



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 16, 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.

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

Item 2. Presentations

- a. Montville Marvels: Presentation by Rob Alves, Greg Gwudz and David Gollsneider

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

Montville High School – For their remarkable resilience and steadfast dedication to academic excellence: Alexa Beams, Jacob Russell, Matthew Chen, Abigail Daniewicz.

For his perfect attendance: Collin Wahl.

PBL Palmer Campus – For the establishing positive relationships with students and staff: Mary Hillman.

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School – For his immediate response, quick thinking, and action, during and emergency situation at Leonard J. Tyl Middle School; coming to the aid of another

student: Jayce Adams

For her immediate response, quick thinking, and action during an emergency event at Leonard J. TYL Middle School, coming to the aid of a student: Kirsten Todd

Item 3. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Add item 7 l. Consideration and possible action to transfer \$200,000 from objects 204-222 Employee Benefits to objects 510.2792 Subcontracted Services, Transportation (\$95,000), 584.2792 Transportation Reimbursement (\$20,000), and 321.1200 Special Education Purchased Services (\$85,000)

Motion: To add 7l to the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Second by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

- b. Add item 14. Consideration to add executive session for purpose of discussion of pending litigations involving Board of Education.

Motion: To add item 14 to the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Second by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

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 received e-mail from Kim Doyle, Assistant Director of TVCCA. She congratulated Tyl Middle School concerning an event that was held there.

Item 6. Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion: To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (9-0)

- a. Budget update: Kathy Lamoureux
- *As the fiscal year winds down, we are projecting the budget based on trending and history in the following categories: Salaries, Employee Benefits, Purchased Services, Tuitions, Supplies, Property, and Other to make recommendations for transfers to close out the 23-24 budget*
 - *The projections for the salary accounts taken as a whole are trending within the budget and currently reflect a surplus. However, to complete the projection we are looking for more trending. Additionally, the 6/30/2024 accrual for the period ending 6/30/2024 is being calculated to prepare a purchase order. We will continue to project these salary accounts based on contracts, remaining school days and calendar days until 6/30/2024. Some of the salary objects are projecting shortages at this time such as substitutes and custodial helpers while others are projecting surpluses because of turnovers and vacancies experienced during the fiscal year.*
 - *Employee Benefits are trending with a surplus. We are currently recommending a transfer of two hundred thousand from these objects to cover projected shortages in purchased services and contracted transportation. The overages in these objects are based on lower than anticipated costs for pension, unemployment insurance and health insurance.*
 - *Purchased services, reimbursement and subcontracted transportation are projected to reflect a shortage at year-end which will be offset by the transfer that is being recommended. The shortage in purchased services- special education is related to services for students attending magnet, charter and outplacements outside their tuition costs. The projected transportation shortage is related to the number of outplacement runs along with parents being reimbursed for providing transportation.*
 - *Tuition objects are currently within budget with a surplus of approximately \$28,000. We will continue to monitor these accounts because of their volatility. It should be noted that we were just advised of an outplacement that occurred which has not been accounted for in this surplus. During the year end process, we will be reconciling outstanding purchase orders and making adjustments as needed.*
 - *Supplies – The schools are currently completing purchase orders for supplies and textbooks for the next school year. This is necessary in order to ensure a smooth opening for the next school year and is consistent with past practice. Because this spending is controllable, it is anticipated that expenditures will be within the budget allocation.*

- *We have locked in heating oil at \$2.9643, diesel at \$3.0361, and gasoline at \$3.0163 including taxes for next fiscal year.*
- *Property and Other categories are trending within budget.*
- *There may be additional transfers for your consideration in May as the year end closeout of the budget continues.*

Item 7. New Business

- a. Set date of June 4, 2024 to recognize 2023-2024 retiring teachers

Motion: Set date of June 4, 2024 to recognize 2023-2024 retiring teachers

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Will start at 8:30 and meet at Central Office.

- b. Consideration and action to authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative and state and federal grants for educational programs

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative and state and federal grants for educational programs

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

This is standard language we adopt each year. This empowers us to submit applications like the security grant, HVAC grant, Title and IDEA grants without Board approval of each application.

