

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
May 17, 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

Board Chair Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. Board member Steve Loiler was absent.

Also present were Superintendent Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Director of Food Services Heidi Buchholtz, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Town Council Chair/Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Student Board member Karishma Chouhan was absent.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) CABE Student Leadership Awards

Gavin Archibald – Leonard J. Tyl Middle School

Shannon Huang -- Leonard J. Tyl Middle School

Rohit Sinha – Montville High School

Stacia Tibbetts – Montville High School

Principal M. J. Dix and Assistant Principal Will Klinefelter spoke about the academic accomplishments and expressions from teachers about Tyl students Gavin Archibald and Shannon Huang, CABE Student Leadership Award winners. Principal J. Theodoss recognized and spoke of the achievements of the Montville High School CABE Student Leadership Award winners Rohit Sinha and Stacia Tibbetts. Their awards were presented by Board Chair B. Mitchell.

Presentation: B) Presentation to Student Representative of the Board of Education

Rohit Sinha

Board Chair B. Mitchell recognized graduating, senior Student Board Representative Rohit Sinha for his service on the Board for the past two years. He presented R. Sinha with a gift on behalf of the Board.

Presentation: C) Reception in honor of 2015-2016 retirees

Board Chair B. Mitchell thanked the 2015-2016 retirees for their service and commitment to the students of Montville. Board resolutions that highlighted the accomplishments of each retiree were read and presented to the retirees as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years in Montville</u>
Lynn Littlefield	Physical Education Teacher	26 years
Carol Hillyer	Permanent Substitute	17 ½ years
Patricia McCarthy	Paraprofessional	33 1/2 years
David Packard	Custodian	19 years
Total		96 years
<u>Non-Attending Retirees:</u>		
Mark Johnson	Director of Special Services	22 years
Margo Burr	Life Management Teacher	16 years
Maureen Sherwin	Secretary to Assistant Superintendent	9 years
Ruth Riggs	Life Management & Health	42 years
Total		89 years
Total Years for Retirees		185 years

The resolutions were read and presented by Board members D. Boisvert, J. Wood, C. Baxter, and K. Navetta. On behalf of legislators' Representative Kathleen McCarthy of the 38th District, Representative Mike France of the 42nd District, Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th, Senator Catherine Osten of the 19th District, and Senator Paul Formica of the 20th District, and the Connecticut General Assembly, proclamations were presented to the retirees by Representatives McCarthy and Ryan, who respectively thanked the retirees for "working hard for the kids" within the district. Mayor R. McDaniel presented Certificates of Appreciation to the retirees on behalf of the Town of Montville who said the school system benefited from "their wise guidance and leadership."

The Board meeting recessed briefly at 6:20 p.m. for refreshments in recognition of the retirees. The meeting resumed session at 6:35 p.m.

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

Item 4: Letters and communications.

Board Secretary C. Baxter read a card of appreciation from the three (3) elementary schools in thanks for the food and Dunkin Donuts gift cards presented for Staff Appreciation Week. The card was signed by Principals A. Espinosa, J. Mazzulupo, and A. Peterson.

Board Chair B. Mitchell thanked everyone who attended the breakfasts and/or lunches during Staff Appreciation Week, his schedule prevented him from attending.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

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

Proposed by: Sandy Berardy

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan reported to the Board. Their report included activities that occurred in February and March on the following:

Academic

1. Two seniors, Selina Morales and Kelly Li, will be competing at the National Future Business Leaders of America Conference in Atlanta in late June. The two students won the state competition for Best Website Design held in Cromwell, CT, in April.
2. Plus Topics in American Law has two field trips this week to Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center for an eye-opening learning experience for MHS students.
3. Peer Mediation and Uplifting Students organized a “Be You” wall on display at the end of the 300’s hallway and includes a collage of adjectives describing the many positive attributes of our students. Also on the wall are the “Because I said I Would” commitments our students wrote during an advisory activity. They are currently planning a fundraiser for another student in the community, as well.

Music

4. The Montville Music Marching Band and Tyl will combine to perform on Saturday, May 21, at the Memorial Day Parade.
5. The MHS Steel Band is performing at the Murphy Mad Dash and Tyl Graduation.
6. On May 23rd, the MHS Band Concert will take place. The MHS Choir Concert is on May 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Sports

7. The baseball team and boys’ lacrosse teams have both qualified for the State Tournament. It is the first time in program history that the boys’ lacrosse team has qualified.

8. The softball and girls' lacrosse teams are closing in on qualifying for the State Tournament.
9. The track teams boast 14 individuals that have qualified for State competition. The ECC Championship is on Saturday, May 21st.
10. The boys' and girls' tennis teams have a combined six (6) wins.
11. The golf team has won four of six matches and recently competed in the Fishers Island Invitational.
12. The MHS Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its second induction ceremony on Sunday, May 29th. Tickets must be purchase by Monday, May 23rd.

