



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 17, 2023 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, James Wood, Carol Burgess, Sheelagh Lapinski, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove and Grace Carlos. Board Member Florence Turner was absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators: Paula LaChance, Greg Gwudz, Rob Alves, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, Amy Espinoza, and Amanda Brown; and teachers/ presenters Michele Lathrop, Liz Dumond, Robin Greenwald, and Hollyann Moriarty. Town Council Liaison Colleen Rix was absent.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Move item 8a and 8b to the end of the meeting, executive session.

Motion: To amend the agenda, moving items 8a. and 8b to the end of the meeting for executive session

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Item 3. Presentations

- a. Montville Marvels: Principals Will Klinefelter, Amy Espinoza and Jill Mazzalupo

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

Mohegan Elementary School - For representing Montville Schools in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest: Abriella Hatch

For her numerous acts of kindness with her peers: Nevaeh James

Murphy Elementary School - For generously and responsibly taking a kindergarten student with complex medical needs under her wing: Harper Holmes

For representing Montville Schools in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest: Natalia Davila

Oakdale Elementary School - For exemplifying school expectations by including others and treating her peers with respect, contributing to the building of community within the school: Taylor Sheriff

For putting together and donating Thanksgiving dinner bags of groceries for the holiday break for six Oakdale families: Jennifer Strickland, Wendy Summers, Jessica Kingman

- b. Math / Science Data presentations

Administrators, elementary math coaches Michele Lathrop and Liz Dumond, middle school math coach Robin Greenwald, and high school math and science department chair Hollyann Moriarty provided a comprehensive look at District Math and Science Programs. Items discussed in detail were instruction, assessment and intervention programs for math and science at all grade levels and the results of district and state assessments.

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 as presented.

Moved by: James Wood

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried (8-0)

a. Budget Update: Kathy Lamoureux

Board Report – Jan 2023

Since the last Board Meeting we have been working on developing the 23-24 budget while projecting out the current year's spending.

Salaries:

The salary object accounts are projecting both shortfalls and overages. Some of the objects projecting shortfalls are in object 112 for the security, nursing costs and object 120 substitute cost. The security and nursing shortages are related to positions added after the budget development for security and to cover a student's individual education plan. Substitute shortages are a result of covering employee absences and vacancies at the increased rates necessary to attract substitutes.

It may be necessary to modify existing grants to cover some of these shortages.

Employee Benefits:

This next month I will review the employee health insurance for both the 22-23 projection and budget development. Changes to staff elections and vacancies impact these accounts.

Tuitions and Purchased Services Transportation:

As previously reported, tuitions for student placements with the associated transportation continue to project a shortfall. We will continue to monitor throughout the fiscal year.

The regular education tuitions have a projected overage of approximately \$120,000 which will help offset the special education shortfall.

Additional Information:

We forwarded invoices for \$200,000 to the Town to be paid out of the Town's ARPA funding as agreed in order to meet the 22-23 budget appropriation. These included:

- Ledyard Vo-Ag tuition bill in the amount of \$122,814*
- New London Public Schools Adult Ed bill in the amount of \$71,986*
- New London Public Schools for Nathan Hale Tuition in the amount of \$5200*

We have been notified by LEARN that there will not be a Kindergarten class at the Friendship School for the 2023-24 school year. Currently, there are four kindergarten students enrolled at the Friendship School. We also have received the tuition rates for RMMS, Marine Science and Three Rivers Middle College Magnet schools which reflect increases of 2% to 2.76%.

We continue to work with our health insurance broker in exploring other options going forward to help contain costs.

Item 7. Old Business

a. Update on HVAC and Roof Grant Progress

Superintendent Pallin - As you know, we have two projects at Leonard J. Tyl Middle School for which we are applying for grant funding: replacement of the

HVAC units through a competitive grant process and replacement of the roof through a school construction grant.

We have submitted the HVAC grant application. Communication from the state indicates that we will not hear whether our HVAC grant application was approved until March.

The HVAC units must be replaced before the roof is replaced and the scope of that project depends upon whether or not we receive grant funding. We cannot apply for the School Construction Grant until we know how much of the bond is available for the roof project which is dependent upon receipt of the HVAC grant. The latest we could apply for a school construction grant for summer 2023 work is the beginning of February.

Therefore, we will not apply for a school construction grant until April at the earliest for a roofing project that would be completed in the summer of 2024.

We still hope to complete the boiler replacement this summer as the boilers require frequent repair, but that is part of our HVAC grant application.

- b. Consideration and action to approve a bid waiver for the Tennis Court project which will include sidewalks and fencing to work with Classic Turf. This is the same vendor that was awarded the contract with the Town.

