

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
March 16, 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, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, James Wood and David Rowley. Tom McNally was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Pamela Aubin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Food Services Heidi Buchholtz, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Thomas Amanti, Lorilyn Caron, Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Thomas Giard III, Mark Johnson, Joan Joplin, Tatiana Patton, and Eileen Richmond, Student Board Representative Jessica Semmelrock; and MEA President Joel Farrior. Jake Alexander 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:

Mohegan School: Principal Lorilyn Caron recognized Monique Vann for drawing the winning picture of a mascot wolf for Mohegan Elementary School's Positive Behavior Intervention Support Program. Kristiyana Petrova was also recognized for being chosen as the Fifth Grade County winner in the annual Fire Prevention Contest, sponsored by the Mohegan Fire Department. Board member Deborah Reed-Iler presented these certificates.

Oakdale School: Principal Mark Johnson recognized Seamus Barry for being the top fundraiser two years in a row, giving up his recess time to help the younger children jump rope, being the Jump Rope for Heart Ambassador, and announcing heart facts during the morning announcements. Cody Mileski, Robert Kelley, and Tyler Nowak were also recognized for raising and lowering the flag each day, in both good weather and bad, and for treating the flag with such respect. Board member Carrie T. Baxter presented these certificates.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Assistant Principal Joan Joplin recognized Neeley Henderson and Molly Podeszwa for their continued work, support, and desire to help others in need within the school and community through fifth grade H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everywhere) program. Zachary Boyles and Kamryn Ecklid were also recognized for their exceptionally hard work in improving their reading and completing the Geno's Reading Team and Reading Hall of Fame requirements. For his continued dedication, hard work, and commitment to learning and becoming an excellent musician,

Oliver Landry was also recognized. Oliver performed a piano selection for the assembly. Board member Todd Pomazon presented these certificates.

Presentation: B) Recognition of Board of Education members – Pam Aubin

In honor of Board Recognition Month, P. Aubin praised the work of the Board who she said spend hours at school activities and events, crafting policies, and reviewing programs. She said the Board represents the sentiment that “It takes a team to educate a child.” Token gifts were presented to the Board.

Presentation: C) Presentation: “Partners and Pals” – Oakdale School.

M. Johnson introduced staff, students, and parents involved in the Partners and Pals program, a mentoring program at Oakdale School that partners elementary students with pals from Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Saint Thomas Moore Academy, and Montville High School. Parents and staff spoke on the success of the program.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:34 p.m. and resumed at 6:42 p.m.

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

There were no hearing of delegates and citizens.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

In the absence of T. McNally, D. Rowley read a letter signed by Murphy School parents concerning the downgrade of kindergarten classes from three to two. P. Aubin stated that she would be monitoring the kindergarten and grade one classes carefully.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representative Jessica Semmelrock notified the Board that Jake Alexander was in rehearsals for the spring play “Grease.” She then gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. The MHS girls basketball team made it to the first round of the State Championship, and Stephanie Jones was chosen as ECC Medium Division All-Star.
2. Sixteen students attended the annual Gay Straight Alliance True Colors Conference at UConn on February 12.
3. On March 23, the FBLA will host a Bowl-a-thon for the March of Dimes at Holiday Bowl in Groton.

4. The musical "Grease" will be presented on Thursday, March 18, Friday, March 19, and Saturday, March 20 with two shows.
5. Colby McAdams, the MHS Poet Laureate, performed brilliantly at the Mystic Arts Café on Friday, March 12.
6. The culinary students, who were featured in *The Montville Times*, prepared 18 dozen cookies for the budget meeting at the Senior Center.
7. On March 6, Darryl Cook, a 2007 MHS graduate, was chosen to design and show his clothing line for the Fusion Fashion Show and Competition against students from the Fashion Institute of Technology and the New Parsons School of Art in NYC.
8. Fourteen students in Ms. Bonner's painting classes displayed their artwork at Fiddleheads Co-op in New London and were invited to participate in the 12th biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology at Connecticut College.
9. The Environmental Club is promoting MHS students to participate in "Earth Hour" on March 27, when the lights will be turned off from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
10. On March 6, 7, and 8, Dr. Greenstein presented a workshop on formative assessment at the ASCD annual conference in San Antonio, Texas.
11. Today, students who made honor roll were treated with an Ice Cream Social.
12. The World Language Department held another successful Salsa Contest on March 3 with 60 students competing.
13. The Winter Guard showed their greatest achievement this past weekend with a seven point jump from the score of last week.
14. The winter sports awards will conclude the season on March 24 at 7 p.m. at MHS.
15. The MHS cheerleaders won the ECC Medium Division Championships and the Colby Sousa Award for showing outstanding spirit throughout the competition.
16. The wrestling team won the ECC Medium Division Championships, and Dustin Wilcox and Matt McMahon were named Class "M" State Champs.
17. Sophomores have completed the CAPT, and the mock CAPT was given to freshmen in preparation for taking the test next year.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

a. Update on 2010-2011 budget.

P. Aubin reported that additional information, modifications, and adjustments to the 2010-2011 budget are being made, as needed. A day has yet to be set to meet with the Town Council. Board members were asked to provide input concerning the PowerPoint presentation for the meeting with the Town Council.

