



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

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: Bonnie Bacon, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk, Bob Mitchell, Carol Burgess and Lisa Terry.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Dianne Vumback, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Flynn, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Facilities Willie Quinones, Administrators Rob Alves, Amanda Brown, Greg Gwudz, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo and Liz Dumond.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Move item 5A to after 5B. Consideration and possible action to move 5A to after 5B to allow the Montville Marvels to go first

Motion to move 5A to after 5B on the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell

Second by: Lisa Terry

Vote: Carried (9-0)

- b. Add item 7F. Consideration and possible action to add three new courses at Montville High School.

Motion to add 7F to the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell

Second by: Tim Shanahan

Vote: Carried (9-0)

Item 3. Citizens' Comments (regarding agenda items only)

None

Item 4. Letters and Communications

Wills: Athletic Booster Treasurer Mr. Stone, donated 5K towards the procurement of the new scoreboard. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Mr. Stone and the Athletic Boosters for this donation.

Item 5 Presentations

a. Turf Presentation

Mr. Andrew Dyjak, Regional Vice President, New England from Field Turf. Mr. Dyjack explained the site work, life cycle of the turf, warranty and how long the project would take from start to finish. All questions from the Board were answered.

The proposed field layout can be found on the school's website under "Board of Education" and then in the drop down "Agendas & Minutes".

b. Montville Marvels: Principals Elizabeth Dumond; William Klinefelter; Jill Mazzalupo presented

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

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School - For creating an organization called Love Pet, presenting the idea to the PTO, organizing a pet supply drive, and successfully executing the drive on their own both here at Murphy School and within the community: Emmeline Pedroso, Haley Miller, Norah Allard.

Mohegan Elementary School – For being a positive, selfless, and supportive member of the Mohegan family, her tireless work ethic has made our school a better place: Kayla Sieczkiewicz

For his tremendous growth academically and for demonstrating qualities we celebrate at Mohegan Elementary School: Braydyn Evans

Oakdale Elementary School – For her numerous positive contributions to Oakdale School, Jordan is viewed as one of the go to people among her colleagues, completing training to become a TEAM mentor and for taking the initiative to establish a new committee, the Sparkle Squad, which focuses on fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among staff: Jordan Duggan

For her kind and thoughtful demeanor, consistently demonstrating a willingness to assist her classmates, she is always polite, respectful, and serves as a role model for her peers through her caring and empathetic nature: Tara O'Reilly

Item 6. Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion: To approve the consent calendar as presented.

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

- a. Budget update: Kathy Lamoureux

State Financial Reports

The accountants are in the process of completing the Excess Cost and Education Financial Statement reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, as required by the State. These reports are due by January 30, 2025. A minor adjustment was made to the Excess Cost report by the accountant, increasing transportation costs by \$1,736.

Tyl Roof Project

The first progress payment for the Tyl Roof Project has been submitted to and accepted by the State. The final payment request will be submitted once the Board formally accepts the project as complete.

HVAC Projects Update

The bid opening for the Oakdale School HVAC project took place on January 9, 2025. Bids ranged from \$3,986,000 to \$5,212,000, exceeding the cost estimate of \$2,958,239 (which includes both construction and soft costs) used in the grant application. We are awaiting feedback from Al Jacunski regarding these discrepancies and to determine if the project can proceed within the estimated budget.

The bid opening for the Murphy School HVAC project has been rescheduled for January 28, 2025.

Additionally, the State's required survey for the HVAC projects was completed prior to the bid openings with input from Al Jacunski.

High School Track and Football Field Replacement

The replacement of the High School track and football field does not require a bid waiver, as the vendor is recognized under the CREC Cooperative Purchasing program. Due to the expedited timeline and the vendor's prior work with Montville, it is recommended not to purchase a performance bond because of the length of the project, work they have completed in Montville and reference checks done on the vendor. The saved funds will be retained as a contingency if needed.

A performance bond is a surety bond issued by an insurance company or bank to guarantee the satisfactory completion of a project by a contractor.

