



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 21, 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 Lisa Terry. Board Member Grace Carlos was absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators: Paula LaChance, Greg Gwudz, Rob Alves, Kenneth Daniewicz, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, Amy Espinoza. Town Council Liaison Colleen Rix was absent.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Add 8e Discussion and action to set the graduation date for June 14, 2023

Motion to add item 8e to the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tina Grove
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- b. Add 8f Discussion of the Eligibility Requirement for extracurricular activities.

Motion to add item 8f to the agenda

Moved by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Tim Shanahan
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Item 3. Presentations

- a. Montville Marvels: Paula LaChance for 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 the flexibility and versatility that she brings to Mohegan School on a daily basis: Marjorie Charles.

Murphy Elementary School - For going above and beyond the requirements of their coding class: Lucas Schulz and Domenica Lopreiato.

For exceeding the expectations of a math paraprofessional at Dr. Charles E. Murphy School in multiple ways: Oliva Romanofski.

Oakdale Elementary School - For being an integral member of our school community, rising as a quiet leader who takes on tasks without being asked: Claire Scott.

For being genuinely kind, thoughtful, hard-working and reflective: Neena Palmer.

Recognition of Board Members

Superintendent Pallin - The month of March is Board of Education Appreciation Month and I would like to take a minute to recognize the dedication of Montville's Board of Education. Our Board plays a crucial role in ensuring the education and well-being of Montville's children. The fact that this is your third Board meeting in the past three weeks is one sign of your dedication. Your commitment is illustrated by your advocacy for our budget, the long hours the policy committee spent reviewing and revising every single Board policy, and your passionate support of our vision and goals. The actions and decisions you make in your volunteer roles are critical to the present and future lives of our students and on behalf of our staff and the entire community, I thank you for all you do.

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

None

Item 5. Letters and Communications

Bob shared a letter received from Julie Chapman (140 Pollys Lane, Uncasville) requesting that the district provide before school care at the elementary schools due to the shortage of daycare options in town.

Item 6. Approval of the consent Calendar

Motion: To approve the consent calendar as presented.

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

Item 7. Old Business

- a. Consideration and action to approve the 2023-2024 Board Budget for submission to the Town by March 30, 2023.

Motion: To approve the 2023-2024 Board Budget for submission to the Town by March 30, 2023

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Superintendent Pallin: This budget represents a \$2,638,056 increase (7.41%) over the 2022-2023 operating budget. Given the projected costs of health and liability insurance, enrollment projections, contractual obligations, the costs of the actual special education students currently in district, and the very real needs described in my recommended changes to staffing, I believe this is a responsible budget which represents our commitment to students' learning and social and emotional well-being.

Item 8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action to appoint the Principal at Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary School

Superintendent Pallin: I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the search committee for the next principal for Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary School – Board members Wills Pike and Tina Grove, Administrators Jill Mazzalupo and Dianne Vumback, Teachers Mary Aledia, Suzanne LoPresto, Jenny Natale and Laura Winakor, and Parent Kim Ryone.

We were very fortunate to have attracted a strong pool of candidates for the position, and are pleased to bring before you the strongest of that group, our elementary Math and Science Coach Elizabeth Dumond. Liz has worked in Montville for 20 years and in her current position as instructional coach Liz has played a key role in our elementary math achievement and growth which has resulted in state recognition for all three of our elementary schools. She

was instrumental in development of the role of coach in the district and in the creation of our math and science curricula which serve as models for the district. She demonstrated her skills as a principal when she substituted for Will Klinefelter as interim principal at Mohegan in the spring of 2021 and I received very positive feedback from Mohegan staff about her work there. Liz's commitment to Montville has been demonstrated by her willingness to take on whatever task we ask – whether preparing our elementary teachers to be remote teachers, teaching remote classes herself, or acting as an interim middle school assistant principal, and in every role she has capably risen to more than meet our needs. Liz is an exceptional teacher, a true instructional leader, and strong communicator, and an effective building administrator. I enthusiastically recommend her to you without any reservation whatsoever as the next principal at Dr. Charles E. Murphy School.

