



**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Education Goal:

Montville graduates will possess the skills and dispositions to navigate complex tasks. Our graduates are communicators, information consumers, problem solvers, and independent learners. They exhibit empathy, perseverance, inclusivity and self-awareness.

Library Media Center

Item 1. Call to order / Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence – 6:00 P.M.

Board Chair Wills Pike called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Board members attending were: Bob Mitchell, Florence Turner, Tina Grove, Carol Burgess, James Wood, and Sheelagh Lapinski. Board Members Timothy Shanahan and Grace Carlos were absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers and Administrators Rob Alves, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, Amy Espinoza, Will Klinefelter and Marceline Dillon.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

Wills Pike asked for a Motion to add an executive session to discuss a personnel matter after agenda item 12.

Motion- To add an executive session to discuss a personnel matter after agenda item 12.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Item 3. Citizens' Comments (regarding agenda items only)

Rick Mowen, 32 Webb Dr, expressed busing concerns and student safety. Problem at end of Webb Dr. and Rt. 32. No sidewalk and nowhere to safely stand to be picked up or dropped off by bus.

Parent, 39 Webb Dr, stated that right now the stop is okay but it will be a problem in the winter when snowy and icy. Also stated the student has a 7-minute walk and was worried about stranger danger. She had to quit her job because the district did not provide door to door transportation. She shared a

photo of the bus stop with the Board chair.

Parent stated that the stop was a problem because the kids are naughty and they are running here and there which is risky. She also stated the on two occasions the bus driver called the police for cars that drove by.

Two other parents from the Webb and Cedar Dr. area expressed similar concerns with the busing and student safety.

Item 4. Letters and Communications

None

Item 5. Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion- To approve the Consent Calendar

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (7-0)

a. Budget Update; Kathy Lamoureux

Staffing:

In addition to the positions that were budgeted for potential savings, there have been unanticipated late resignations and hiring was just recently completed. We are calculating the costs differences between the budgeted staff members and the actual costs for compensation and health insurance of their replacements. We will be able to update the Board at the next meeting; however, it does appear there will be enough savings to account for the shortage needed to meet the Town's appropriation.

Tuitions:

The regular education tuition accounts are billed based on the enrollment on 10/1, therefore, we will report this out at the next Board meeting when better information is available.

Insurances:

Based on the billings for insurances it is projected there will be a shortfall in these objects. We will be proposing a transfer at the next Board meeting to offset the net amount to cover this shortage. This was generated from workers compensation insurance coming in higher than budgeted. I recently had a meeting with HD Segur, our insurance broker to review claims and they look good so far this fiscal year.

Capital Plan:

We issued a purchase order for the van out of the 2022-23 capital plan. We were very fortunate that a vendor on the State Contact had a 2022 Ford Transit in stock which we

purchased. This is the same vendor for which a purchase order was issued for the van in the 2021-22 capital plan. He has indicated this vehicle will be in shortly for delivery.

HVAC Grant

Based on the information released by the State there is a new HVAC grant program which applications need to be submitted to the State by December 1, 2022. There is no guarantee for funding, however, we did reach out to Al Jacunski to verify the air conditioning study could be completed for Tyl in order to meet the grant application date which he indicated could be done. There will be additional information forthcoming from the State which will provide an overview and application process later this month.

Item 6. New Business

- a. Consideration and action to approve the proposed 2023 Board of Education meeting Dates

Motion- To approve the 2023 Board of Education Meeting dates as presented

Moved by: James Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

- b. Consideration and action to send a Delegate to the CABE delegate assembly; November 17

Motion: To elect Carol Burgess and send her to the CABE Delegate assembly

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

- c. 2022-2023 Board Goals; Discussion of Board Self-Evaluation to assess progress on goals and Board PD with CABE

Laurie: At our last meeting, Board members felt that it would be helpful to complete a Board self-evaluation to assess progress toward achieving our vision, goals and Board strategies before revising the Board's strategies. I have spoken to Nick Caruso from CABE and he provided me with a sample Board self-evaluation which I adjusted slightly to align with our goals. Wills, Bob, and I have a Zoom meeting with Nick tomorrow and hopefully that will result in a survey link to a self-evaluation for Board members to complete. It will be very important to hear from every Board member on that survey. Nick is currently holding the evenings of Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and Oct. 18 as possible dates for workshops with the Board. He talked about conducting sessions reviewing the self-evaluation and Board strategies, focusing on increasing community engagement, and modules 1 and 3 from the Lighthouse Project. He

has offered to conduct the sessions at no charge to the Board. We would need to pay only for materials and processing of the survey.