Item 8. New Business

- a. It is recommended that the Board of Education observe the week of May 3-7, 2010, as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees.**

Margaret Tripp will notify Board members about the activities taking place that week and asks that they let her know what schools they will be available to visit.

Motion: That the Board observes the week of May 3-7, 2010, as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees.

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

b. It is recommended that the high school courses to be dropped or retained for 2010-2011 be referred to the Educational Evaluation Committee for review and consideration.

Motion: That the Board refers high school courses to be dropped or retained for 2010-2011 to the Educational Evaluation Committee for review and consideration.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously

c. It is recommended that the annual analysis of the forecasted sizes of sports teams be referred to the Educational Evaluation Committee for review and recommendation.

Motion: That the Board refers the annual analysis of the forecasted sizes of sports teams to the Educational Evaluation Committee for review and recommendation.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously

d. Discussion of the 2010 Common Core of Teaching (CCT): Foundational Skills adopted by the Connecticut State Board of Education.

P. Aubin reported that the 2010 Common Core of Teaching foundational skills will be used for the basis of evaluations and when preparing the Race to the Top application. Rubrics will be further defined to align with the tenets of the State Board of Education.

e. Appraisal of a field trip: ECE American Studies II to New York City, from April 18-19, 2010, 38 MHS students.

Board members were apprised of this trip.

f. Appraisal of field trip: Social Studies 8th Grade to Washington, D.C., from May 18-20, 2010, 95-100 Tyl students.

Board members were apprised of this trip. J. Fariior gave information on visiting the World War II Memorial.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed and approved a new Surveillance Video Policy, the job description for the new Preschool/Elementary Special Services Program Leader, and revisions to the job description of the Special Services Secondary Program Leader. These will be brought to the full Board for approval at the April Board meeting.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee did not meet but would meet next month at 5:15 p.m. prior the Board meeting.

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

D. Reed-Iler reported that the MEF met on March 1. Its focus will be on the upcoming art show and the annual golf tournament. There are no plans for a run this year. The Foundation is also recruiting more members. D. Reed-Iler also notified the Board that she would miss the next Foundation meeting.

d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler).

D. Reed-Iler reported that the groundbreaking for the Marine Science Magnet School in Groton will be held on April 7 at 2:30 p.m. LEARN heard a presentation by ACES about social networking and spoke about putting into place disciplinary actions for improper use.

e. CAFE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell asked for feedback from the Board members who attended the CAFE Day on the Hill on March 3. He commented on the students who attended the event and how they admirably represented MHS. The Norwich Board of Education will have a round table discussion on April 10 from 9 -11 a.m. on transportation and pooling insurance. B. Mitchell also reported that he would be attending the NSBA conference on April 10. He also said that CAFE was meeting tonight.

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

T. Pomazon reported the March 17 meeting of the Committee has been cancelled, and the promenade flooring issue at the high school is in the hands of the Town Attorney.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally).

T. McNally was absent from the meeting.

h. Capital Improvement Committee (Tom McNally).

At the March Board meeting, T. McNally reported that the Committee will not meet this year but will be reinstated next year.

i. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that on the meeting of March 11, the Bureau worked on and forwarded its budget request to the Mayor. Fundraising ideas were also discussed.

j. Administrative Monthly Reports.

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

k. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley reported that Channel 22 is "alive and well" and broadcasted its first on air program, "Meet the new Superintendent." Ideas are being sought for monthly presentations. He also reported that some Board members are attending Town Council and Town Committee meetings. D. Rowley mentioned the upcoming budget and the budget meeting at the Senior Center, teacher appreciation, and the "Grease" performance that is complimentary for Board members. A card will also be sent to Town Councilor Murphy on the passing of his father. D. Rowley also reminded the Board of the Board Orientation with Saranne Murray on April 5.

l. Other.

P. Aubin spoke about an article on regionalization.

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

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

D. Maynard reported on preparations for an entitlement grant and regional services cost cuts for transition services for 18-21 year olds. She commented, "There is little money and a lot of mandates."

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported that the District Improvement Committee is meeting weekly to work on its plan and that of Race to the Top. He explained that he attended a meeting in Hartford today regarding Race to the Top and said he would review the information obtained. He added that the State has two more rounds from which to attain funding for the initiative since it did not get funding in the first round. B. Levesque also reported that training is a key element for TEAM and CCT mentors. A regional meeting will be held next week at MHS with attendance by 50 persons from the district, Waterford, Norwich, and Griswold. He also reported that the district is in the home stretch of CAPT and CMT with one test remaining. He praised the administrators for their efforts and said that the tests would be sent to the State by April 1.

c. Monthly Update.

P. Aubin reported that she met with the superintendent of parochial schools to discuss the impact on areas schools with the closing of St. Joseph's School in Norwich. On March 9 she attended and spoke at a Rotary Club meeting as a guest of Representative Kevin Ryan. She also reported that she met with the School Resources Officer and discussed fingerprinting of students and car seat safety. S. Berardy that the Youth Services Bureau will be included for the fingerprinting. P. Aubin attended a CAPSS subcommittee meeting regarding early childhood education. She also met with the Environmental Club at MHS and talked about ways to reduce the district's carbon footprint and energy saving measures. She also spoke about legislation regarding the installation and the use of safety belts on school buses and secondary school reform.

Item 11. Information items.

There were no information items to report.

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

There were no citizens' comments.

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Approved by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 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: _____