Budget Monitoring (2024–2025)

The tuition accounts for outplaced students continue to reflect shortages, as do purchased services for magnet schools, nursing costs, and transportation. Legal fees and electricity costs are also projecting shortages. However, there may be surpluses in accounts such as fuel oil that could help offset these deficits. We will continue to monitor and provide updates as trends evolve.

Budget Planning (2025–2026)

Work on the 2025–2026 budget is underway. We have reached out to our insurance carriers for property liability and health insurance to estimate rate increases. Enrollment and staffing levels are being reviewed, and salary updates are being prepared based on contracts or a 3% increase.

At the Board's request, we reviewed coaching salaries. For the current year, we have:

- 2 ELA and 2 Math coaches at the elementary level*
- 0.4 Math and 0.4 Reading coaches at the middle school level*

The total cost of these positions is:

- \$459,640 (2024–2025)*
- \$471,131 (2025–2026), with some costs funded by grants.*

The health insurance cost for these staff members is approximately \$108,775, although projected increases for the next fiscal year are not yet available.

Staffing increases based on Negotiations:

- \$46,897 for the administrators' contract.*
- \$678,966 for teachers, based on the 1% increase below max and a 2.5% increase at max during the last negotiation. These figures are being updated to reflect current staffing changes.*

Item 7. New Business

- a. Discussion of the 2025-2026 budget

Lisa Terry: What is possibility of going to a 5 day a week Pre-school?

Wills: Check to see how other schools are doing it, further research needed.

- b. Consideration and action to appoint member(s) to the negotiating committee for General Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, Local No. 493

Superintendent – Dianne Vumback, Ed.D.: This is the Custodial Contract, meets in during the day and requires (2) Board members to attend, please let me know if you would like to represent the Board during these negotiations.

- c. Discussion on Capital Plan

Kathy Lamoureux provided a Draft copy of the Capital Improvement programs.

- d. Discussion on dates for building tours for the purpose of reviewing proposed Capital Projects

Building Tours will start at 5:00 PM on February 24th and 25th

- e. Consideration and action to accept the Leonard J. Tyl Middle School Roof Project, State Project No. 086-0092 RR, as complete

Motion: To consider and approve the Leonard J. Tyl Middle School Roof Project, State Project No. 086-0092 RR, as complete

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

- f. Consideration and action to approve the three new classes at Montville High School:

1. Mid-level Chemistry
2. Expressive Portrait – Art Program
3. ECC Music Theory I & II

Motion: To consider and approve the three new classes at Montville High School as recommended by the E&E Committee

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

Item 8. Old Business

- a. Continued discussion regarding proposed changes to cell phone policies

Item 9. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy – Tina Grove – *Meeting this week to revise policy 5138.1 electronic devices. The use of cell phones in the last 5 minutes of class will be removed. Change to policy will be out in February.*
- b. Education Evaluation – *The committee met to discuss the three new proposed courses at Montville High School*
- c. Communications Committee – *No meeting*
- d. Montville Education Foundation – *Bonnie Bacon – Welcomed a new member, hired a company to update website, focus on awareness of the grants so more teachers will apply.*

Superintendent Vumback:

Four full grants and one mini grant were awarded to our teachers who applied. Totaling \$17,621.46.

Grants included:

a new fitness center for TYL Middle School providing weights, mats, treadmills, exercise bikes and other gym equipment (\$7,811.67)

purchasing educational toys for the 3 preschool and 9 kindergarten classrooms in district to help support their play-based learning curriculum (\$4,982.79)

purchasing supplies to help support Palmer Academy's personal interest projects where students research areas of interest and develop projects to present while learning new skills such as sewing, cooking, gardening, and other hands-on activities (\$2,700)

The new after school inclusive club TYL Buddies which combines special education students from the life skills classroom with 6th, 7th and 8th grade peers. TYL Buddies spend time after school participating in fun activities and money from the grant will help fund their inclusive prom they are organizing for the spring, field trips and help provide supplies for their activities during these meetings.

