

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Board Chair David Rowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie T. Baxter, Sandra Berardy, Steve Loiler, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, James Wood and David Rowley.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Pamela Aubin, Assistant Superintendent Brian Levesque, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Thomas Amanti, Jason Daly, Thomas Giard III, Mark Johnson, Jeff Newton, Sheila Reagan, and Eileen Richmond, Student Board Representative Jake Alexander; and MEA President Joel Farrior. Jessica Semmelrock was absent.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

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

District-wide: Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin recognized Douglas Couture for his efforts in bringing Moodle and other educational technology to teachers throughout the district. Board member Bob Mitchell presented the certificate.

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Principal Thomas Giard and Assistant Principal Mary Jane Dix recognized Abigail Baukus for taking the time to write an excellent short story that has been submitted to the Connecticut Student Writer's Magazine contest. Christina Tunucci was recognized for taking the initiative to make posters and collection cans for a family in need in the Montville community. Also recognized for the wonderful effort they have made over the last two years to get parents involved in Tyl's PTO and the school were Karen LaVallie, Corinne Dutka, and Amy Funk. Board members Sandra Berardy and Todd Pomazon presented these certificates.

Montville High School: Principal Thomas Amanti and Assistant Principals Tanya Patten and Jason Daly recognized Christine Woodman for being appointed to the position of a teacher at large on the Commission of Secondary Schools for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The National Honor Society, represented by President Jake Alexander, Vice President Josh Tassone, Secretary Rebecca Ingoglia, and Treasurer Cailin McAdams were also recognized for sponsoring a Montville family for the holiday season, providing them with toys, books, clothing, gift cards, and other necessities. Board members Jim Wood and Carrie Baxter presented these certificates.

Palmer Academy: Principal Sheila Reagan recognized Virginia Witherspoon for the countless hours she has given as a member of the Montville Booster Club. Board member Tom McNally presented this certificate.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:15 p.m. and resumed at 6:23p.m.

Presentation: B) Presentation: Reading Intervention & Reading Integration – Tyl Middle School.

Principal T. Giard and Assistant Principal M. J. Dix and staff Jamie Wolfradt, Kathleen Constantine, and Donna Wilson gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the five components of comprehensive literacy, SRBI, and REWARDS that service 50 students. A \$2,000 Liberty Bank Grant will be used to purchase 200 high interest books for low readers. Students are released from the program and sent back to regular classes upon completion.

Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

There were no citizens' comments.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

T. McNally referenced a letter from the UConn NEAG School of Education for P. Aubin's participation in the executive leadership round table in Hartford, on February 18. Another letter was to T. Amanti from KSA Events for having MHS participate in its basketball tournament in Orlando, FL, this past December.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

B. Mitchell made a correction to the Consent Calendar noting that he did not attend the January 20, 2010, meetings.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar, as amended.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 5a. Budget Projection – Kathy Lamoureux.

Per the budget projection for the current fiscal year, P. Aubin stated that the current budget is expended at 46.11% as opposed to 45.95% for the same time last year.

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representative Jake Alexander noted that Jessica Semmelrock was absent because she was called into work and then gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. The MHS Academic Decathlon Team placed 3rd in the State on February 20 and earned a total of 20 medals.
2. On Saturday, March 7, the Winter Ball will be held in the MHS gymnasium with the proceeds being split between the senior class and Student Government.
3. The Varsity Wrestling team won the ECC Small Division Championship and finished 4th in its class.

4. The Girls Varsity Basketball team advanced in the semi-finals this past weekend with a record of 15-7 and will play later at the State Championship.
5. MHS cheerleaders are going to the ECC Championship this weekend and later to the State Championships.
6. The Culinary Club was featured in last week's edition of *The Montville Times*.
7. Dave Rowley was a guest speaker at the ECE Human Development Class on their discussion of Schools in the 21st Century.
8. MHS senior Jack Dhondup will continue his Marine training program at Parris Island when he graduates in June. He hopes to go to college and officer's candidate school to become a military language analyst for the U.S. Government.
9. Board members were invited to attend the MHS Choral Department concert on February 25, at 7 p.m. All choirs will perform.
10. The Montville Adventure Club went on a ski/snowboarding trip to Wildcat, NH this past weekend.
11. The Poetry-Out-Loud Competition was held on February 11 in the MHS Library/Media Center. Twenty-six students competed. Junior Gloria Creamer finished in 1st place and will compete in the State competition next month. The new MHS poet laureate Colby McAdams will represent her title at the Mystic Arts Café in March.
12. The spring musical Grease will be held on March 18, 19, and 20 with tickets on sale now.
13. A new credit recovery program, Nova Net, will begin at MHS next year and will help students gain credits to graduate.
14. MHS hosted Superintendent P. Aubin and Assistant Superintendent B. Levesque yesterday, February 22, who met with parents, students, administration, and faculty.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

- a. **Consideration/recommendation/approval of proposed budget for 2010-2011. (Board members are requested to bring copies of their budget – previously distributed.)**

D. Rowley commented that the Board held its budget meeting on Saturday, February 20. Board members commented on the budget meeting.

