

**SPECIAL MEETING - MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MOHEGAN SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**

There was not a quorum of Board of Education members; therefore the meeting was informational only.

Present at the meeting: Board Chair David Rowley, Board Members Sandra Berardy, Robert Mitchell, Jr., and Todd Pomazon, Superintendent of Schools Pamela W. Aubin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Brian C. Levesque, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrator Lori Caron, and staff and community members.

D. Rowley introduced Board members and gave a brief summary of the budget assumptions and constraints, and turned the meeting over to P. Aubin. P. Aubin thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the procedures for developing the budget. Principals submit their budgets and she then reviews the requests and makes adjustments to develop a proposed district budget which she will present for review at the February 20 budget workshop. It is anticipated that the Board will then adopt a budget at a Special Meeting scheduled for February 23. The budget is a "values" document, meaning it funds the items which are valued, such as, class size, afterschool programs, and intervention services. The budget has to ensure teachers have the tools to do their job. It's important that we put forth a responsible budget that is sensitive to the needs of the community. Currently, she is optimistic that the budget will maintain services with an acceptable increase. P. Aubin turned the meeting over to the public, asking for any ideas or input about the budget before the "ink is dry."

Staff and community members spoke concerning the following:

- As a cost savings, use email to communicate with parents or at least give parents this option rather than mailing information.
 - P. Aubin said this was a point well taken. To implement, it would require some upfront time from the secretaries and we would have to obtain parent's email addresses.
 - P. Aubin and B. Levesque commented on the moves the district is making in this direction. They discussed the student management system, Protraxx for CEU's, and the paperless job applications process as a way the district is utilizing technology for cost savings and efficiency.
- Review bus routes to evaluate if savings could be realized, perhaps fewer stops would create more efficient runs.
- Parents believe Mohegan's class sizes need to be smaller
 - P. Aubin has been having a dialogue with L. Caron concerning staffing and will continue to do so.
- Instead of purchasing workbooks, use the CD that was purchased and perhaps materials such as math handouts could be printed off and workbooks could be eliminated
 - P. Aubin said we would need to look at the number of pages copied to see if there would be any cost savings. We would have to evaluate not only the paper cost but the copier and staff time needed to complete this.
- Class size is seen as an issue, especially at Mohegan, because of the diverse community of non-English speaking students and the transient population. It's hard for teachers to meet all students' needs.
 - P. Aubin stated that L. Caron has done a nice job advocating and explaining the school's needs.
- Parents would like to be sure that the enrichment program is not eliminated.

- The question was asked, "Will foreign language at the elementary level ever come back?"
 - P. Aubin said the research supports starting foreign language in the early grades but we can't recommend it in this climate. She further stated she would recommend full-day kindergarten before foreign language at the elementary level. There is research supporting both programs; however, we cannot request funding in this financial climate. We will be successful if we maintain the programs we have.

Submitted by,

Pamela W. Aubin
Superintendent of Schools