

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.**

**2015-16 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.**

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 Carrie Baxter, Sandra Berardy, Daniel Boisvert, Todd Pomazon., Kim Navetta, Colleen Rix, James Wood, and Robert Mitchell, Jr. Board member Steve Loiler was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Interim Director of Special Services Katherine Shaughnessy, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patton, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representative Karishma Chouhan, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Student Board Representative Rohit Sinha was absent.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.**

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

**Mohegan School:** Principal Allison Peterson recognized Montville Marvel Lily McConkey for organizing the collection of clothing and toys for Montville Youth Services. For leading this year's problem solving initiative at Mohegan School, Elizabeth Bryer, Carl D'Amato, Susan Dussault, Donna Johnson, Mark Larson, Michelle Roncone, and Lisa Zablonksi were recognized as Montville Marvels. Donna Johnson accepted the award on behalf of the group. Board member Kim Navetta presented these certificates.

**Oakdale School:** Principal Jill Mazzulupo recognized Montville Marvel Mr. Autencio for being a positive role model and for promoting the problem solving initiative within Oakdale School. Mason Snurkowski and Celia Nichols were also recognized as Montville Marvels for standing out among their peers as role models. Board member Colleen Rix presented these certificates.

**Dr. Charles E. Murphy School:** Principal Amy Espinoza recognized the Murphy School Improvement Team; Suzanne LoPresto, Jennifer Natale, Amy Jeffers, Susan Jurczik, Laura Winakor, Paola Bellabarba, Beth Green, and Lori Middel as Montville Marvels for the consistently cooperative, thoughtful, and effective work done to move Murphy School's goal, most recently problem solving, forward. Susan Jurczik accepted the award on behalf of the School Improvement Team. These certificates were presented by Board member Jim Wood.

**Motion:** **That the Board adds Item 7.A, Consideration and action to appoint Board member Daniel Boisvert as liaison to the Montville Youth Services Bureau., to Unfinished Business**

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Kim Navetta  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

**Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).** -- None

**Item 4: Letters and communications.** -- None

**Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.**

**Motion:** **That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.**

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Todd Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried – (vote 7-0-1; Sandy Berardy abstained)

**Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.**

Student Board Representative, Karishma Chouhan, a junior, reported to the Board on the following:

**Drama**

1. Tomorrow, the Drama Club will begin rehearsals for the spring production of *Clue* which will have three different endings and will be performed on March 10, 11, and 12. Goodbyes will be said to Shaun Radgowksi, Meghan Canastar, Eleanor Page and Alex Stiefel.

**Music**

2. The Chamber Choir performed with the Mystic River Chorale at the Connecticut College Harkness Chapel on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> along with students from Grasso Tech who performed Mozart's 'Ave Venum Corpus' and were featured as guest artist.
3. Students Josh Archibald (mixed choir), Meghan Canastar (trombone-band), Max Fish (mixed choir), Ze Tian Huang (mixed choir), Cassandra LaRose (treble choir),

Eleanor Page (treble choir), Shaun Radgowksi (mixed choir) and Tate Turner (mixed choir) participated in the Eastern Region Honor Ensemble Festival.

4. The winter concert was held before the break that was, as usual, a hit with the staff performing *Shut up and Dance with Me* by Walk the Moon.

**Academics, Events, Fundraisers**

5. Advisories in January talked about community service and took surveys to see where their interests lie.
6. MHS administrators are picking a week and observing each department specifically focusing on problem solving and argumentative writing. So far, English had a wonderful observation and up next are Health and Gym classes. Last month, Tech Ed and Art classes were observed.
7. Our annual Winter Pep Rally and Dance are on February 5 and February 6, respectively. The theme is 'Dancing Through the Decades.'
8. We just finished four days of testing with no snow and the first day of semester two is tomorrow.
9. The TSA Robotics Competition is scheduled for Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and we wish the students good luck and hopefully no snow.
10. The Class of 2017 will be selling wood roses in the front office as a fundraiser leading up to Valentine's Day.
11. The Cards for Veterans fundraiser managed to ship off 400 cards.

**Sports**

12. The sports winter season is in full swing as the MHS basketball and wrestling teams work towards qualifying for their respective state tournaments.
13. The indoor track team is also enjoying a productive season as both the girls' and the boys' teams look to make noise at the ECC Championship on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.
14. Senior gymnast Morgan Staehle is competing with the East Lyme, Waterford, and Montville Co-op Team.
15. The wrestling team has captured titles at the Yates and Suffield Invitationals and senior Jack Looney and junior Joel Morth had their 100<sup>th</sup> victory over the past month.
16. Senior All State football player Kevin Murtha will be signing his National Letter of Intent to Bryant University in the school's media center on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
17. Jeremy Rosen, MHS Class of 2011 and a recent graduate of Bowling Green State University, is working this spring in the athletic department as an intern.