- c. Consideration and action to revise Policy 4111.3 Increasing Educator Diversity as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To revise Policy 4111.3 Increasing Educator Diversity as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

The policy has been rewritten to reflect the new requirement of Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

- d. Consideration and action to adopt Policy 4117.6 Exit Surveys as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To adopt Policy 4117.6 Exit Surveys as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

This is a new policy which aligns with new legislation requiring that teachers who voluntarily resign complete an exit survey that seeks specific information which is reported to the CSDE.

- e. Consideration and action to revise Policy 5111 Admission / Placement as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To revise Policy 5111 Admission / Placement as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Reflects new age of 5 by Sept. 1 to enter K and requirement that students who are 17 must withdraw to adult ed, they cannot just withdraw from school. Added a page summarizing the age changes. Also added a form for K waiver requests and a line to the form for requesting withdrawal of a 17-year-old to ensure the student enrolls in adult ed.

- f. Consideration and action to adopt Policy 6142.104 Play-Based Learning as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To adopt Policy 6142.104 Play-Based Learning as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

A new policy that reflects new legislation. Play-based learning is required in grades pK and K and must be allowed in grades 1-5. The district must provide PD in play-based learning for pK-5 teachers. We have PD scheduled for May 2 for elementary teachers.

- g. Consideration and action to revise Policy 6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To revise Policy 6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Revision to the form for requesting reconsideration of instructional materials to require more specificity regarding what is inappropriate in the material.

- h. Consideration and action to revise Policy 6148 FAFSA Completion Program as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To revise Policy 6148 FAFSA Completion Program as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Revision to the policy to make completion of the FAFSA mandatory for graduation from high school and the adult ed diploma program unless the parent or the school has completed a waiver to the process. This is required in legislation.

- i. Consideration and action to revise Policy 9323 Construction of the Agenda as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To revise Policy 9323 Construction of the Agenda as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Addition to an existing policy that requires all supporting documents to be shared at a Board meeting be posted on the website prior to the meeting.

- j. Consideration and action to revise Policy 9324 Advance Delivery of Materials as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To revise Policy 9324 Advance Delivery of Materials as recommended by the Policy Committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Rewritten policy that reflects electronic delivery of agenda and supporting materials for BOE meetings.

- k. Consideration and action to set the 2024-2025 tuition rates as follows:

<u>Education</u>	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special</u>
Elementary	\$12,355	\$32,880*
Middle School	\$12,975	\$32,525*
High School	\$13,490	\$30,175*
Pre-School		\$31,650*
Other Service		Negotiable
Palmer Building		
PBL Program		\$42,525*
Pathways Program		\$58,400*
Other Services		Negotiable

* Additional costs may be assessed based on the student's individual educational program (IEP).

Motion: To set the 2024-2025 tuition rates

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

This is an annual motion. Rates have been increased by 3.2% based upon the February 2024 Consumer Price Index. We do not accept tuition from individual students' families to attend MPS, but we do accept tuition students from other towns (most frequently special education students at Palmer) and DCF placements. Rates for individual students are adjusted based on the actual costs of students' educational programs.

1. Consideration and possible action to transfer \$200,000 from objects 204-222 Employee Benefits to objects 510.2792 Subcontracted Services, Transportation (\$95,000), 584.2792 Transportation Reimbursement (\$20,000), and 321.1200 Special Education Purchased Services (\$85,000)

Motion: To transfer funding between objects

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Item 8. Information Items

- a. Public Hearing on General Government Budget, April 24, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
- b. Public Hearing on Board of Education Budget, April 25, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

**Both hearings will take place in the MHS Auditorium*

Item 9. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy – Tina Grove – No meeting
- b. Education Evaluation – Bob Mitchell, No meeting
- c. Communications Committee – Lisa Terry, No meeting April 4th, Special meeting April 22nd.
- d. Montville Education Foundation – Laurie Pallin, They held meeting on April 15th and discussed the upcoming concert at Mohegan Sun.

- e. LEARN - Bob Mitchell, Meeting on April 18th.
- f. CABE/NSBA - Carol Burgess, Meeting will take place the fourth week in April
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau - Timothy Shanahan, Penny drive is being held to refurbish water tower on Rt 163 and Maple Ave, discussed dangers of energy drinks and organizing café with the Middle School.
- h. Student Board Representatives

Junior Class Representative: Adam Gallagher

The boys' tennis team has started off strong with three wins in a row, although due to the poor weather our match against Killingly was canceled while we were on the courts. Student government is preparing for the spring pep rally, but is also planning the color run, which is set for late May. We haven't been able to do it for a while now, due to COVID, and our student government president has been very eager to get it started again. The music department is pretty busy, as the choir and band classes are playing for the elementary schools this Wednesday and Friday, and are having a trip to New York City this weekend with plenty of sightseeing and a few Broadway shows.