Motion: To approve a bid waiver for the Tennis Court project which will include sidewalks and fencing to work with Classic Turf. This is the same vendor that was awarded the contract with the Town.

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux - It makes sense for us to use the same company that is completing the town work for the tennis courts and Steve has been in contact with them to discuss the scope of the project. We will put the tree removal portion of the project out for a competitive bid.

Item 8. New Business

- a. Superintendent's mid-year evaluation

Move to the end of the meeting.

- b. Confidential hearing of student matter

Move to the end of the meeting.

- c. Consideration and action to approve the E&E meeting dates for the 2023 calendar year for submission to the Town Clerk

Motion: To approve the proposed the E&E meeting dates for the 2023 calendar year for submission to the Town Clerk

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (8 -0)

Superintendent Pallin: Since we do not have an E&E meeting scheduled for this month, we are asking the full Board to approve meeting dates so that they can be submitted for the 2023 year. Meetings are scheduled to take place right before each monthly Board meeting.

Item 9. Information Items

- a. January 18, 2023 - 5:00 p.m., Special Policy Meeting, Small Conference Room
- b. February 2, 2023 - 6:00 p.m., MHS/Tyl Mascot Community Forum.
Mr. Alves provided updates on the status of the MHS/ Tyl Mascot. Requested to move Mascot Community Forum date to March 23, 2023.
- c. February 3, 2023 - 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., MHS Library Media Center, Legislative Breakfast
Ms. Burgess discussed the importance of advocating ECS cost sharing and Special Education Cost at the Legislative Breakfast.

Item 10. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy – *Jim Wood- meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to go through 4000 series (personnel)*
- b. Education Evaluation – *Bob Mitchell- no meeting has been held.*
- c. Communications Committee – *Carol Burgess - no meeting was held*
- d. Montville Education Foundation – *Laurie Pallin -Met on Jan. 9. Grants were awarded to two MPS teachers, JoAnne Dixon (Level Up Coding Skills) and Corey Wilcox (Disc Golf). Next golf tournament will be Aug. 14 in Norwich. Discussed the need to raise an additional \$5,000 through other fund-raising (Mohegan Sun concert, bingo, Polish Club event, Nino’s evening, sale of pies/butter braid, etc.) in order to maintain current level of grant awards.*
- e. LEARN – *Bob Mitchell- Ocean Ave Academy renovation almost complete and there has been some discussion for state to take over the cost of Magnet School tuition.*
- f. CABA/NSBA – *Carol Burgess – Lobby day on March 1st in Hartford.*
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Sheelagh Lapinski- Various community events have taken place or are planned including Green Day for Sandy Hook.*

h. Student Board Representatives

Junior Class Representative: Alexa Beams -

This winter season has been full of new achievements for our athletes. Indoor Track has been working hard this season and so far has qualified for states in over a dozen events. On top of that, there have been new school records set for pole vault, sprint medley relay, and the 400 meter dash. A new school record has also been set by a basketball player, raising the most points in a game to 47. Under a new coach, boys basketball has gone 4-4 this season with an outstanding 70-43 win against Tourtellotte this past Friday. Two of our teachers as well as numerous students have been dedicating their time to the Unified Basketball team and they had the opportunity to play during halftime at a UCONN women's basketball game. Wrestling is also doing well and they recently had 7 athletes place at a tournament in Canton and won in a match against Fitch last Wednesday. In the next four weeks of the regular season, our athletes are continuing to strive for state qualifiers and end their season strong.

Senior Class Representative: Matthew Malbaurn

The MHS drama department has begun the production of their spring musical! Little Shop of Horrors will be in an auditorium near you on March 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th! Casting took place before winter break and rehearsals have begun. There are lots of new faces and voices in the program this production, and seniors Hanna Lentini and I are preparing to take our final bows. It will be a long and difficult road to opening night, but the cast is prepared to face any challenges thrown their way!

Student government is preparing for its winter dance! A winter dance has not been held since 2019, so being able to bring it back is quite exciting. As you may have seen from posters in the hallway, our theme is Masquerade Ball! The purchase of a ticket comes with a blank masquerade mask that students will be able to decorate with stick-on jewels, feathers, and markers! Students can vote on their favorite mask at the dance, and a winner will be crowned.

A new club has come to MHS, the Math Team! Advised by Mrs. Olendorf and lead by captain Darren Chen, the MHS Math Team meets on Wednesdays after school. The math team competes in competitions from the comfort of the school and will have their second competition coming in a few weeks.

a. Principals' Reports – Increased Building Security Update –

Administrators Jill Mazzalupo, Greg Gwudz and School Safety Officer Mike Collins provided power point slides with updates of increased Security at Montville Public Schools.

