



**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 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: Timothy Shanahan, Florence Turner, Tina Grove, Carol Burgess, Sheelagh Lapinski, and Grace Carlos. Board Members Bob Mitchell and James Wood were absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers; Administrators Rob Alves, Greg Gwudz, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, Amy Espinoza, Will Klinefelter and Ken Daniewicz; and teachers/presenters Suzanne LoPresto, Sharon Brown and Ted Richmond.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Add item 7f: Discussion of Annual Report of the Board of Education to be submitted to the town

Motion add item 7f: Discussion of Annual Report of the Board of Education to be submitted to the town

Moved by: Carol Burgess
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Item 3. Presentation:

- a. Montville Marvels: Principals Gregory Gwudz, David Gollsneider and Rob Alves presented

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- For showing up each day with enthusiasm and a positive attitude while ensuring students are safe, supported in multiple ways, and most importantly, happy: Lisa Atkinson, Dawn Skinner, Vicky Galipeau, Molly Crabb, Kathy Mahoney, Robert Reece, Sheryl Kidd, Betty Wright, Brittany Burchwell, Melissa LaPointe, Monica Banas, and John Carpa.

For taking on multiple events this year promoting school spirit, making Tyl a fun place to learn and helping to build a positive school climate: Cami Spurgas, Chemi Lhaky, Alina Li, Ruth Prado, Kayla Terni, Zayveon Bandholtz, Dmitri Charles, Bentley Santana, and Brooklyn Walker.

PBL Palmer Campus- For his outstanding commitment to his education which includes earning Honor Roll for eight consecutive quarters: Riley Us.

Montville High School- For running a successful spirit week; including a fall pep rally, a pep rally at Tyl Middle School and the return of our Homecoming Dance. All of these events were held in high regard by the staff and students of Montville High School and Tyl Middle School: Ms. Elizabeth Gawlak, Matthew Malbaurn, Michael Freeman, Paige Terris, and Emily Chen.

b. ELA/Reading Data Presentation

Administrators, elementary ELA coach Suzanne LoPresto, middle school ELA coach Sharon Brown, and MHS English and SS dept. chair Ted Richmond provided a comprehensive look at reading instruction, reading data, and the ways in which the district uses that data to improve instruction and student outcomes.

Item 4. Citizens' Comments (regarding agenda items only)

None

Item 5. Letters and Communications

None

Item 6. Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion- To approve the Consent Calendar

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan

Seconded by: Carol Burgess

Vote: Carried (7-0)

a. Budget Update; Kathy Lamoureux

The remaining budget balance as of 10/31/2022 is approximately \$7,544,300 or 18.33% after encumbrances. This balance does not reflect encumbrances for all of the non-certified

positions such as monitors, tutors, substitutes, along with monthly bills and supply purchases that occur towards the end of the fiscal year.

As of the 10/31/22 report, there have been 32 school days out of the 181 days for school year employees such as monitors, paraprofessional and tutors. Based on the trending for this period, it appears these accounts will be within the budget appropriation; however, additional trending would be needed for an accurate projection to occur as this is only 18% of the year. Additionally, using this method for the substitute salaries, object 120, it appears there may be a shortfall if the current trending continues throughout the school year. I will be reviewing object 112, non-certified salaries to compare the trending to the budget appropriations. However, because some of the positions are encumbered and others are not this is a time-consuming task. We continue to experience vacancies and staff movement.

To date, we have not received all of the Magnet School or Vo-Ag tuition bills. We have reached out to each of the schools and have been told that we should have the bills by the end of the month.

As I indicated last month there is concern in the outplaced tuition accounts; currently these accounts are reflecting a shortage of approximately \$320,000 and there are two pending placements in November. This represents a snapshot as of 10/31, and these accounts may have significant changes throughout the year. This shortfall is related to new outplacements which occurred after the budget development. With the shortfall in tuition accounts we are also projecting a shortage in the outsourced transportation. I will review a daily rate for runs after students are settled to determine the projected shortage. The excess cost grant for these students will be submitted in December which will be used to determine if additional funds will be received by the Town for these placements.

