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**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
March 18, 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: Bonnie Bacon, Tina Grove, Donna Funk, Bob Mitchell and Lisa Terry. Erika Striebel, Timothy Shanahan and Carol Burgess were absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Dianne Vumback, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Flynn, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Interim Business Manager John Spang, Director of Facilities Willie Quinones, Director of Technology Nic Savoie, Interim Special Education Director Jill Marocchini, Administrators Rob Alves, Ken Daniewicz, Greg Gwudz, Jessica Lilienthal, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, Theresa Gouveia, Jill Mazzalupo and Liz Dumond.

**Item 2. Alterations to the agenda**

- a. Move item 3b to 3c. Consideration to move Individualized Educational Plan presentation to after Montville Marvels and Recognition of Board Members.

Motion: To move 3b to 3c.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Donna Funk  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

**Item 3 Presentations**

- a. Montville Marvels: Principals Will Klinefelter, Elizabeth Dumond, Jill Mazzalupo, 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.

**Mohegan Elementary School** – For being a wonderful team player and an asset to our school: SSO Steve Bellandese

**Murphy Elementary School** – For the kindness, positivity and encouragement she consistently shows her peers: Sylvie Margiotta. For being role models for inclusivity by demonstrating empathy, patience, and respect for classmates of all abilities: Savanna Ryan and Charlize Viera.

**Oakdale Elementary School** – For his kindness and generosity; having won and subsequently donating bicycles from the Read to Ride program to children in need for the past two years: Brigham Nowak.

**Leonard J. Tyl Middle School**: For being a top student at Tyl Middle School for the past three years: Hobie Valenti.

**Montville High School** – For their dedication and hard work in enhancing the culture and climate of Montville High School: Vicky Clifford, Jill Fifer, Nick McAneny, Hollyann Moriarty, Julie Perry, Nicole Santos, Dawn Schreiber, Sara Skubal-Moran.

For her outstanding achievement in the Eastern Region Honors Choir audition, where she earned an impressive score of 181 out of 198. Kailey's discipline, focus, and leadership have been instrumental in the growth of our choir program: Kailey Seals.

**PBL Palmer Campus** – For his dedication to his academics, his self-advocacy skills and for obtaining and maintaining a job: Jajuan Mahon

For her outstanding mentorship with new teachers, her ability to advocate for the needs of her students, and for helping to build a positive culture: Jen Merkent.

b. Recognition of Board Members – Superintendent Dianne Vumback

*In March, we celebrate Board of Education Member Appreciation month. I want to take a moment to express our gratitude to each of you. Your unwavering dedication, countless hours of service, and commitment to the success of our students and schools does not go unnoticed. Decisions you make help shape the future of our community, ensuring that every child has access to quality education and opportunities to thrive. On behalf of our staff, students, and families, thank you for all you do. As a Montville team, we are making a difference! On a personal note, I also thank you for your support of me as a new Superintendent.*

*A nine-piece wooden puzzle piece was presented to each Board Member. The wooden puzzle was made by the Computer Aided Drafting and Design Class as an appreciation for all they do.*

*Presentation:*

*Tonight, we want to take a moment to recognize and appreciate the Montville Board of Education. Your vision and leadership guide our schools, shaping graduates who are communicators, information consumers, problem solvers, and independent learners, skills that are essential for navigating complex tasks in an ever-changing world.*

*At Montville, we embrace The Way of the Wolf, where traits like Power, Leadership, Loyalty, Determination, and Integrity align with our Vision of the Graduate, fostering empathy, perseverance, inclusivity, and self-awareness in every student.*

*To honor your dedication, students in our Computer-Aided Drafting and Design classes have used their technical skills and creativity to craft a special gift, a nine-piece wooden puzzle. This puzzle is just one example of the type of work our students undertake in these courses, where they apply problem-solving, precision, and innovation to bring their ideas to life. Each piece represents one of you, our Board of Education members, and when assembled, it forms the image of our wolf mascot. Just as every piece is essential to completing the puzzle, each of you plays a vital role in shaping our school community.*

*Like a strong wolf pack, we rely on each other. Your support and guidance give our us the opportunities we need to grow and succeed. Just as every piece of this puzzle is essential to completing the whole, each of you plays a vital role in making our school community stronger. On behalf of Montville Public Schools, thank you for being an essential part of our pack.*

**Special Education: Individualized Educational Plan**

Program Leader – Theresa Gouveia: Presented the Special Education Individualized Education Plan.

