



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 8, 2025 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: Timothy Shanahan, Bonnie Bacon, Tina Grove, Bob Mitchell, Carol Burgess, and Erika Streibel, Donna Funk and Lisa Terry were absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Dianne Vumback, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Flynn, Interim Business Manager John Spang, Administrators Rob Alves, Greg Gwudz, Jessica Lilienthal, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, Amanda Brown, Jill Mazzalupo and Liz Dumond. Ken Daniewicz and Theresa Gouveia were absent.

**Item 2. Presentations**

- a. Montville Marvels: Greg Gwudz, Robert Alves 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** – In appreciation of her hard work in successfully coordinating SATs/PSATs and organizing course selection. Her attention to detail and commitment ensured that testing ran smoothly and that students received the support they needed to plan their academic futures: Kristen Raulerson.

For her outstanding achievements both in and out of the classroom, she exemplifies the true definition of a student-athlete, balancing academic excellence with dedication to her sport: Jada Cheung.

Also recognized (By Principal's Alves, Gollsneider and Gwudz) tonight was Secondary Special Education Supervisor Amanda Brown for the work that she did to ensure that there was continuity

of services to our Special Education students when she stepped into the role of Director of Special Education this year.

**PBL Palmer Campus** – For his efforts at Waterford Country School as well as his improved commitment to his academics: Brayden Reilly.

**Leonard J. Tyl Middle School** – For demonstrating the Tyl WAY by showing compassion, generosity, and kindness towards a peer: Alice Brewer, Riley Evans and Skylar Barylski.

**Item 3. Alterations to the agenda**

*None*

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

*None*

**Item 5. Letters and Communications**

*None*

**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 (7-0)

- a. Review of 2024-2025 budget – Interim Business Manager

*Still waiting to hear from the mayor's office on the budget.*

*Wills: What is the status of the server?: John: Met with Tyler Personnel in the area and had some questions answered regarding installation, given that it is the middle of the school year. Ensuring that once we signed, we had a clear understanding of what we were expected to do. Once the data is moved to the cloud, we will conduct testing in a sample environment. Once we determine it is working, we will tell them when we are ready to go live (Plan to do so by July 1) We are confident in the plan.*

**Item 7. New Business**

- a. Set date of June 4, 2025 to recognize 2024-2025 retiring teachers

*We will meet at central office at 8:30 am on Wednesday, June 4 (Four teachers to date)*

- b. Consideration and Action to: 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, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 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: 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, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 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: Tim Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (7-0)

*Superintendent Vumback: Compliance with the HFC is required of all public schools who participate in the National School Lunch Program each public schools must certify annually with the Ct. Department of Education whether they will or will not comply with the CT. Nutrition standards by July 1. Complying with the certification allows us to get extra funding.*

- c. Consideration and action to: The Montville Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards 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 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 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 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 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 sales.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (7-0)

*Superintendent Vumback: Foods that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards can be sold to students on school premises if the BOE votes to allow exceptions if the three conditions are met, it allows groups, teams to raise money.*

- d. Consideration and action to authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative and state and federal grants for educational programs
- e. Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative and state and federal grants for educational programs

Moved by: Tim Shanahan  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (7-0)

*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.*

- f. Consideration and action to set the 2025-2026 tuition rates

Motion: To set the 2025-2026 tuition rates as recommended by Interim Business Manager John Spang

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (7-0)

*John Spang: These would be for non-residents attending our schools. These 2025-2026 tuition rates are recommended. Generally increasing 4.49% over this year, the same as our operating budget is increasing:*

#### **Item 8. Committee and Liaison reports:**

- a. Policy – *No Meeting Held*
- b. Education Evaluation – *No meeting held*
- c. Communications Committee – *No meeting*
- d. Montville Education Foundation – Carol Burgess- Working on the golf tournament, skybox seats for Keith Urban, thank you to the Tribe for helping us with that. We need more people on this board, we recently accepted two resignations. Spring grant cycle is open, get your applications in .