I agree with what Alexa said about Chris Herron's presentation. It was engaging, and I think he handled how people were being disruptive well, he was a very good speaker and got the point across well. It also helped that the assembly was longer. I know it's hard to take that much time away from class, but having a well-developed and thorough presentation made it that much stronger.

Senior Class Representative Alexa Beams:

At the end of March, team captains for spring sports attended the ECC Leadership Conference at NFA. They collaborated with captains from other schools to discuss their role as a leader and exchanged strategies for managing their teams. Outdoor track has a positive outlook for their season with the team earning 18 state qualifiers at invitational meets before the regular ECC season has even started. On the same note of success, girls' lacrosse won their first game and both baseball and softball had a strong start to their seasons.

In March, MHS and Tyl welcomed a visitor, former NBA player Chris Herron. I never thought it would be possible for our entire school to come together and be silent, but everyone was locked in and focused on the presentation. It was the most engaging assembly I have experienced, especially for addressing substance abuse, and I truly think it was worthwhile for every student. Even those who walked into the auditorium believing it would be a waste of time paid attention and took something away from it. In the advisory session before April break, students also had the opportunity to further discuss the assembly and provide feedback.

The National Honor Society is working on their main project of the year. With the goal of generating funds to purchase new clothing for Montville students in need, NHS is putting on a car wash at the community center on April 20. In addition, they

will be hosting a pickleball tournament on May 5 at the Camp Oakdale courts for an afternoon of food, music, and fun.

If you haven't heard about it already, Tyl students strive to embody the "Tyl Way". To achieve such, they practice the core values of respect, responsibility, safety, and pride to become well rounded citizens and I have a few achievements to share that are certainly representative of the motto. 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrated growth in their Smarter Balanced Assessments scores last year were celebrated at an ice cream social. In addition, the first winner was drawn from the biweekly raffle of students who have not had any discipline referrals for the school year. Finally, on the last day before April break, the student council returned to the senior center for a spring tea party, once again creating important connections across generations in the Montville community.

i. Principals' Report

MHS – Ken Daniewicz, Culinary students prepared Italian meal with homemade pasta and well-dressed tables, invited the Montville Senior Center. Well received event.

MOH – William Klinefelter, Preparing the 5th graders to the transition to Tyl, will be attending an outing at Camp Oakdale.

CEM – Liz Dumond, Next Thursday will be a Family Night/Open house with crafts, refreshment and counseling services. Before the spring break students were able to watch a live hatchery. Students were very connected and excited in the process.

OAK – Jill Mazzalupo, Second Trimester Town meeting was held recently and celebrated students following our core values.

TYL – Greg Gwudz, Upcoming field trip to Salmon River. Also recently celebrated over 300 students with perfect behavior.

PAL – David Gollsneider, The partnership with the Waterford Country School continues to be outstanding and is funding well spent.

10. Report on District Operating Plan

a. Report from Director of Special Services – Paula LaChance

Pre-K

Last month I told you about the preschool screening we were holding and wanted to let you know we screened 40 students and have referred 4 to the evaluation process.

Murphy Pathways

This year we have a new teacher running the Pathways Program at Murphy school. While she certainly has her hands full adjusting to this new role she has really done a nice job. Similar to the Tyl and Palmer Pathways; she has incorporated some experiential learning opportunities for the students in the program. She runs a farm which is certified as a petting zoo. Students have enjoyed visits from bunnies and goats. In March they participated in tapping trees for maple syrup. The sap was then brought to Barbara's farm where it was

cooked down into maple syrup. The students were then able to present this project to their general education class students which gave the students a true sense of pride and helps to build their leadership skills. This month every student got to observe a live chick hatchery while learning about the development process. The chickens have been moved to the farm and the students are able to livestream whenever they want.

Transition Academy

As a part of the social skills curriculum, they will be starting a new unit on healthy relationships. This unit covers all types of healthy vs unhealthy relationships including friends, family and romantic relationships. In this unit they will be discussing socially expected behaviors for different types of people, boundaries and consent. The focus will be on the social aspects of relationships.