Other Activities

13. The Transparent Nation, a club for students with invisible illnesses, started meeting last month. In April, the Club used posters to raise awareness of juvenile or Type 1 diabetes; this month there will be activities for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and Rheumatoid Arthritis.
14. Junior Prom was held on May 14 at the high school and 120 students and guests attended.
15. The current ECE American Experience class will host a lunch meeting for next year's class on May 25. Students will be able to share concerns, ask questions, and receive their summer reading assignment.
16. The Montville Arts Council held a celebration of the creative, Arts Night 2016, on May 12th. The event showcased the work of over seventy (70) students and teachers and included a wide variety of genres. Ribbons were awarded in the categories of Drawing, Painting, Collage, Digital Illustration, Photography, Sculpture, and Pottery. The event began with time to tour the artwork and was followed by an open mic event. Notable readers of original poetry included Caitlyn Castro, MHS Poet Laureate 2015-2016; Karishma Chouhan, MHS Poet Laureate 2016-2017; and Cassandra LaRose, MHS Poet Laureate 2016-2017.
17. MHS senior Andrew Hu was honored by the National Rifle Association as one of the outstanding new competition shooters. Andrew is a member of the MHS Rifle Club. He consistently scored in the top five of each competition. Andrew said that he never shot a rifle before this year. He said only military and police are legally able to own a rifle in China.

Item 7. Unfinished Business.

a. Update on 2016-2017 budget.

Superintendent Levesque spoke about the State budget and a conference call he participated in today with the Commissioner of Education concerning the elimination of ECS grant of more than \$170,000. He also reported that school transportation and private transportation grants were zeroed out. As well, the magnet school grant was cut by 36% but according to Ms. Howley at LEARN she does not want to raise the magnet school tuition rate. Superintendent Levesque also said that Vo-AG was cut and that the accumulation of cuts leaves a lot of uncertainty in districts. He also spoke about the proposed cut by the Town of \$425,000 as well as changes to MBR language that will

require guidance from the State and legal vote. Superintendent Levesque reported that the Town Council would meet on May 31 at 6:00 p.m. and that the Board will need to discuss a special meeting to discuss the budget for final cuts as he does not want to wait until the June meeting to notify staff. The line item for retirees in the budget has been exceeded by a little but will be taken into account for the final budget.

Superintendent Levesque said that he needed direction from the Board on Project Oceanology as a one-year notice must be given prior to leaving the program and half of the funds for the same would need to be paid. Responding to a question by Board member T. Pomazon regarding the benefit for the half payment, Superintendent Levesque said that three (13) trips at a little less than \$3000 each were taken last year and that more is paid for this program than all other field trips. He also responded to Board member K. Navetta that the high cost per student for Project O totals all other field trips. He added that Assistant Superintendent Pallin has done an excessive amount of work for Project O as well as the fact that the Marine Science Magnet School goes to Project O daily at no additional fee. When asked by Board member C. Baxter about alternatives to Project O, the Superintendent spoke about trips to Harkness, Bluff Point and the Mystic Aquarium adding that there is a fixed fee with LEARN. Board member S. Berardy stated that the Project O experience is “a more beneficial exposure to a different environment” and asked whether the district could rejoin Project O--it can at the full rate according to Superintendent Levesque. She also stated that the startups for Project O were David Rowley and Joseph Berardy.

Item 8. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to approve changes to Policy 4118.14, Disabilities/Communicable and Infectious Disease, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month’s meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves changes to Policy 4118.14, Disabilities/Communicable and Infectious Disease, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month’s meeting.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried (vote 7-0-1); Colleen Rix abstained

Per discussion, Board member J. Wood spoke to CT General Statutes and language changes to the policy.

- b. Consideration and action to approve changes to Policy 4128, Statement of policy concerning Development of a Cooperative Program, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month’s meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves changes to Policy 4128, Statement of policy concerning Development of a Cooperative Program, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried (vote 7-0-1); Colleen Rix abstained

Per discussion, Board member J. Wood said that the policy was last changed in 1991 and recently updated.

- c. Consideration and action to approve changes to Policy 4131, Staff Development, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves changes to Policy 4131, Staff Development, 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); Colleen Rix abstained.

Per discussion, Board member J. Wood said that the policy was last revised in 1992.

- d. Consideration and action to approve the extension of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year to June 30, 2019.**

Motion: That the Board approves the extension of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year to June 30, 2019.

Proposed by: Sandy Berardy

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried (vote 7-0-1); Colleen Rix abstained.

Per discussion, the contract was extended without additional remuneration.

- e. Consideration and action to add an AP Computer Programming Course at Montville High School, as recommended at the April 25, 2016 Special Meeting of the E & E Committee.**

Motion: That the Board approves the addition of an AP Computer Programming Course at Montville High School, as recommended at the April 25, 2016 Special Meeting of the E & E Committee.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter
Seconded by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0-1); Colleen Rix abstained.