- e. LEARN- Bob Mitchell- Meeting on Thursday
- f. Montville Youth Services Bureau- *Meeting is on Thursday*
- g. NSBA – *Bob was at the NSBA Conference has some information to share*
- h. Student Board Representatives –

**Adam Gallagher**

*Absent*

**Tiana Bamber**

*Beginning on March 5th, the class of 2026 started a raffle ticket fundraiser to help our class raise money for events like Junior Prom, Senior Prom and senior outing!! I do not have the specific amount of money the class raised but we have raised about \$5,000 dollars over a 4-week period which is really positive for our class!! The content of the raffle tickets were 2 Kane Brown concert tickets, 1 Night Accommodations at Mohegan Sun as well as an \$100 gift card to Tuscany, and we offered 2 Free Jumps and races at Supercharged and a movie night raffle basket. Selling 5 tickets earned us a free prom ticket and selling 10 got us a free prom ticket for a plus one!! I think the fundraiser was very successful and accumulated a lot of participation.*

*Friday, April 4th, the MHS music program took students to West Hartford and Middletown to participate in musical workshops and team bonding activities in the town. Rock students specifically worked with professional gig artists to learn chord progressions so that they could improve their own work as well as collaborate with the MHS choirs. They also got to experience recording demos in a professional recording studio. There are 4 Rock bands at MHS and each got to record 2 demos!! Another exciting event coming up is the Read Across America field trip for MHS students to visit elementary schools in the district and read a book and create an art project that relates to the book they read!! I am very excited to see how the field trip goes and the feedback from students!! Things are looking good for this quarter so far and I'm thrilled to see what exciting things are in store for the end of the school year being so close!!*

i. Principals' Report

**CEM** – Liz Dumond: *We are moving into testing system, certifying staff in the administration of the staff. Schedule end of year activities.*

**TYL** – Greg Gwudz – *The band is visiting Tyl, Chorus registration was completed for incoming Tyl Stds., Joann Dixon was awarded a Funds for Teachers to Travel to Ireland and Iceland and will bring back lots of information to the school. Jess and I attended the CAS conference and it was very valuable. Thanks to Jess during Assistant Principals week. Promotion is June 12, at Tyl.*

**MHS** – Rob Alves: *The rock performances were really impressive, they came out great, the music teacher shared them with the school. We have a lot to do after spring break it will be a busy final stretch. The Unified Prom is the Friday after vacation.*

*Wed June 11 will be Palmer's graduation. Shared a story regarding a power outage and alarm a few Fridays ago, the team came together Rob, Dianne, Willie, It was there before the day started 2-3 minutes before the doors opened everything was back online.*

**Item 9. Report on District Operating Plan**

a. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Andrea Flynn

*We had our safe school climate committee meeting this month. The purpose of the safe school climate plan is to provide a safe learning environment for all students.*

*We met last week to discuss the upcoming changes in the law that states the term bullying will be replaced with "challenging behaviors". This is reflective of current research on the detrimental effects of labeling children as bullies. We also discussed recent trends we are seeing across the district.*

- *Mean behavior – however, a lot of it turns out to be back and forth*
- *Some racial undertones*

*Some of this is happening on the bus, other times it is in the school*

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

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

*On April 4 we received notice from the US DOE, that we must certify that we are in compliance with Title VI, giving ten days to remove DEI language from our policies. The state has until April 24 to provide their certifications. ARP ESSER, meeting this week to review. John will attend.*

*MEF sent out news that Spring grant requests are being accepted. Gold tournament will be held at the Norwich Gold Course on Monday August 11, 2025.*

*We have a new Social Worker Intern from MYSB, she is calling families with meal debt, offering support, educating them on the process for applying for F&R lunch. She has collected over \$900 in the two weeks she has been in district.*

*The building Committee met at 5:30 to discuss the HVAC project.*

**Item 10. Citizens' comments**

*A parent who wished to remain anonymous spoke up about an email sent regarding our plans in the event that ICE comes to the district. Any visits would be referred to the Superintendent who would contact our attorney.*

*Fear of the funding being eliminated – there is no new guidance to this, we are on the edge of our seat waiting to hear. A lot of this is up to the state to navigate. The education department is looking for the answers from*

*the state. There is a lot of conflicting information coming in.*

**Item 11. Board Member Remarks**

*Tim: I missed the last regular meeting, I noticed that graduation in June 13 at Dodd stadium – rain or shine? In the event of rain, the ceremony will be back at MHS.*

*Wills: It is important for the Town and the Board to recognize how important our budget request is, we do not build in contingencies. In a matter of days, the track and field will be torn up, everything will be new. A lot of good things are going on in Montville.*

**Item 12. Future agenda items**

**None**

**Item 13: Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Tim Shanahan

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_