Grants were also awarded to help provide materials for the before school program at Mohegan where 4th and 5th grade students come early 3x a week to participate in fitness activities and games (\$500)

- e. LEARN- Bob Mitchell-Business meeting attended, received final results of the 2023-2024 audit with no findings.*
- f. Montville Youth Services Bureau- Tim Shanahan, no meeting held, attended the holiday Social last Saturday.*
- g. Student Board Representatives – Did not attend due to midterms*
- h. Principals' Report*

MOH -William Klinefelter: *Would like to publicly thank MEF for \$500 grant to support sports and Mohegan Tribe for the \$1000 grant.*

PAL-David Gollsneider: *Would like to Thank MEF for the \$2700 for personal interest projects. We had one student who was selected as athlete of the week at MHS.*

CEM -Liz Dumond - *Three Elementary Schools are las links testing.*

TYL- Greg Gwudz: *Very positive and in a good place. June 5th trip planned for Lake Compounce.*

MHS – Rob Alves: *Thank you to the Board for approving the three new courses. Shout out to the Girls' Soccer Team, they were awarded sportsmanship award from CT Girls Soccer Association.*

Item 10. Information Items

Next BOE meeting February 11, 2025

- a. Special Education- IEP presentation
- b. Pre- School
- c. Instructional Coaches.

Item 11. Report on District Operating Plan

- a. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Andrea Flynn

This month Montville Public Schools, along with 10 other districts across the state, was chosen to participate in the CT Right to Read Project with The New Teacher Project (TNTP) partnership.

Starting now and continuing through fall of 2025, the CSDE, TNTP and Montville will collaborate in this partnership to support our implementation of high-quality K-3 literacy instructional materials and how to best leverage these materials to meet the unique needs of our students. They will help refine a shared vision of literacy, support principals with management systems, focus on planning with K-3 teachers, and help to support ongoing cycles of improvement. This partnership will include the principals, literacy coaches, K-3 teachers and myself.

TNTP has extensive experience working with districts and schools across the country through the process of implementing high quality instructional materials. They recognize the significant technical and adaptive challenges that may arise, and they support districts in planning deliberate change management efforts to ensure successful implementation. This incredible opportunity is funded by the state and is of no cost to Montville Public Schools.

b. Report from the Superintendent – Dianne Vumback, Ed.D.

Report from the Superintendent:

- I'm excited to share that on top of the MEF grants, two of our schools were awarded the 2025 Mohegan Grant Challenge. Both Mohegan and Palmer received the grant and the funds are to be used toward supporting Native American curriculum and projects. They also will receive a cultural outreach program from Mohegan Outreach specialists and a field trip to their museum in Uncasville.*
- I would like to share that every year Carol Dodson completes extensive paperwork on food services – and this year when she completed the 2024 Montville Public Schools Summer Food Service Program Administrative Review – she received a huge compliment from the State of Connecticut as submitting one of the best administrative reviews they processed this year.*
- We are preparing for state assessments, LAS links is currently occurring for our Multi-Lingual learners*
- The elementary principals, Andrea and I have met and discussed the K Waiver and will roll out a plan very similar to last year's – with updates based on feedback on last year's plan.*
- We are currently looking for an Interim Director of Special Education, having interviewed two people and we are looking to hire a Director of Finance and Operations.*
- Shout out to Amanda Brown who has been instrumental in keeping our special education services afloat! She is acting as Interim Director and has been very busy. We have also used internal staff Staci Girardin and Jamie Sierpinski to fill in for someone out on leave.*
- We will work on future presentations involving special education, coaching and PreK.*

Item 12. Citizens' comments

None

Item 13. Board Member Remarks

Donna Funk – *It's cold*

Tina Grove – *Thanks to everyone for all your hard work*

Wills Pike – *Reading an article of Cognitive Health, how the brain works. He highly recommended reading Fiction. Fiction requires you to pay attention. Very interesting.*

Item 14. Future agenda items

Previously covered

Item 15: Executive Session

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss Superintendent's mid-year evaluation

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

The Board entered executive session at 8:04 P.M.

The Board exited executive session at 8:50 P.M. with no action taken

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____