Bob asked that the survey be sent to student Board reps also.

d. Discussion regarding facility tours

Laurie: At our last Board meeting, setting meetings for tours of school buildings was suggested. It makes sense to conduct those tours in conjunction with revisions to our five year capital plan. Therefore, we would like to wait until the end of Oct. so that Steve has time to review building needs with the principals prior to the Board tours. We will conduct tours of MHS and Murphy on Oct. 25, Oakdale and Tyl on Oct. 26, and Palmer and Mohegan on Oct. 27. All tours will begin at 5:00 at the first school named. Jen will post meetings and calendar invites.

e. Discussion and possible action regarding Policy 5142.4: School Resource Officer and related Memorandum of Understanding with the Montville Police Department

Motion: To approve Policy 5142.4: School Resource Officer and related Memorandum of Understanding with the Montville Police Department

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

f. Discussion and possible action regarding Job Description: School Safety Officer

Motion: To approve Job Description of School Safety Officer

Moved by: James Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

g. Consideration and action to rescind Policy numbers 4418.239 and 4218.239; Required Covid-19 Vaccinations

Motion: To rescind Policy numbers 4418.239 and 4218.239; Required Covid-19 Vaccinations

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Florence Turner
Vote: Carried (7-0)

h. Consideration and action to rescind Policy 4113.6 Remote Work

Motion: To rescind Policy 4113.6; Remote Work

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (7-0)

i. Consideration and action to rescind Policy 4118.237 / 5141.8 Face Mask/Coverings

Motion: To rescind Policy numbers 4418.237 / 5141.8; Face Masks / Coverings

Moved by: James Wood
Seconded by: Tina Grove
Vote: Carried (7-0)

j. Legislative update

Laurie: Detailed information regarding new legislation is in the Board's OneNote binder. I'll briefly summarize some of those changes:

- *CSDE to develop peer to peer mental health support program for districts to choose to administer in 23-24*
- *CSDE to develop a mental health plan for student athletes which districts must administer in 23-24*
- *Districts must designate a Family Care Coordinator to work with district mental health team (Dianne Vumback)*
- *May 26 Districts must hold suitable exercises for Children's Mental Health Day*
- *In 23-24 grades 6-12 student ID cards must have 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (if it is in place)*
- *Qualified school employees should maintain and administer opioid antagonists on an emergency basis without prior written authorization*
- *CSDE must develop and implement surveys of districts concerning numbers of SW, school psychologists, counselors, therapists, behaviorists, BCBAs, school counselors by 23-24 and report ratios by district and school and in addition provide grant funding to hire and deliver mental health services*
- *DPH must survey random group of grade 9-12 students regarding health, if funded*
- *Student trauma needs assessment data and resources used to address student trauma must be submitted annually to the state as part of the strategic school profile*
- *By Sept. 2023, districts must have a truancy intervention model in place with specified requirements*
- *Emotional disturbance as a special ed disability is now called emotional disability.*
- *Parents and legal guardians must be provided with access to their minor student's class rank*
- *Every student must have at least 20 minutes of physical exercise each regular school day. Districts must have a policy clarifying when, as a form of discipline, a school employee may restrict a student from participating in this time limiting it to times when the student poses a danger to health and safety of others, limiting the number of times can restrict per week. Restriction cannot be for work completion or academic performance.*

- *By Sept. 23 free menstrual products must be in all women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms and at least one men's restroom accessible to students in grades 3-12.*
- *Beginning this year, we must provide an 18-hour program of PD for paras each year to include specified topics*
- *Districts can currently provide remote learning to students in grades 9-12. In 24-25 remote learning can be provided to students in grades K-12 providing it meets specified conditions.*
- *CSDE is to develop model curriculum for districts*
- *By 25-26 Asian American and Pacific Islander studies must be included in Social Studies curriculum*
- *Boards can continue to hold remote or hybrid public meetings if desired*
- *By July 2023 DCF must provide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program for use by districts that includes bystander training and all employees must complete the training by July 2023.*
- *Mandated reporter and child sex abuse reporting policies must be distributed electronically on an annual basis to all school employees*
- *Teachers can request a behavior intervention meeting with the school crisis intervention team to address specified issues with student behavior*
- *Paraprofessionals invited to attend PPTs must be given adequate notice and training for the meeting*
- *Teachers must have a 30-minute duty-free lunch*