Per discussion, Board member C. Baxter said that the course was discussed last month. She stated that instruction will be provided through a grant a no cost to the Board.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed Policy 5141, Grievance Procedure/Parents that was last reviewed in 1991. The Committee concurred that the policy should be eliminated and will seek the Board's approval for same. Policy 4118.24, Employee Drug Testing was tabled pending research redistributed by Board member K. Navetta and review by Superintendent Levesque.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).

S. Berardy reported that the Committee discussed at its meeting earlier the implementation of World Language at the elementary level and a pilot program next year for Grade 4.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

K. Navetta reported that the MEF met on May 2nd and received two (2) grant applications for the \$10,000 grant. She also said that the MEF would take part in the Memorial Day Parade on May 14th. The golf tournament will be held on August 8 and will promote "Tee up for Education."

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

C. Rix reported that she was unable to attend the LEARN meeting.

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that dues were set at the last CABA meeting with zero increase. He also reported that he would be in Washington, DC, on June 10 – 14, 2016, on behalf of the NSBA to lobby Congress.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that there has conversation but nothing concrete.

g. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the Council meets tomorrow night, May 18 and that the minutes would be sent to J. LeMay.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

D. Boisvert reported that the Bureau is scheduled to move into Fair Oaks on May 16. It will also have a billboard on June 13 to focus attention on mental health and a mobile app for the same. D. Boisvert also spoke about the lunch grant and the new registration and fee schedule effective June 30.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Secretary C. Baxter commented on the snacks to go now offered at the high school, her child purchased one and it was very convenient! She questioned whether the snacks would fall under the free and reduced program. Mr. Theodoss said he was unsure and would look into that.

j. Chair's Remarks.

Chair B. Mitchell spoke about the wealth of experience of the retirees' "years of experience and institutional knowledge" takes away from the district. He thanked the retirees for their service and said they would be missed.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from Director of Student Services – Mrs. Paula LaChance.

At this time, she is well immersed in the intricacies of the Special Service Department here in Montville. She continues to visit out of district schools to ensure the appropriateness of placement and services being offered to our students. The scheduling of Extended School Year has been completed.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- State Testing and District Benchmarks: We are nearing completion of make-up Smarter Balanced Assessments and the process has gone very smoothly. The high school students received their SAT scores this week. These test results replace the Smarter Balanced testing for grade 11 students. We are awaiting direction from the State about interpretation of aggregate results. We are currently completing our STAR and DIBELS benchmark assessments. We have noticed that our students

are making good progress in math (the majority of them are showing growth of more than a year in a year), but it will be several years before many of our students reach the proficiency level required by the CT Core Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Teachers are working hard, and I am extremely pleased with our students' growth. I will share some of these benchmark results with you at our next Board meeting.

- Donors Choose: *DonorsChoose.org* is an online program which provides resources to classroom teachers by allowing people to donate online directly to classrooms. If you go to the website, you will see that six (6) Montville teachers currently have requests for equipment posted and one (1), Staci Girardin recently had her request for iPads at the pre-school fully funded. While the district is committed to developing a budget that fully meets our students' needs and has a long track record of doing so, Donors Choose provides a way for teachers to request some of those extra, special items that would be nice to have to further enhance classroom instruction. Just as the Montville Education Foundation supports individual teacher requests to enrich their classrooms, this is one more resource to help teachers in their efforts to develop engaging and creative lessons.
- Electronic Resources for the Board of Education: We are working on transitioning from Dropbox to OneNote to provide electronic resources for Board members. We believe OneNote will be a little easier to manage and we think you will like the overall organization. Nic will need to configure your iPads and therefore, we would like to collect them from you after the June meetings. You can pick them up after Nic is finished or get them back when you attend the summer retreat. If you have set up a password to lock your iPad screen, please remove it before the June meeting.

c. Monthly Update.

- Summer Breakfast & Lunch Program: Breakfast and lunch will be provided for free for students attending the summer school program, Montville Youth Services, and Parks and Recreation children. The program is provided through a grant.
- Read to Ride: He attended the Read to Ride bike giveaway at Murphy School for boys and girls in kindergarten to grade 5.
- Read to Ride Fundraiser: On Friday, May 14 he attended the Kenny Chesney concert at Mohegan Sun with seating in the skybox.
- Principal Evaluations: Today, he held the first principal evaluation. The remainder will be completed within the next two weeks.
- Budget: The budget has been all consuming and he has been engaged with legal issues regarding the same.

Item 11. Information items. -- None

Item 12. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).

Representative Kathleen McCarty commented that it was her second time attending a district BOE meeting that she enjoyed thoroughly. She said that she is a member of the Waterford Board of Education and that she would share with her Board information about student board representatives.

Item 13. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

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
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____