*This presentation can be found on the school's website under "Board of Education" and then in the drop down "Agendas & Minutes".*

**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:	Bob Mitchell
Seconded by:	Lisa Terry
Vote:	Carried (6-0)

*Lisa Terry: I am wondering if budget update should be in old business?*

*Would like to see the items in the Consent Calendar on the agenda (They are currently listed in the Board Materials, accessed through the district website).*

*Bob Mitchell: In some Boards I have sat on the items are listed on the consent agenda, and some where we voted on the minutes, that is not the purpose, as long as you have read the items. I suggest we kick the agenda to policy for review because this is literally our agenda. Move 6a to old business for future meetings.*

**a. Budget update: John Spang**

*We have less uncertainty as we get closer to July 1<sup>st</sup> date. Health and Energy cost estimates running as projected. Property insurance higher than expected. We have a meeting next week to discuss the higher cost. Have a special meeting set to discuss Cyber insurance. Meeting with the Mayor's office on March 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the budget. No changes to the 2% account. Work on the Turf field expected to start on May 20<sup>th</sup>.*

**Item 7. Old Business**

- a. Consideration and action to rescind the proposed changes to P5131.81 Electronic Devices (Students); reverting to the original Board Policy modified to**

**Motion To approve the revisions to the existing P5131.81 (remove paragraph (4))**

Moved by: Tina Grove  
Seconded by: Lisa Terry  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Lisa Terry: Point of Order Mr. Chair, the language under old business, has been modified, I propose we bring back the agenda item from last months agenda, at that point it can be modified. Wills: I agree with that. The language of the motion should read continued discussion on policy P5131.8.*

*Bob: So is this reverting us back to the policy from the start of the school year? Tina: no we are removing the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph (As recommended by the policy committee at its November meeting)*

**Item 8. New Business:**

- a. Consideration and action to Designate Interim Business Manager, John Spang as authorized Signature 2 - ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program**

**Motion: To Designate Interim Business Manager, John Spang as authorized Signature 2 - ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program**

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Wills Pike

Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Claims for reimbursement are valid only when certified by authorized signers on file with the CSDE. Action by the board of education must occur to make changes to authorized signers so that claims can be signed and submitted and reimbursement delays are avoided. Board Secretary Bob Mitchell will execute this form.*

b. Consideration and action to approve a bid waiver for awarding the grease separator pump project at the Tyl Middle School, as approved in the capital plan, to Terry Plumbing.

Motion: To approve a bid waiver for awarding the grease separator pump project at the Tyl Middle School, as approved in the capital plan, to Terry Plumbing.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Lisa Terry  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Kathy Lamoureux handled this prior to her leaving. This vendor provided the lower price among the two proposals received and had positive references during the vetting process. The project was publicly advertised; however, no formal bids were submitted at that time.*

c. Discussion and possible action to set Montville High School graduation date

Motion: To set Montville High School graduation date to June 13<sup>th</sup> to be held at Dodd Stadium, if rain will be in MHS auditorium.

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*We would like to set the date for Montville High School graduation as Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Due to the turf field being "under construction", the graduation will be held at Dodd Stadium. In the unfortunate event that it rains, graduation ceremony will take place in the auditorium at the high school.*

d. P0521 Nondiscrimination as recommended by the policy committee

Motion to approve P0521 Nondiscrimination as recommended by the policy committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tina Grove  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Revision to update Coordinator, specifically that the Director of Special Education would be the Title IX coordinator. We removed names and went with titles to ensure continuity of support and services and so that all knew who to contact.*

e. P4000.1 Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve P4000.1 Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Revision to update coordinator and contact information only (Director of Special Education) Same as above.*

f. P3171.1 Non-Lapsing Educational Fund as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve P3171.1 Non-Lapsing Educational Fund as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tina Grove  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*New legislation authorizes the Board of Education, rather than the town to make these deposits provided the same conditions are met.*

g. P4152.6 Family and Medical Leave Act as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve P4152.6 Family and Medical Leave Act as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Lisa Terry  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Revision to align with legislative change for non-certified staff, hour requirement to qualify under FMLA reduced from 1250 to 950 during the previous 12 months*

h. P5144 Student Discipline as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve P5144 Student Discipline as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Donna Funk  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*This change is statutory – in school suspension cannot be for more than 5 consecutive days (used to be 10). Students in preschool to grade 2 could be OSS for conduct on school grounds that was “of a violent or sexual nature that endangers person) – this act adds that it must be behavior that causes physical harm. Also reduces the maximum length of OSS in grades preschool to 2 from 10 to 5 days. Students cannot be expelled without a formal hearing and a notice of the expulsion hearing must be sent at least 5 business days prior to the hearing. The act clarifies that the 5 business days does not include the day of the hearing.*

i. P6159.1 Paraprofessionals as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve P6159.1 Paraprofessionals as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*Revision is to update the policy to align with state statute revising the term paraprofessional to Paraeducator*

j. P6001 Service Animals/Therapy Dogs as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve P6001 Service Animals/Therapy Dogs as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Wills Pike  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*This will allow for our district to have therapy dogs visit our schools if they meet our requirements*

k. P5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances)

Motion: To approve P5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances)

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Tina Grove  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*This plan compliments our school discipline policy mentioned earlier, policy 5.144. This policy governs student conduct regarding alcohol, drugs and tobacco. We are aligning the two policies with changes in the law around cannabis*

I. Consideration and action to authorize the use of \$49,082.55 from the Non-Lapsing Education Fund for the purpose of purchasing Tyler Financial Software