We have received preliminary budget indication from HD Segur Insurance for the 23-24 fiscal year for the workers compensation and property liability (LAP) insurance. They are recommending an increase of 6% for workers compensation and 9% for LAP. The higher increase in the LAP is because it includes cyber-insurance. Nic is currently working with Segur to check what we may need to do to secure the cyber coverage.

We continue working with the accountants to complete the 21-22 fiscal year audit. The process is more time consuming because they are doing more remotely requiring us to upload documents for review.

Item 7. New Business

- a. Consideration and action to send the estimated costs for security upgrades to the Town Council for consideration for funding.

Motion: To table the estimated costs for security upgrades to the Town Council for consideration for funding

Moved by: Sheelagh Lapinski
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Our initial thought was to put a request to the town including items in security grant that were not funded (Tyl - \$67,800; Mohegan: \$23,492; Oakdale: \$72,246 for cameras, window film, and door replacement) and the exterior door project. However the first quote for the door project was \$500,000. We are working on scaling this back and will need more time to define a project with a total cost that is more affordable.

- b. Review and possible consideration for approval of the Ed Specs for HVAC and Tyl School Roof School Construction grants

Motion: To approve the Ed Specs for HVAC and Tyl School Roof School Construction grants

Moved by: Carol Burgess
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (7-0)

- c. Consideration and action to approve the 2023-2024 District Calendar as recommended by the Superintendent

Motion: To approval the 2023-2024 District Calendar as recommended by the Superintendent

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Laurie explained that this calendar moves the start of school for staff to the last Monday of August. and students would begin that Wednesday. The goal was to reduce the number of half days (both at the start of school and for PD days) because we are required to serve all students lunch in school on half days and that means lunch waves must begin before 9:30 at MHS and Tyl which is extremely difficult to accomplish. By adding one full day for PD and reducing two half days for PD, student instructional time will be the same but the student year needs to be shortened to 180 days so that the teachers' year is still 186 total days as per contract.

- d. Discussion and feedback on CABE Resolutions

Carol Burgess discussed the effectiveness of the resolutions and asked for feedback.

Board Chair and Timothy Shanahan discussed and clarified the resolution on State's paying for busing of special education students.

Grace Carlos had questions on resolutions calling for "study" but not related action, explaining that she wants to understand that more than just a study is called for. Further discussion and questions will be asked at the CABE Convention.

- e. Consideration and action to approve Policy Series 6000 as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approval Policy Series 6000 as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (7-0)

- f. Discussion of Annual Report of the Board of Education to be submitted to the town

Laurie explained that a draft of the annual report has been placed in OneNote for Board members' review and comment. The format has been changed to align the report with the district's strategic plan.

Item 8. Information Items

November 18 and 19- CABE/CAPPS Convention

Item 9. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy- *Met to discuss Policy Series 6000 (see agenda item 7e.)*
- b. Education Evaluation- *No meeting*
- c. Communications Committee- *Carol Burgess-Reviewed and approved the Board's Communication Plan and posted it on the district web site..*
- d. Montville Education Foundation-Laurie Pallin-*The committee met to review grant applications*
- e. LEARN – *No report*
- f. CABE/NSBA-Carol Burgess *See Item 7d.*
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau - *Sheelagh Lapinski -Various community events have taken place or are planned including Green day for the Sandy Hook Anniversary, a blood drive, and basket raffle at polling stations.*
- h. Student Senior and Junior Board Representative-

Junior Class Representative - Alexa Beams

The fall sports season is quickly wrapping up with only football still playing. Last week, football and cheer hosted their senior night and honored 12 graduating players for their dedication to the programs. In late October, cross country took home the ECC division III championship title for both the girls and boys, ending the boys' 34-year drought. They also ended the meet with two runners placing in the top ten. As we transition out of fall, student athletes are eager to move on to their winter seasons. The popular winter sport, indoor track, is offering pre-season training sessions in the weight room after school and those who play basketball can look forward to tryouts on December 1st.