**Item 7. Unfinished Business.**

- a. **Consideration and action to appoint Board member Daniel Boisvert as liaison to the Montville Youth Services Bureau.**

**Motion:**                    **That the Board appoints Daniel Boisvert as liaison to the Montville Youth Services Bureau.**

**Proposed by:** Todd Pomazon  
**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

**Item 8. New business.**

**a. Consideration and action to appoint two Board members to serve on hiring committee for the Director of Special Education.**

**Motion:** That the Board appoints Board members to serve on the hiring committee for the Director of Special Education.

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

**Motion:** That the Board appoints Board members Colleen Rix and Robert Mitchell to serve on the hiring committee for the Director of Special Education.

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

Per discussion prior to the vote, Superintendent B. Levesque introduced Interim Director of Special Services Kathie Shaughnessy who started in the position after January 1. Interviews for the position will begin Wednesday, February 3 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Thus far, fourteen applicants have responded to the posting that will close effective January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**b. Consideration and action to approve Policy 5140; Student Discipline, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy 5140, Student Discipline, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 7-0-1, Sandy Berardy abstained)

Per discussion prior to the vote, Board member J. Wood said that the next several policies that the Board would be voting on tonight were reviewed and updated for compliance with Connecticut State Statutes. Superintendent B. Levesque added that the biggest change was inclusion of suspension and expulsion measures for pre-Kindergarten -- grade 2; the policy for grades 3 – grade 12 would remain the same.

- c. Consideration and action to approve Policy #5141.30, Smoke Drug Free School Grounds, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy #5141.30, Smoke Drug Free School Grounds, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood

**Seconded by:** Kim Navetta

**Vote:** Carried (vote 7-0-1, Sandy Berardy abstained)

Per discussion prior to the vote, Board member J. Wood stated that the policy refers to said activity on school grounds. Superintendent B. Levesque added that the issue was not listed in community and district policy. The policy prohibits e-cigarettes, but the use of nicotine patches is allowed.

- d. Consideration and action to approve Policy #4118.25, Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy #4118.25, Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix

**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter

**Vote:** Carried (vote 7-0-1, Sandy Berardy abstained)

Per discussion prior to the vote, Board member J. Wood stated the policy was a "tough, serious" issue. Superintendent B. Levesque added that the policy now aligns with state statutes and includes reference to a Rapid Response Team in which the Superintendent must be a member along with others. The policy also includes required, codified reporting that is subject to penalties for failure to report an incident or willfully preventing the writing of a report, both of which are felonies. Board member C. Baxter asked about training for staff. Superintendent Levesque replied that the district trains all staff including bus drivers. Further, he said that future training will be done electronically through DCF beginning July 1, 2016, and must be done annually. Direction for the training is pending from DCF.

- e. Consideration and action to approve Policy #5144.1, Restraint or Seclusion, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy #5144.1 Restraint or Seclusion, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

**Proposed by:** Todd Pomazon

**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 7-0-1, Sandy Berardy abstained)

Per discussion prior to the vote, Board member J. Wood again stated that this policy was another serious one as the aim is to protect students at risk as well as other students in the classroom. Again, reporting is a component of the policy. Superintendent B. Levesque added that the policy aligns with district policy, Handle with Care that promotes de-escalation with restraint as a last resort in compliance with state statutes. The policy also outlines restraint and how it should be used.

- f. Consideration and action to approve new Social Studies ½ year course, History through Film, as recommended by the E & E Committee at last month’s meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves the Social Studies ½ year course, History through Film, as recommended by the E & E Committee at last month’s meeting.

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 7-0-1, Sandy Berardy abstained)

Per discussion prior to the vote, Board member C. Baxter said that the course came before the Committee last month and would require no new staff. Information on the course will be forwarded to Board member S. Berardy by Superintendent Levesque.

- g. Superintendent’s Mid-year Evaluation (It is anticipated that the Board of Education will meet in executive session.)**

This agenda item was tabled for discussion until the end of the meeting.

**Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.**

**a. Policy (James Wood).**

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed three policies for which no changes were made. The policies, Policy #5141.4, Child Abuse and Suicide Prevention; Policy #4111, Recruitment and Selection, and Policy #4111.40, Selection Procedures for School Principals, will be brought to the full Board for approval at its next meeting.

**b. Educational Evaluation (Carrie Baxter).**

C. Baxter reported that the Committee met earlier this evening where Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin oriented the new Committee members about the Committee goals

and procedures. She also mentioned the March 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment schedule for the SAT at the high school and the March – May schedule for the SBAC and CMT. Students are tested weekly for SBAC and CMT content matter and it has realized better student responses. C. Baxter indicated that one topic was put on hold for the next meeting.

**c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).**

K. Navetta said that she was not able to attend the Foundation meeting. Superintendent Levesque reported on a comedy/hypnotist fundraiser that will be held in February at the Montville Polish Club. He said that tickets are \$50 and that more information on the event will be included in his Friday weekly summary. Superintendent Levesque also said that the meeting was also spent stuffing envelopes for the Foundation's annual appeal.