- b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

Professional Development & Evaluation Committee

We have a PDEC committee that has met frequently since the start of 2024. Our goal is to complete this work in the next couple of weeks.

The goal of the educator evaluation and support system is to strengthen individual and collective practices to increase student learning, growth and achievement.

The plan is rooted in the belief that the best way to promote the growth and well-being of students is to support and encourage the growth and well-being of educators. The plan is based on continuous improvement, reflection and collaboration. Based on a set of standards – Kim Marshall’s rubric for teachers and specific rubrics designed for speech pathologists, social workers; school psychologists; and counselors. Since this plan would typically go to the E&E Committee because it is about instruction and administrative practices and it would go to the Policy Committee because it is about educator evaluation regulations and Connecticut state statute that all teachers are evaluated annually – we are proposing that we present this plan to the entire board in May.

State Assessments

We begin the grade 3-8 state assessments in English, Math and Science next week. As you know these are very important assessments and a lot of work goes in at the school level to ensure a smooth AP window begins first week in May; NGSS will be following AP

Presentations

Chris Herron presentation, provided by Barbara Lockhart with Montville Youth Services Bureau was well received by our students. He gave two presentations, each one unique to the age of the audience. His motivational message was about prevention and HOPE. In

his words, it is not about drugs and alcohol, it is about self-worth, confidence and self-esteem. It was a powerful message.

Oakdale had their Science Fair – 5th grade students presented their research on some pretty cool science projects. Jen Lathrop, Megan Jackson and Ashley Montgomery did a great job putting the event together and I have to say the turn out in terms of parents and grandparents attending was quite impressive!

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

Capital Requests

Wills and I attended a Finance Committee meeting last Tuesday, April 9th. At that meeting we explained our capital requests. The Finance Committee expressed that they would like to remove the ARPA funding for the Palmer Skylights from our Palmer roof project proposal. This increases our Palmer Roof Project request for capital funding by \$65,000 (going from \$316,000 to \$381,000). The Finance Committee expressed interest in going out to bond to cover several town and Board projects, including the Palmer roof and the MHS track resurfacing. The Finance Committee expressed support for keeping the bus and van replacement, the Tyl wireless project, and the Tyl sump tank for grease separator in the capital requests. We do not know which of our capital requests the Mayor has recommended in his proposed budget.

Operating Budget

Kathy and I met with the Mayor this morning to discuss his proposed budget. He told us that he is presenting a 2.5% increase for the Board of Education from the Town's appropriation for FY 2024 (not including the \$200,000 in cannabis funds which the town put toward the 23-24 education budget). The Mayor's budget sets the BOE appropriation at \$44,343,086 which is a reduction of \$1,188,790 from the BOE budget request. The mayor also told us that the Board will not receive cannabis funds next year; his plan is that these funds will be allocated to the police department. Finding almost \$1.2 million will require very significant reductions to the district budget. Our new requests (BCBA, MHS Special Ed. Teacher, and \$100,000 toward FT paras) only total \$305,000 and all of these are viewed as very necessary expenditures.

I do not believe that a 2.5% increase is reasonable based on the needs of our students and our steadfast commitment to meeting those needs. As the Finance Committee and Town Council review the general government and education budgets to determine the final appropriations, it is critical that community members participate and make their priorities known.

Since our budget level-funded supplies, has legally mandated increases in special education funding which cannot be reduced, and has increases for contracts that cannot be cut, it is likely reductions would need to be made from staff to meet a cut of this

magnitude. Hopefully as the budget process continues, we will receive more favorable news from the Finance Committee and Town Council.

Item 11. Citizen's Comments

None.

Item 12. Board Chair Remarks Wills Pike

Laurie and I want a meeting with the Council Chair and Finance Committee to discuss our budget. The Unified Basketball and the Chris Herron events takes a lot of effort to make happen. I'm proud of staff and administrators for their excellent coordination of these events.

Item 13. Future Agenda Items

Board of Education Budget

Item 14. Executive Session

Motion: To enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Moved by: Lisa Terry

Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan

Vote: Carried (9-0)

The Board entered executive session at 6:59 P.M. inviting Superintendent Laurie Pallin and Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback into the session

The Board exited executive session at 7:18 P.M. with no votes taken

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Vote: Carried (9-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____