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed 2010-2011 budget and forwards it to the Mayor and the Finance Director.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8. New Business

- a. **It is recommended that the Board of Education listen to a presentation regarding the proposed field trip to Peru from April 15 – 21, 2011, and approve this trip in order to begin to involve parents and students.**

Mrs. Clifford reported to that the trip to Peru will be attended by juniors and seniors at a cost of \$2,900. Approval of the trip would allow parents and students to set up a payment plan now for the spring break 2011 trip.

Motion: That the Board approves the field trip to Peru, April 15 – 21, 2011, in order to begin to involve parents and students.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

b. Appraisal of field trip revision: The Board of Education approved a proposed field trip to Argentina from April 9 – 16, 2010. The itinerary has changed from Argentina to France and Italy, from April 10- 19, 2010.

Mrs. Clifford explained that five students planned to go on the original trip to Argentina but the itinerary changed as they were not able to connect the trip with that of another school. Ten students now plan on taking the trip to France and Italy.

c. Appraisal of field trip: Adventure Club to Jay, VT, from March 26-28, 2010, 20 MHS students.

The Board was apprised of this trip.

d. It is recommended that the Board of Education review and approve a revision to the school calendar for 2010-2011.

P. Aubin explained that the revision of the 2010-2011 would allow districts to coordinate training of staff for Professional Development Day. A regional calendar will be discussed in the fall for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion: That the Board approves a revision to the school calendar for 2010-2011.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

e. It is recommended that the Board of Education set the transportation rate for Bozrah students at \$1,500.

Motion: That the Board sets the transportation rate for Bozrah students at \$1,500.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

f. Discussion/approval of Kindergarten Early Closing Day plan.

P. Aubin stated that the proposal came out of a discussion with teachers and the plans will mean that the kindergarten teachers will no longer have double sessions teaching both morning and afternoon kindergarten students. Parents will be sent reminders and the change will be noted in the kindergarten handbook.

Motion: That the Board approves the Kindergarten Early Closing Day plan.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that no meeting was held but one will be planned for next month.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Robert Mitchell).

R. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that the MEF met and it will hold its first annual art show on May 1 at MHS. The MEF also has a website that is up and running.

d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler said that she was not able to attend the LEARN meeting. She reported that the bid opening date for the new marine science magnet school in Groton is May 9.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that he received a report on the CABE Convention held last November. The next meeting of the Regional Resource Sharing is Saturday, February 27 at 9 a.m. at Kelly Middle School in Norwich. He also reported that he, D. Reed-Iler, and nine students would be attending CABE's A Day on the Hill, on March 3.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon/Carrie Baxter).

T. Pomazon reported that no meeting was held this month and there were no bills to pay. B. Levesque reported that he and K. Lamoureux met with CIRMA regarding the liability issue created by having automatic mechanisms on the gym doors.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally).

T. McNally reported that grants to area high schools were discussed at the last MetroCast meeting.

h. Capital Improvement Committee (Tom McNally).

T. McNally reported that the Committee will not meet this year but will be reinstated next year. He also reported that he had been appointed by the Town Council to the Public Safety Commission.

i. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell report that the next meeting will be in March. He also invited the Board members to visit the bureau.

j. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Board members commented and asked questions to Administrators on their reports.

k. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley reported that he would be attending the CABE meeting on February 27 and A Day on the Hill. He also reported that on March 2 there will be a Board Orientation session with the Board Attorney Saranne Murray at 5 p.m. All Board members were asked to attend. Also, a budget forum will be held at the Senior Center on March 5 at 10 a.m.

l. Other.

There was no other information to report.

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Maynard.

D. Maynard reported that the crisis team worked to assist students with the sudden loss of a student. She also reported that the department is preparing for its annual review next year. Also, two students returned to the district from out-of-district placements.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported that a committee is researching student information systems and will be touring schools that are using them. He also said that the Race-to-the-Top district plan submission date has been delayed but it is still being worked on. CAPT/CMT testing starts next week and principals and staff have done a good job preparing students.

c. Monthly Update.

P. Aubin reported that she has a list of tiered technology department expenditure requests asked for at a budget forum and noted that the district's Technology Plan will expire in 2012. Safety measures and anti-virus software are most important for the district. She also attended a Mohegan Parent Advisory Meeting and met with superintendent advisory and district advisory groups to look to strengths and weaknesses of the schools for discussion at the July retreat. P. Aubin reported that she will attend the regional meeting on Saturday in Norwich. She spoke about the After School Grant which will provide intervention services to tier three students. She also reported that she met with Town Council chair and vice-chair and met with M. Bialowas and had a tour of his office and discussed management of the district.

P. Aubin, B. Levesque, and L. Pallin have also attended full-day meetings at each school, meeting with staff, administrators, and parents. Also, she and K. Lamoureux met with a representative from Yankee Gas and the insurance plan along with the Mayor and the Finance Director. As part of her personal development regarding leadership, P. Aubin visited Southington Public Schools as a member of the Superintendent's Network and has met with Commissioner McQuillan about Race-to-the-Top, ECS funds and the future of inter-district grants. P. Aubin also reported that she has been invited to speak at the local Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Item 11. Information items.

The Board of Education/Superintendent's Proposed Budget will be put on the district website.

Item 12. Citizens' comments (non-agenda items only).

Joel Farrior invited the Board to the student/faculty basketball game on Thursday, February 25 at 6 p.m. at Tyl.

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: **That the meeting is adjourned.**

Approved by: Tom McNally

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Tom McNally, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____