**d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).**

C. Rix reported that she attended her first LEARN meeting last Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The president and vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce spoke and asked whether the regional calendar could be changed in order to promote tourism. C. Rix also said the meeting included an orientation as half of the attendees were new members. Another topic was transportation, some of which is outsourced.

**e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell reminded the Board of the NSBA Conference that will be held in Boston on April 9, 10, and 11. He said that registration is still open although early registration rates have passed. B. Mitchell also reported that the CABE Day on the Hill is March 2<sup>nd</sup> and due to SATs on that date, student attendance at the event will be impacted. This weekend he will attend the NSBA lobby effort at a conference in Washington, DC.

**f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).**

T. Pomazon reported that Business Manager K. Lamoureux has had contact with a new State person, but there is nothing new to report on the State audit of the district's school renovation project.

**g. Atlantic Broadband (Todd Pomazon).**

T. Pomazon reported that the Advisory Council of Atlantic Broadband will meet tomorrow, January 20 at 5:30 p.m.

**h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell said that he was giving his final report for the Bureau. (Earlier this evening, the Board voted Daniel Boisvert as the new Bureau liaison.) He reported that there was no meeting this month and that the next meeting will be the second Thursday in March on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**i. Administrative Monthly Reports.**

C. Baxter thanked the administrators for their reports stating that she enjoyed the information on the professional development. She said that she was glad to know that the teachers are learning along with their students.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

Chair B. Mitchell welcomed back Sandra Berardy to the Board. She takes the place of Valerie Smith who resigned from the Board at last month's meeting.

**k. Other. -- None**

**Item 10. Superintendent's Report.**

**a. Report from the Interim Director of Student Services – Mrs. Shaughnessy.**

K. Shaughnessy stated that it was the end of her second week in the district and reported to the Board on the following:

- Records: I am in the process of reviewing special education confidential records and will be making recommendations. The possibility of electronic records is being explored.
- Contracted Services: I am reviewing contracted services in terms of cost effectiveness and benefits. This review includes meeting with the staff that utilizes these services and determining current needs.
- Summer Programs: We have begun the planning for Extended School Year Services. This year's summer break is almost twelve weeks long due to the planned June 8<sup>th</sup> last day and the August 31<sup>st</sup> start date. Snow days may shorten this period but not significantly.

**Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.**

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- From Fund for Teachers: With 10 Fund for Teachers proposals already underway from Montville teachers, Montville is in the lead for most numbers of proposals submitted by a district in CT. Congratulations! We hope you can keep the momentum growing! Below are the Montville teachers who are working on FFT proposals. It's still not too late for other teachers to apply; proposals are due at the end of January.

Brooks, Kelly	Montville High School
Dixon, JoAnn	Leonard J. Tyl Middle School
Reichle , Alan	Mohegan Elementary School
Galarza-Clifford, Victoria	Montville High School
Gustavsen, Kathy	Mohegan Elementary School
Holly Pierce	Montville High School
Roncone, Michelle	Mohegan Elementary
Halloran, Lisa	Mohegan Elementary School
Kaplan, Lisanne	Mohegan School
Bonner, Bethany	Oakdale Elementary School

- From the College Board: 425 school districts in the U.S. and Canada were named to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual A.P. Honor Roll for simultaneously achieving increases in access to Advanced Placement® courses for a broader number of students and also improving the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP Exam. This is the second year in a row Montville High School has been recognized. It is one of 16 high schools in the state to achieve this recognition.
- Eureka Math: We hosted a team of teachers and instructional leaders from Coventry Public Schools today to observe our Eureka math program and to meet with our math coach. Our teachers graciously opened their classrooms and met in small groups with teachers to share their insights about adoption of the program. While we know it will be a multi-year process to build our students' skills in mathematical reasoning and modeling, I remain extremely impressed by the depth of true understanding displayed by students in classes I observe.

**b. Monthly Update.**

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- EPA Grants: Application has been made for EPA grants to replace existing school buses within the district at a discounted rate of 25 percent. The plan is to replace three regular, full-size buses at a cost of \$55,000 and one wheelchair accessible but

for \$15,000. He noted that the Town Council denied last week the district's request for a 1% Fund to pay for these buses that were included in the district's capital plan last year. He stated that the district's bus fleet needs to be operable and safe.

- Budget: The Board will hold its annual budget meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2016-2017 budget. He has been meeting with principals for the same. He attended district management council meeting which spoke on the task of shifting responsibilities in difficult times to save money and support learning. He met with Town Council Liaison on this topic. He thanked the principals for their conversations to date.

**Item 11. Information items.** -- None

**Item 12. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).** -- None

**Item 9.G. Executive Session.**

**Motion:** That the Board goes into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. and invites in Superintendent B. Levesque for the Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation.

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

**Motion:** That the Board comes out of Executive Session at 7:18 p.m., with no votes taken.

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

**Item 13. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:** Dan Boisvert  
**Seconded by:** Kim Navetta  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

***Minutes Approved:*** \_\_\_\_\_