Item 7. Information Items

None

Item 8. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. *Policy-James Wood- policy meeting held tonight to discuss Policy 5142.4 Safety and Security and 3542.43-R Food Services Charging Policy*
- b. *Education Evaluation- Bob Mitchell – no meeting*
- c. *Communications Committee- Carol Burgess- Explanation of Bonding for Capital Projects to be provided at PTO meetings, on website, at Farmer's Market, at Senior Center.*
- d. *Montville Education Foundation-Laurie Pallin- met last Monday and discussed the initiation of the fall grant cycle, updates to the MEF website, and possible changes to next year's golf tournament.*
- e. *LEARN – Bob Mitchell – discussed New London Ocean Ave school and the robust program with 78 students waiting to attend.*
- f. *CABE/NSBA-Carol Burgess – Upcoming convention in November.*
- g. *Montville Youth Services Bureau Sheelagh Lapinski – After School Program not full, but many ongoing activities are happening at Montville Youth Services Bureau including homework room, tutoring, mental health counseling and the Sept. 24th Walk for Suicide Awareness*
- h. *Student Board Representatives- Matthew Malbaurn and Alexa Beams*

Junior Representative Alexa Beams

Good evening, my name is Alexa Beams and I am delighted to be serving as the junior class representative. It has been great starting a school year with no masks or restrictions and though many students are reluctant to say bye to summer, everyone has been excited for the return of fall sports. Everyone has had a great start to the season with girls' volleyball winning their first match against Killingly and boys' soccer going 2-1. Unfortunately, girls' soccer was unable to continue their JV program this year due to numbers, but their one team now has the opportunity to build relationships between athletes of all skill levels and they even won their game against Griswold this past Wednesday. The cross-country team has a strong group of runners and a great outlook for the season; the boys team came in 1st on Friday at the annual Wheeler Invitational meet. The most notable athletic accomplishment this week was the football team's victory over Bacon Academy. Many players have worked hard in the offseason, participating in summer conditioning and practices, and their dedication and determination paid off on Friday when they put an end to the nearly three-year losing streak.

With the first normal school year since 2019, students are looking forward to the complete return of high school events and experiences. One group in particular is working to create a fun student section by planning theme nights and encouraging others to come watch the game and support the football team. Last week's theme was barbecue dad and the participation was great for the first home game. As the season continues, I look forward to seeing the support for Montville athletics continue to grow.

Senior Representative Matthew Malbaurn-

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer and it's great to see everyone again.

The Student Government leadership team got hard to work right at the beginning of the summer planning not only all our upcoming fall events, but a surprise for the students to give them a warm welcome back. The Sunday before the first day of school, a handful of volunteers, including myself, got together and drew some inspirational messages in chalk at the entrance to the school. Some of these included "final stretch seniors!" and "Montville United". Lots of fun drawings were also included to fill the space. First up for fall events is the fall spirit week. The dates will be from October 11th to October 14th. The days have been voted on and are on the way for approval. The fall pep rally will be on the 14th, and plans for this are still in the works. The focus on this rally is our fall sports teams, so each of our teams will be recognized at the beginning of the pep rally by putting them in the spotlight on the field. We will also have a competition between classes to see who can create the best class banner that captures MHS pride! And the main event for our week, making its return after two long years, is Homecoming. DJ has been booked and tickets are being prepared to be sold! The theme chosen for this year is "Starry Night", and our amazing social media manager was able to put together some amazing poster and ticket designs. Our last project in the works for this fall is what I'm calling Fall Fest 2.0, but that won't really be the name. Last year in place of our homecoming, we created the idea of a Fall Festival for the students. There was a pizza truck, warm cider, an obstacle course, yard games, tote bag painting, and a couple club tables! The turnout was not what we were hoping for, so for this year we have collaborated with Mr. Alves to bring a new life to Fall Fest. This year, we will collaborate with each school in the district to make this a district wide event! Plans are in the making, but we are excited to see what we can make of it!

Montville High School Drama is proud to announce our fall show, The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-Time, by Mark Haddon, adopted by Simon Stephens. This show follows Christopher and shows us how complex the human mind can truly be. The show will take place on October 20th, 21st, and 22nd, and I hope to see you from the stage!

Item 9. Report on District Operating Plan (Vision, Goals, and Strategies)

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

In keeping with our vision and goals for our learners I have worked closely with the new Transition Academy teacher in developing a community where the students feel safe and excited to learn. They have already developed a sense of pride with the work they have begun to do in the community.