Motion: To authorize the use of \$49,082.55 from the Non-Lapsing Education Fund for the purpose of purchasing Tyler Financial Software

Moved by: Wills Pike  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

*This is the current quote for Tyler Technologies. The annual subscription is \$60,273, implementation cost is \$12,480, for a total of \$72,753. We will receive a credit of \$23,670.45 leaving us with, as of today, a total cost of \$49,082.55.*

#### **Item 9. Information Items**

*None*

#### **Item 10. Committee and Liaison reports:**

- a. Policy— Dr. Grove—*Previously discussed.*
- b. Education Evaluation — *No meeting*
- c. Communications Committee — *No meeting*
- d. Montville Education Foundation — *None*
- e. LEARN- Bob Mitchell-*Nothing to report*
- f. Montville Youth Services Bureau- *None*
- g. CABE/NSBA - *None*
- h. Student Board Representatives —

#### **Adam Gallagher**

*Earlier today our FBLA (future business leaders of America) sent a handful of students to a competition among other FBLA clubs in the region. One of the projects they will presented was a video made by two students about the importance of tourism in the area, so they filmed at Mohegan sun. A couple other projects were a mock job interview and a social media account. NHS is running a march madness bracket for our March project. For the National art honors society, we went to the Yale Museum of Art and got a guided tour where we did a couple activities analyzing some of the pieces. Mr. Richmond's ECE English class will also be going later this march.*

#### **Tiana Bamber**

*Today I don't have much to report other than the fact that things at MHS have been running quite smoothly to my knowledge. Spring sports teams are getting ready to start their new seasons and everyone else is just waiting for the first day of spring to come by and for some good weather. Some exciting news*



*though is that on Friday, Senior Enzo Valenti and Juniors Hannah Suarez and Kamryn Plikus are going to compete at Adidas Nationals for track which is extremely exciting!! Also, a new club was started at MHS, the Philosophy club run by Junior Nathan Simon (starting March 20th). What's especially exciting about this club is that it is held during a lunch block rather than after school. I think that's great since not many students are able to stay after school to attend clubs so now I feel like this is a good opportunity for more students to collaborate and be a part of a club. Also, the club is open to students AND staff which is wonderful that students and teachers alike will be able to share and express their thoughts and opinions in such a deep and intriguing way!! I'm very excited to see how the club takes off and how it will progress throughout the rest of the school year!!*

i. Principals' Report

**OAK** -Jill Mazzalupo: *Non-profit is doing a Bike give away and \$100 gift card for a reading program in K-2. Fifteen girls participated in the Girls on the run program building confidence and empowering girls.*

**CEM** – Liz Dumond: *Chickens are coming. Live streaming a hatchery*

**MOH**- William Klinefelter -*After school program for ELA and math for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders coming to a close.*

**TYL** – Greg Gwudz – *Participated in a Senior Center event. Drama production on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> all invited.*

**MHS** – Rob Alves: *Hosting Unified Prom on April 25<sup>th</sup>, inviting 11 schools*

**Item 11. Report on District Operating Plan**

a. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Andrea Flynn

*This month we began training staff members in de-escalation strategies and crisis management using "Safety Care". This training will replace the previous crisis management program, Handle with Care. We used grant funding to send 4 staff members to become certified as Safety Care trainers. These staff members are able to turn-key this information to our district going forward.*

*Two of our trainers, along with the BCBA have already trained 21 staff and administrators. We have heard a lot of feedback from those trained. They are feeling much more confident in de-escalation strategies as well as crisis management. We are fortunate to have in-district trainers who will continue to train our crisis teams district-wide, and we are thrilled to be able to provide this level of support to our staff and administrators.*

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

*I want to formally introduce you to Jill Marocchini. She is our interim Director of Special Education. She has hit the ground sprinting! I can already share with you that she is an absolute asset to the team and I look forward to working with her for the remainder of the school year.*

*It has been very busy in district. We completed midyear evaluations on certified staff – both teachers and leaders. This is part of our evaluation process.*

*Today I asked our social workers and school psychologists to attend a webinar called “Why we didn’t tell you” which was a conversation around suicide by a group of persons with lived experiences of suicidal thoughts from all walks of life and throughout the lifespan. I encouraged our mental health team to attend as it was an opportunity to ensure our team stays on top of current, new and emerging practices regarding the prevention, intervention and community resources to help struggling students.*

**Item 12. Citizens’ comments**

*None*

**Item 13. Board Member Remarks**

**Tina Grove** –*Thank you again for the puzzle.*

**Wills Pike** –*Thank you also, very thoughtful, kind and considerate. We need to have executive session on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 to discuss client and Board attorney issue. Appreciate if all BOE members attend.*

**Item 14. Future agenda items**

The Policy Committee will review the formatting of the agenda at their next meeting and make recommendations for changes to the board’s agenda, which align with current board policy.

**Item 15: Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Wills Pike

Vote: Carried (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

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