Before we move to the next agenda item, I would like to take this time to recognize and thank retiring Murphy principal Amy Espinoza. In her 12 years as principal at Murphy, Amy's work has been truly remarkable. She leads with calmness, empathy, humor, and a true love for her students and her staff. Murphy's teachers told our interview candidates that the greatest attribute of the school is the relationships and sense of family that Amy has helped to cultivate. They reflected that they truly enjoy coming to work and that the school is a uniquely special place under Amy's leadership. Amy's strengths include her strong knowledge of teaching reading, her focus on excellent instruction, her ability to delegate and empower her staff, and her drive to foster continued growth and improvement in staff and students. Her work has achieved results – Murphy has twice been named a CSDE school of distinction, and Murphy successfully piloted the district's first RULER program which led to its spread to Oakdale and Mohegan. Parents tell me that Amy's presence puts a smile on their children's faces every morning, that she has created a caring community with an exceptional staff, that she follows up with them personally and always goes above and beyond. As one parent shared with me, "thanks to Amy for heading up this exemplary school. I'm grateful for a principal who knows her students and even their parents by name, answers the phone in the main office, and reaches out to families as frequently and with as much care as she does."

I will personally miss Amy very much. Amy is a resource for district administrators and a very special friend; she is one of the funniest and most thoughtful and generous people I have ever met! Amy, you have truly made a difference to the students, staff, and programs at Murphy and throughout the district and your legacy will continue to positively impact the Murphy community for the future.

Motion: To appoint Elizabeth Dumond as Principal at Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary School

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Lisa Terry
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- b. Consideration and action to set Teacher Appreciation week as the week of May 8, 2023

Motion: To set Teacher Appreciation week as the week of May 8, 2023

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

- c. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Montville Public Schools certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Montville Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

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

- d. The Montville Public Schools will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion: The Montville Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales

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

- e. Discussion and action to set the graduation date for June 14, 2023

Motion: to set the graduation date for June 14,2023.

Moved by: James Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Superintendent Pallin: This is currently the 181st day of school. By statute, we can set the graduation date at any time as long as the calendar has 180 student days.

- f. Discussion and review of implementation of the Eligibility requirements for

extracurricular activities.

Principal Alves explained the proposed changes to the policy for next year

Motion to approve Eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities

Moved by: James Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Item 9. Information Items

- a. Mascot Community Forum Date: March 23, 2023; 6:00 P.M. MHS Library Media Center

Item 10. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy - *Jim Wood: Already reviewed in item 8f*
- b. Education Evaluation – *no meeting*
- c. Communications Committee – *no meeting*
- d. Montville Education Foundation – *Laurie Pallin -they are gearing up for the summer golf tournament and the spring grant cycle. Applications for grants are due April 30 and have been sent to all staff members.*
- e. LEARN – *Bob Mitchell- Learn is in the Budget process. Ocean Ave. Academy is near completion and will be support 85 high needs Special education students.*
- f. CABE/NSBA – *Carol Burgess – Lobby Day was at the beginning of month. The second DEI meeting took place.*
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Sheelagh Lapinski- Summer program has 30 spots, Center has new floors and a vehicle to transport students. Focus group discussed social media and phone usage.*
- h. Student Board Representatives

Junior Class Representative: Alexa Beams -

As the weather is getting warmer, students are eager to begin their final sport of the school year and this past Saturday, spring sports had their first official practice of the season. As of last week, the National Arts Honor Society has wrapped up their memory projects and portraits and inspiration art are currently on their way to children in India. On Saturday, April 22, the MHS Arts Council will be hosting a craft fair at the school and the Arts Honor Society plans on participating and donating their profit to earthquake victims in Turkey. Over the course of this school year, all of the classes have been hard at work fundraising for their future proms and senior activities. The sophomores are finding success with their calendar fundraiser in which they sell raffle tickets and participants have a chance to win a prize every day for a month. The class of 2024 is hosting a trivia night on March 29 at 6pm and is planning for a 3v3 basketball tournament in April following the success and student participation of their volleyball tournament in the fall. On March 9th, the culinary department worked with the drama club to host a

dinner and a show. They served a four-course meal of soup, salad, stuffed chicken, and custard tart to nearly 60 people. The dinner was served by volunteers from the cafe class as well as the culinary club and all classes from culinary 1 to cultures and cuisines had a hand in preparing the food.

Senior Class Representative: Matthew Malbourn

Student government was very busy during February. Spirit week commenced on the 22nd with jerseys vs. jammies day, followed by Despicable Me day, and black and orange day. The Friday of that week was our first winter pep rally since 2020. The event was going very smoothly until the morning of when two groups had to drop the event due to various reasons. The student government leadership team was able to think fast on their feet and was able to put together a relay event last minute to fill the empty time slots. Even though the pep rally had difficulty that morning, many teachers believed it to be one of the best they have seen. Following the pep rally, student government held their first winter dance since 2019. Besides the lead advisor, none of the leadership team had been a student at MHS yet, so the initial planning was slow. We eventually came up with the theme of a Masquerade Ball where students can purchase a mask with their ticket and decorate however they please. Student government provided materials such as feathers, glitter glue, and stick-on gems. While ticket sales were lower than the tickets sold for homecoming, the turnout was energetic and lively. I cannot wait to hear about what next year's team will do with the event to make it even more amazing.