The National Art Honor Society gave back to the community at the annual trick or trunk night in October. They teamed up with the culinary club to decorate a trunk and as "spooky high school students" handed out homemade rice krispy treats. The Art Honor Society is also beginning their work

on the memory project. Members create a portrait or inspiration art for their assigned child from India who would otherwise not have an image of themselves.

This Friday, the class of 2024 is putting on an event to get students active while raising money. They are running a volleyball tournament in which teams will play against each other in short sets and the winning team of students will have the opportunity to play the teacher team. Admission to watch the game is \$2 and they anticipate a great turnout.

Senior Class Representative – Matthew Malbourn

I would like to start off by thanking Mr. Alves, Mr. Daniewicz, and the Board of Education for honoring the Student Government Leadership team. We were very excited to host the first Fall Pep Rally and Homecoming Dance in three years, but very nervous as well. The team wanted to make a strong comeback, and we achieved that. Michael Freeman was ready to take the jobs that no one else stepped up to. Emily Chen created some amazing social media and poster designs to advertise our events. And Paige Terris made sure to be thinking 10 steps ahead of the rest of us to keep us on track. Our advisor Ms. Gawlak got to plan her first pep rally and dance as an advisor, learning from our hiccups this year to make next year even better. I am beyond thrilled to be part of such an amazing and supportive leadership team and cannot wait for the rest of the school year's events.

*Montville Drama had its three-night showing of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* on October 20th, 21st, and 22nd. The cast and crew did more than an amazing job showing the journey of Christopher and his mind. This show was senior Hanna Lentini's and my second-to-last show, and we are preparing for our final musical coming this spring.*

I would like to take some time to acknowledge senior Karla Flores and junior Grace Buecker for participating in the United Way program. In the coming months, they will volunteer at various United Way sponsored events while learning about philanthropy. After the new year, students will participate in a mini-grant award process, where they will visit local non-profit support organizations and interview the directors. Students will partake in the decision-making process while learning and thinking critically about both the needs and support in the community.

Item 10. Report on District Operating Plan (Vision, Goals, and Strategies)

a. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

On November 8th (election day) we had district wide Professional Development. I just wanted to provide you with a brief overview of some of the offerings we had for teachers and to show how we are making purposeful connections with our staff and the work of the district.

- *The High School worked with Jonathan Costa, continuing to align their classroom instruction with the intended outcomes we have for ALL students – which we identified as our skills and dispositions of our graduates*
- *Palmer participated in a book read: “Better than Carrots or Sticks” which focused on restorative practices, classroom management and relationships.*
- *Tyl worked on Blended Learning, SRBI and IAB assessments*

- *All three elementary schools worked on RULER and Reader's Workshop*
- *Special Education Teachers had a workshop on the new state platform CTSEDS*
- *Additionally, all grade level teachers and content area teachers were given time to work together*
- *We offered Para Training on restorative work*
- *We had curriculum support for new teachers in the district in elementary.*

Many of the sessions were facilitated by our teacher-leaders and our administrative team and all sessions focus on our District goals for improvement.

b. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

I want to provide a quick update on cost of Capital Improvements covered in the recently approved bond. We have been focused on obtaining a solid budget estimate for the HVAC grant since that application is due in December. The total cost is higher than our original estimate but affordable if we receive the grant with 70% reimbursement. However, if we do not receive the grant, the bond would not cover the total cost of the roof and the HVAC system unless we to eliminate other items. At this time we are optimistic that both projects, the TYL Roof replacement and AC project, will move forward though we are less confident that we will be awarded an HVAC grant.

Item 11. Citizens' Comments

None

Item 12. Board Chair Remarks –

Wills - Attended an ARPA meeting. We are spending the ARPA funding according to the Town's expectations. Feel good concerning the tennis courts, could be savings on this bond project if the town cuts down the trees at no cost to the Board. It is hard to find multiple bids on projects so there may not be a bid process for the tennis courts, however for most projects we must follow purchasing policy.

Item 13. Future agenda items

None

Item 14. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Moved by: Wills Pike
 Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
 Vote: Carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education
Minutes Approved: _____

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education