



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

March 19, 2024 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, Bonnie Bacon, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk; Lisa Terry. Carol Burgess was absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Administrators Paula LaChance, Greg Gwudz, Rob Alves, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, and Liz Dumond.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

Add item 8 d. Discussion and possible action to set graduation dates

Item 3. Presentations

- a. Montville Marvels: Principals Will Klinefelter, Liz Dumond, 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 her successful research, development and implementation of our first ever SEL night: Briana Strycharz

For the generous contributions which have greatly benefitted Mohegan Elementary School Students: Anonymous donor

Murphy Elementary School – For going above and beyond in fulfilling the role of hallway bus monitors for our youngest students: Mackenzie Bartholomay, Thuwesdia Robinson, Soniya Mullings, Marley Linski, Jariely Rios, Nalia Clark, and Ryelin Romanofski

Oakdale Elementary School – For their generous donations to help pay off student lunch debt at Oakdale School: Marjorie and Gary Murphy

Districtwide: For their efforts to ensure every student is fed every day, regardless of their ability to pay: Montville Florist's Leah and Darcy Van Ness

b. Recognition of Board Members

Superintendent Pallin explained:

March is Board of Education Member Appreciation Month and I would like to take a moment to thank Board members for your dedication, time, and hard work. You play a crucial role in the governance of the Montville Public School District. You volunteer countless hours advocating for students and staff and making impactful decisions as you set policy, establish a budget, negotiate contracts, and hire the next superintendent. Your commitment to the education and well-being of Montville's students and your support for our staff are noteworthy. On a personal level, I am most appreciative for your support of me during my tenure as superintendent.

On behalf of our entire community, thank you!

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

The Board welcomes public comments at Board meetings. When you speak, please clearly state your first and last name and your address so that we can reach out to you after the Board meeting. Please try to limit your comments to 3 minutes. The Board's protocol is that they do not respond to citizen's comments at the meeting. They do, however, listen carefully and follow up after the meeting as appropriate. Your comments may lead to further dialogue at a future Board or sub- committee meeting or a follow-up phone call from a district administrator for more information

None.

Item 5. Letters and Communications

Wills read a letter from Montville Administers Association regarding affiliation with CT Federation of School Administers.

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. Overview of Montville High School Career Pathways

This was presented at the last E&E committee meeting and Rob Alves provided a brief overview to the entire Board as the committee requested.

b. Consideration and action to approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects

Motion: To approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects for submission to the town

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

Wills expressed his view that repair of the MHS track is a high priority for the Board

c. Consideration and action to approve the Superintendent's 2024-2025 budget for submission to the Town by March 22, 2024

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's 2024-2025 budget as amended based upon Board discussion for submission to the Town by March 22, 2024

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

Superintendent Pallin presented several slides to address a Board member's request to provide more detailed information about class size and certified staffing at the secondary level.

Laurie also addressed a question asking for an exact cost for paras saying that an exact cost can't be provided but I can use current proportions. Of 22 FT paras, 27% are on double plan, 4% on single plan, 68% on waiver. If we hired 5 FT paras and 1 took double plan, 1 took single plan, 3 took waivers, it would cost about \$43,000. The Board asked to see how adding \$60,000

would impact the budget in hopes this would provide funding for about 12 additional full-time paras. Board members were unanimous in approving an additional \$60,000 for this purpose.

Laurie provided information about the Shipman Goodwin policy service, saying that it would cost \$4000 the first year and \$1,400 in subsequent years to get policy service equivalent to the service provided by CAFE. Board members took a voice vote to remove the CAFE convention fees of \$4,500 and add the Shipman Policy Service for \$4,000. 7 Board members approved these changes and one, Robert Mitchell, abstained.

Board members also agreed to keep the two changes to the budget which were discussed at their March 5 budget workshop (reduction of MERS by \$36,000 due to rates received and increase in the tutor wages due to a mathematical error in calculation of wages.)

Based upon these changes, it was agreed to send a budget totaling \$45,527,416 (a 4.537% increase from last year's appropriation) to the town by March 22, 2024.

Item 8. New Business

- a. 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 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: 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 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: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

This is an annual motion stating that we will comply with mandatory nutrition standards and not offer for sale during the school day foods that do not meet these standards.