The MHS Drama Club presented their spring musical Little Shop of Horrors on March 8th-11th. The Culinary department hosted their "Dinner and a Show" at the Thursday night showing, offering a four-course meal and a ticket for the show. Seats were practically filled each night with audience members roaring with laughter. I'm going to miss the troupe and the incredible 4 years it has given me at MHS. I would not be where I am today without our incredible director Ms. Walsh and the amazing cast and crew.

i. Principals' Reports – *no report*

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

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

I want to share with you the latest initiatives at the Transition Academy and how it relates to our District vision.

The staff have been fostering partnerships throughout the Community in efforts to build and promote internship opportunities for our students. They have been very successful with this work and now collaborate with over six different businesses. (Dogs World, Country Market, Anytime Fitness, Pandemonium Rainforest Thrift Shop, Whalers helping Whalers and Mohegan Sun.)

In addition to working in and on community-based skills, they are working on financial planning, health and Social Skills.

Within these areas they have been working on interview skills, honing the answers to a new interview question each day. For Financial planning they are filling out time sheets, checking their pay against their hours worked, and even navigating attempted fraud charges. So real world lessons.

They also have been attending a monthly class at the Dennison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic. This is a grant funded class that affords the students a variety of experiential learning opportunities such as meeting and working with animals to exploring hiking trails and all that nature has to offer. They are really hitting those skills and dispositions we aspire our graduate to acquire.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

Brief overview of the assessments that begin in the Spring of every year. This is connected to our 2022-2023 goals for improvement – Ensuring deep learning.

LAS Links:

As you know, we have already completed our LAS Links assessments which is for all of our EL students. They are assessed on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension. This assessment is roughly 90 minutes long. All students Grades K-12 who are identified as an English Learner must take this assessment. We have about 100 students at this time.

SATs:

SATs will be given this week. CT SAT DAY is March 22-24 and March 28-29. This is administered to all Juniors during the day at school and is roughly 3.5 hours long. The SAT assesses evidenced based reading & writing and mathematics. This is a nationally recognized college readiness assessment

NGSS:

Next Generation Science Standards are given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11. This assessment is approximately 90 minutes.

Smarter Balanced Assessments for Math and ELA

This assessment is given to students in Grades 3-8. It takes between 3 hours and 3.5 hours total, depending grade level. The assessment demonstrates critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills in the area of English and math. Smarter Balanced and NGSS will be administered in April and May.

Students with disabilities who have an active IEP or Section 504 plan still take these exams if they are in the grades that are being tested and are given accommodations according to their IEP or 504 plan. If the student has a significant cognitive disability, they may qualify for an alternate assessment. However, only 1-2% of the students in CT qualify.

Results from all of these assessments are included in the next generation accountability index that measures district and school performance.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

Board Strategies for District Improvement

Students' Mental Health Services – We were notified that UCFS received a grant to place a clinic at Tyl next year which will provide another avenue for students to receive counseling services at Tyl. Given the level of need that we are currently experiencing and the Board's goal to focus on students' social and emotion well-being, we are pleased to have this opportunity to increase services.

Pending Education Bills in Current Legislative Session – The number of bills under consideration that have the potential to impact district operations and Board policies is overwhelming. They range from funding ECS, Excess Cost, free lunches, etc. to professional learning to teacher evaluation to increased required training for nurses, to new academic programs, to requiring interior locking doorknobs and posting all district curriculum online. I have registered for a CAFE workshop next Tuesday to learn the current status of bills that originated in the Education Committee.

Highly Qualified Teachers for Next Year – We have begun the process of filling vacancies for next year by posting all anticipated vacancies for existing positions with our current staff. We will post all unfilled vacancies externally at the beginning of April to ensure we hire the best possible candidates.

Item 12. Citizen's Comments

None

Item 13. Board Chair Remarks

Wills- Congratulations to Liz Dumond, new principal at Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary School. Budget 2023-2024 was extremely clear and I'm hopeful and optimistic.. Fantastic play and congratulation to all the cast and staff of the MHS Drama Club.

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.

Item 15. Business for consideration in executive session

a. Confidential hearing of student matter

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 6:40 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 6:50 p.m.

Item 16. Business for action following executive session

b. Discussion and possible action to accept the student expulsion stipulation for the student who is the subject of this hearing

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 March 22, 2023 until March 21, 2024 and may apply for re-entry at the start of the 2023-2024 school year as per the Student Expulsion Stipulation.

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

Item 17. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education