They are participating in outings that allow them to explore and manipulate their environment. They are identifying interests and needs thereby developing some of those independent learner traits.

Also aligned with the skills and dispositions our students are participating in a communications skills class. Here they must focus on how to actively listen. Last week they had the opportunity to practice their active listening skills during a tour at a nature center. This work is in part preparation for several tours of job sites. They are learning expected body language, tone of voice along with expected and unexpected behaviors at a job site.

Some of their community-based activities included outings to Mohegan Sun where they were required to fill out a lot of paperwork for employment which included an interest inventory. This activity provided an opportunity for them to ask relevant questions, self-reflect and generate topics of interest to investigate and learn more about in the months ahead.

The last activity I will share was that of a scavenger hunt which provided them an opportunity to hone in on their problem-solving skills. After the activity they participated in a reflection session on the process and what they learned from the activity.

As you can see the program is off to a great start addressing those skills and dispositions of a graduate.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

As we make purposeful connections in our daily work to Montville's District-Wide Goals and Strategies, we wanted to share how we make our vision come alive as we prepared for the school year.

Laurie and I began our work with our new hires at New Teacher Orientation. We had over 22 new hires – some new to teaching and some veteran teachers new to Montville. We wanted to model for them an example of a challenging learning exercise that would incorporate the skills and dispositions we want to develop in our students.

Marshmallow challenge – small teams have to build a structure in 18 minutes using 20 sticks of spaghetti, 1 yard of tape, 1 yard of string and 1 marshmallow. The winning team is the one that can construct the tallest freestanding structure with the marshmallow on top within the time allowed.

We observed the teams strategizing: thinking about the assignment, organizing the materials and discussing their “plan of attack”. The rest of the time was spent taping the spaghetti and wrapping string around the spaghetti. In the last few seconds, teams were adding the marshmallow and watching the structure fall.

Most teams were not successful in keeping the structure standing!

Teams had to reflect and answer some questions on their thought process, design and improvement strategies.

This task promoted social learning and collaboration. Learning that collaboration leads to creativity and innovation – and that experimenting and prototyping is critical to success. Remember – we learn more from failure!

Our connection to the districts vision, goals for learning and instructional practices included:

- *“Students” were engaged in a purposeful and challenging learning experience*
- *We want our students to be critical, creative and collaborative problem-solvers*
- *A Montville graduate has the skills and dispositions to navigate complex tasks through communication AND problem solving which includes brainstorming, developing and implementing a solution and reflecting on the process.*
- *Our definition of deep learning includes: Preserving through trial and error over time, making sense of experiences, engages in collaborative work and reflection.*

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

Our Vision of A Graduate states that graduates will be effective Communicators and Problem Solvers who are perseverant and self-aware and work collaboratively

At this year’s Administrators’ Retreat we worked to develop our own learning in these areas

Administrators were given the problem with dominant arm behind back, using only non-verbal communication, work as a team to construct the longest paper chain given sheets of paper, tape and scissors

Reflecting on this process, we considered:

- *How are we using team meetings to maximize team effectiveness?*
- *How are we carving out unique roles, responsibilities, and leadership opportunities?*
- *How are we promoting strong ongoing communication with and among team members?*
- *How are we supporting one another when barriers crop up?*
- *How are we establishing and working together towards our shared goals?*

Our Strategic Plan states that one of the Board’s Strategies is to Promote District-Wide Coherence through appropriate Resource Deployment by advocating and consistently communicate the need for the resource’s imperative to our operational success:

To that end, the Board has directed me to provide an explanation of the capital projects which are in the upcoming bond vote. The Board has all receive a document they can use to provide an explanation of each item. Information regarding the capital improvements which are the subject of the upcoming bond has been posted on website. I have attended or set dates to attend informational meetings (PTO, Open House, School Governance Council. Initial reception by PTO members has been very positive.

I am concerned about the specificity of the Town Council's wording and would suggest they consider a revision to the wording of the bond allowing the discretion to move funds between projects with Tyl projects given the highest priority.

Item 10. Citizens' Comments

Rick Mowen – 42 Webb Drive- Very impressed with what was seen tonight at the Board of Education Meeting.

Item 11. Board Chair Remarks – *Board is highly regarded, very engaged and people are pleased with what the board is trying to do.*

Item 12. Future agenda items

None

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss personal matters

Moved by: James Woods
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Item 13. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Moved by: Flo Turner
Seconded by: Tina Grove
Vote: Carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.