- b. The Montville Board of Education moves to 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 moves to 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: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (8-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

This is an annual motion stating that we can sell food that does not meet the standards at events which take place more than 30 minutes after the end of the school day provided they are not sold through a vending machine or school store.

- c. Consideration and action to set Teacher Appreciation week; May 6- May 10

Motion: The Board moves to set Teacher Appreciation Week as May 6- May 10

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

- d. Discussion and possible action to set graduation dates

Motion: The Board moves to set the district graduation dates as June 14, 2024 at Palmer and June 17, 2024 at Montville High School

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

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Montville Carnival is scheduled for June 14, 15, 16 and I have been told it can't be changed. We cannot accommodate the carnival and parking for graduation on the same evening, therefore, we are proposing setting MHS graduation for June 17 and Palmer graduation for June 14. Tyl promotion would be June 13. This means we will need to get all carnival cleanup done on Sunday evening / Monday morning. I have asked for town assistance in this process. It also means we will need to keep the stage and chairs on site from June 13 to June 17. We will need town support to make sure the stage is not used during the carnival and we will need to explore the additional cost.

Item 9. Information Items

None.

Item 10. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy – Tina Grove – Tina appointed as committee chair. (8) policies discussed for revision or addition. They will be brought to the full Board next month.
- b. Education Evaluation – No meeting
- c. Communications Committee -No meeting
- d. Montville Education Foundation – Laurie Pallin –
The next grant cycle is open and grants will be due on April 30. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded. The next MEF fundraiser will be a trivia night on June 8 from 5-8 at the Polish Club. MEF will have dinner and dessert and they are looking to have up to 25 teams of four. Maybe the Board could put together a team! Plans for the August golf tournament are underway.

- e. LEARN - Bob Mitchell –LEARN's 2024 Programs & Services catalog was passed out to all BOE members
- f. CABA/NSBA –Carol will provide details next month
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau- Timothy Shanahan – Penny Drive, upcoming community project, blood drive April 8th, Athlete Mental Health survey discussed.
- h. Student Board Representatives

Junior Class Representative: Adam Gallagher

We started off the month of March with our pep rally, and unfortunately the seniors took home the win. This isn't the last pep rally, however, as we do have the spring pep rally coming in May. The drama group also held their production of Adam's family, and I chatted with Mrs. Walsh, the director, and we agreed it was a great show. Spring sports started up last Saturday, although there were no games yet. The high school students are preparing for "Read Across America," and April 5th is the day they'll be going to classrooms. I visited the preliminary informational meeting, and there were a ton of people there, and I know the spots are full as well so it's been popular. I've talked to some friends who are doing it, and they said they're very excited, so I hope the elementary schools enjoy it.

Senior Class Representative Alexa Beams:

MHS Cheerleading finished out the winter sports season by earning 2nd runner up at states and competing at New England regionals this past weekend. The warmer March weather has been exciting for athletes, who as of Saturday, are starting practices for spring sports. Led by Ms. Whisman, the volleyball team is bringing their expertise up to Tyl to teach middle schoolers the basics of volleyball every Thursday in March. So far, the clinic has been great and beyond skill development, girls are developing bonds with players that will be invaluable as they move up to play in high school.

The National Art Honor Society, FCCLA Culinary Club, International Club, and Montville Arts Council are joining forces to host an Italian Festival. Students have researched the culture of Italy and are creating a menu of Italian foods as well as some Italian inspired art to share with the community on April 4th from 5-7.

Tyl is excited to announce their Spring Drama Production, Mary Poppins, which will run this week on March 21 and 22. On Valentine's Day, the Student Council attended their annual Bingo Event at the Montville Senior Center. It has become a tradition of students helping the wonderful staff setup for bingo, cleanup, and deliver Valentine's Day cards to all the senior citizens in attendance. It is a great opportunity for generations to interact and find some common interests. The student council is looking forward to another visit scheduled for April 5.

Tyl is starting a new initiative, recognizing students for "perfect behavior." Students who have received zero disciplinary referrals will be given a certificate, a letter home, and be entered into regular drawings to win prizes of their choice. On the same note

of student success, on Friday, March 15, Tyl held a Student of the Trimester breakfast. The counselors organized this event, and in total, 111 students were recognized for their exceptional effort during trimester 2!

i. Principal's Comments

OAK –Jill Mazzalupo- *Read Across America* in progress. Students from St. Thomas Moore came and read to students. Well received, other schools could benefit from the diverse cultural students from St. Thomas Moore.