Mike Collins explain that we are in the process of hiring the fifth officer for the district. All five School Security Officers are qualified to carry a firearm on duty as part of their responsibilities. Two officers are stationed at the MHS, one officer at Palmer and Tyl Middle School. The new officer will rotate his schedule throughout each of the three elementary schools. This rotation will be based on the schedules of the two SRO's currently assigned to the district by the Montville police department. It is the intent of the security personnel to make sure we cover all schools in district with armed personnel.

Item 11. Report on District Operating Plan (Vision, Goals, and Strategies)

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

As you know there is constant movement and volatility within the special education department. In an effort to support your endeavors with your strategic goals around resource deployment, I wanted to share the movements that have presented themselves to us this year and next year. These have a direct impact on budgetary needs.

Since last budget season we have encumbered the cost for 12 out of district placements. We as a district outplaced 6 students to clinical day schools, had 5 students moved into district that were already outplaced while one more was placed residentially by DCF which puts the financial burden for the educational piece on us.

We also have the 603 students that move into district. These are students that are in the DCF System and have been placed in Montville in foster homes. If they have no nexus they become our fiscal responsibility. This year alone we have had a total of 5 with an additional one this week.

Most recently, two students returned to district both with significant needs. They both required us to purchase new wheelchairs, hire para support and nursing support.

We also had a blind student start in our preschool and a deaf student that has no language at all. As a result, next year the deaf student will require a full time TOD for next school year and the blind student will require a brail translator to convert text to braille along with a full-time para.

So, as you can see ensuring appropriate resources can be difficult since so many situations are out of our control or ability to foresee.

- b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

Connecting to our Goals for Improvement and “fostering positive self-identity”, LAS Links administration connects to student learning and equity. Currently, we are doing our LAS testing which is the state mandated assessments we use with our multi-language learners. The LAS Links assessment monitors the progress of English language learners and is used to identify appropriate programming for students. As a reminder, LAS links emphasizes language development in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, writing and comprehension for academic achievement and college and career readiness.

Our new District EL Coordinator, Faith Emond has done an exceptional job coordinating the testing and working with the EL tutors across the district. In the past,

it has taken a couple months to complete the testing which caused major interruptions to students' learning because of the frequency in which they are pulled from the classroom. She is on target to complete testing in the week, except for any new arrivals or students with high absenteeism. To date, we have 98 students who qualify for EL services.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

One of the Board's goals is to review the effects of changing legislation on our district policies and procedures. Last week I attended a LEARN legislative breakfast attended by several Montville legislators - Cathy Osten, Kathleen McCarty, and Holly Cheeseman. We discussed issues with special education funding, late session add-ons in implementer bill without input from superintendents, level funding of ECS, the use of up to 3 remote learning days for weather-related closures, additional HVAC grant funding, issues with mandating professional development, etc.. Most of the meeting was spent expressing our issues with the CSDE implementation of the Science of Reading legislation.

You will have the opportunity to make your opinions known at the upcoming CABE legislative breakfast. This will be an informal event run by CABE. There will be no opening comments just an opportunity for legislators to hear from Board members and superintendents. If you want to discuss concerns with me prior to the meeting, please feel free to reach out. I have placed CABE's public policy agenda in the Board's OneNote for your review.

Item 12. Citizen's Comments

None.

Item 13. Board Chair Remarks

Wills – Attended CABE conference in November. Found conference very interesting and attended some nice workshops. Seen parallels with our district and other districts. Montville stands out pretty tall at a CABE conference and proud BOE members and the school district and our accomplishments.

Budget Season is upon us. Had numerous conversations with the chairman of the Town Council concerning increased budget cost, things are getting more expensive not cheaper

Item 14. Future Agenda Items

None.

It is anticipated that the Board will enter executive session for the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent and to discuss a confidential student matter.

Motion: The Board moved to enter executive session for the purpose of conducting the mid-year evaluation of The Superintendent, inviting Superintendent Pallin into the session

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (8-0)

The Board entered executive session at 8:51 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 9:12 p.m.

Motion: That the Board enters executive session for the purpose of conducting student disciplinary hearings under Section 10-233d of the Connecticut General, inviting Superintendent Pallin into the session

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (8-0)

The Board entered executive session at 9:13 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 9:19 p.m. and made the following motion:

Motion: That the Montville Board of Education accepts the student expulsion stipulation for the student who is the subject of this hearing.

As a result, the Montville Board of Education concludes that the student who is the subject of this hearing did commit an expellable offense and is expelled from the Montville Public Schools for one calendar year from 12-23-22 until 12-22-23 and may apply for re-entry at the start of the 2023-2024 school year as per the Student Expulsion Stipulation.

Moved By: Tim Shanahan
Seconded by: Tina Grove
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Item 13. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education