seven (7) grant applications that will be discussed at their December meeting. The foundation is looking for ways to continue to raise money. A district art show and auction and a family-friendly road race have been proposed. The date for the annual golf tournament has been moved from August to July 12.

d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that the LEARN Advisory Council met on October 12 and heard a presentation on the audit and set rates that will not see an increase. She also reported that the Groton Marine Science Magnet School was discussed.

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the next CABA meeting is on Saturday, November 21 at the CABA/CAPPS Convention at the Marriot in Mystic. He also reported that S. Berardy would accept an award on behalf of the district on Friday evening at the convention. B. Mitchell will spearhead two (2) workshops. He again reminded the Board of CABA's Day on the Hill on March 3, 2010, and asked for some of the students to attend.

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

T. Pomazon reported that the School Building Committee would meet tomorrow, November 18. He said that the meetings are winding down now that pending issues are being addressed.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Thomas McNally).

T. McNally reported that no meeting was held.

h. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Board members received the Administrative Monthly 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 is working to stay within budget constraints. She also reported that she is working on a complaint for the high school on which the district should prevail. She reminded the Board of a regional breakfast meeting with legislators at Tyl on Thursday, December 3, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported that the district is nearly fully staffed with a new special education teacher scheduled to start on November 30. The remaining vacancy is a position at Murphy School. B. Levesque, working with K. Lamoureux, has sent letters to administrators and staff regarding budgets and reports to principals regarding enrollment projections. He also has been in meetings to expand the student management systems to facilitate teacher grading, student data, and better parent communication.

c. Monthly Update.

J. Connelly reported that, except for the Palmer Academy, the absentee rate is down 4-7% throughout the district for flu-like symptoms and the absenteeism rate will continue to be monitored. Shots for the H1N1 virus were obtained from the Uncas Health District for health personnel. Medically-fragile children are the next initiative for the vaccine from Uncas. J. Connelly reported that he is in communication with a YMCA in Westerly, RI, to operate the programs formerly run by the branch in Norwich to accommodate parent interest at Mohegan and also Murphy and Oakdale Schools for after school child care. Scholarships are available so children should not be turned away. Transition planning will start in December with the newly hired superintendent Pamela W. Aubin, who will officially start on January 4, 2009. He has met with her, and she will attend the December Board meeting. He also reported that former superintendent D. Erwin would attend the December meeting for the unveiling of his portrait.

Item 11. Information items.

D. Rowley recognized Town Council Chair Donna Jacobson and Vice-chair Ellen Hillman.

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

Citizen Kevin Fritch commented regarding the start time for Board meetings. He said that the meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. but the Town website says 7 p.m. He also suggested that handouts for meetings, such as the agenda, are placed in the back of the media/library center for the convenience of late arrivals.

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: **That the meeting is adjourned.**

Approved by: Deborah Reed-Iler

Seconded by: James Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:17p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Todd McNally, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____