MOH – William Klinefelter – *Ticket to Ride*, bike and gift certificates will be given out for books read. Went on field trips to The Garde Arts and Avery Point for Project O.

CEM – Liz Dumond – *Family Movie Night*, well received by students and families.

TYL – Greg Gwudz – Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player, has built a community around substance use prevention and recovery. He will be giving a presentation on March 27th at both MHS and Tyl

MHS – Rob Alves – Chris Herren will be coming to MHS on Wednesday March 27th at 8:45.

10. Report on District Operating Plan

a. Report from Director of Special Services – Paula LaChance

Spring starts our focus on preparing for ESY. This year as in the past, we will run programming three days per week for four weeks. I have found the longer days to be more beneficial in maximizing our instruction time.

ESY will consist of a Preschool program, a special needs program at both the elementary level and secondary level. We also run a Social Skills group for the higher functioning secondary students. This group is involved in cooking and community activities as it pertains to developing their social and independent skills. We also run a Transition program in which the students continue their intern and community work.

Tomorrow we have our preschool screening utilizing our preschool teachers, PT, OT and SLP as well as spec. ed. administration. Due to the number of students (40+) we are running an additional session on Thursday. This gives us a total of 6 sessions with 8 students per session. We are excited to screen so many students as it will assist us with our typical peer population.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

We had our safe school climate committee meeting this month. As a reminder, as part of our bullying policy we are required to develop and implement a "safe school climate plan" to address the existence of bullying and teen dating violence in our schools. The purpose of the safe school climate plan is to provide a safe learning environment for all students.

By establishing a positive school climate, students will feel socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually safe at school.

As the District Safe School Climate Coordinator, I work with the safe school climate specialists at all of the schools to prevent, identify and respond to bullying.

We met last week to discuss bullying issues and to make recommendations for improvement to our response and to the safe school climate plan.

We talked about the trends we are seeing:

- *Mean behavior – however, a lot of it turns out to be back and forth*
- *Friendships gone wrong (someone feeling left out, making a comment that is misinterpreted)*
- *Comments or language that is misinterpreted*
- *Threats causing fear*
- *Using the term “bullying” loosely*

Strategies to mitigate

- *Advisory lessons*
- *Monthly respect lessons*
- *Utilizing the social worker/school psychologist to go into classrooms*
- *Safety plans*

Proactive measures (how do we make an impact on the school climate)

- *Teach kindness and empathy*
- *Talk about bullying and why it is wrong and what to do*
- *Advisory lessons*
- *Health lessons – talking about healthy relationships*
- *Counseling groups for students who need support with friendships.*

We will meet again before the end of the year to update this list and make recommendations to the overall plan.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

Tyl Roof Project - Kathy and Al had a productive meeting with School Construction today and we anticipate the Tyl roof project will be able to go out to bid in about 2 weeks.

Summer Sports programs – Based upon changes to CIAC and ECC guidance, coaches will be allowed to work with their athletes over the summer (mid-June to mid-August) for up to 2 days a week, 2 hours a day. I met with Tim and Rob to discuss how that will affect Montville. Currently our athletes do meet over the summer, but they cannot work with their coach; they are led by a parent volunteer or past graduate meeting off site and are not affiliated with the school. However, that does not mean that problems don't still come to the HS administration. The change would in effect allow us to continue to do what students are already doing but they would be allowed to work

under a certified, CPR-trained coach. This would not require services from the trainer and any summer work would be voluntary for both staff and students. All students would be registered for a team and medically approved for the summer conditioning work. We are still waiting for more guidance and will continue to adjust our plans. Right now, we are thinking each participating team might have one sanctioned practice per week with the district coach.

Item 12. Citizen's Comments

None.

Item 13. Board Chair Remarks Wills Pike

Thank you to all board members for the thoughtful discussion on the school budget. I enjoyed the play The Adams Family. Looking forward to the completion of the tennis court project.

Item 14. Future Agenda Items

None

Item 15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan

Seconded by: Donna Funk

Vote: Carried (8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____