



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 20, 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: Tina Grove, Bob Mitchell, Carol Burgess, Bonnie Bacon, Erika Striebel, and Norman Sylvia. Absent: Donna Funk and Tim Shanahan

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

**Item 2. Presentations**

- a. Recognition of Senior Board Representative: Adam Gallagher

*Dr. Dianne Vumback – I am honored to present Adam Gallagher with a small token of the Board's appreciation in recognition of his dedicated service over the past two years as a student board representative. Adam, your thoughtful and honest contributions have provided the Board with a meaningful and authentic window into the student experience. Your input has been instrumental in helping us make informed decisions that truly reflect the needs and interests of our students.*

*We extend our heartfelt congratulations on your many accomplishments at Montville High School. You have distinguished yourself through your academic excellence, leadership and commitment to your school community. As you take the next step in your journey at Western Connecticut State University, we wish you continued success and know you will make a lasting impact there, just as you have here. We are proud of you!*

- b. Recognition of Board Videographer: Jacob Russell

*This evening we also want to take a moment to recognize and thank our talented videographer, Jacob Russell, who is also graduating and heading off to University of Connecticut. Jacob has been an integral part of our Board of Education meetings- quietly behind the scenes, but always ensuring things ran smoothly and professionally.*

*We are incredibly grateful for the contributions and energy your brought to this role. As you begin this exciting new chapter in college, we have no doubt that you will continue to shine. We wish you the very best and hope you'll look back on your time with us with pride.*

- c. Introduction of Director of Finance and Operations: Deborah Martin

*Please join me in welcoming Deborah Martin, our new Director of Finance and Operations. Deb will start in Montville on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Deborah brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise that make her an outstanding fit for this vital role.*

*Deborah's professional background makes her uniquely qualified for this position and to lead Montville into the future. Deborah's deep experience in school business leadership, and public-school fiscal management and operations will be an asset to our district.*

*Deb's references were highly complementary of her work, telling us that she looks for innovative ways to use finding, she is extremely knowledgeable and her work is timely and accurate, simply exemplary. In fact, one of her references said that it would be a big mistake not hiring Deb. She was described as a team player and a great person to know.*

*Please join me in welcoming Deb!*

*I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank John Spang for serving as our interim Business Manager. John stepped in at a critical time in the budget process, and without missing a beat became an integral part of our Central Office Team! I am so appreciative of his support and guidance. I learned so much from him – he was the calm when navigating some complex issues. His knowledge and experience were second to none. Thank you very much John!*

- d. Welcome to new Board Member: Norman E. Sylvia III

*Chair Wills Pike introduced and welcomed new board member, Norman Sylvia. Norm comes to us with a fresh perspective and is excited about being a member of the board, as he currently has two children enrolled in the district.*

### **Item 3. Alterations to the agenda**

Motion: The Board made a motion to move items 8c and 8d to 13a. after the remarks from board members.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Carol Burgess  
Vote: Carried (7-0)

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

*Joe W. Jaskiewicz 89 Park Ave.*

*Joe Jaskiewicz of 89 Park Ave, Uncasville Speaking to 8b – New Business: Joe asks that the BOE give the town back the money that the BOE intends to contribute to the 2% fund. He also asked if he could get the balance of the 2 percent fund. Dianne Vumback responded affirmatively.*

**Item 5. Letters and Communications**

Board Secretary Bob Mitchell presented three letters received from citizens:

*Resignation letter from Lisa Terry – formally resign from BOE personal reasons it is in the best interest of both. Been an honor and a privilege to serve. Grateful to the opportunity. Proud of what we have accomplished and remain supportive. Best wishes.*

*Melissa Duzguner – 120 Pruett Place. Unable to attend but wanted to share opinion. Mother of student at MHS. Good experience at Tyl. Many educators were fellow residents. Teachers, admin and counselors were supportive during a loss in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Gave up spot at Grasso tech to go to her hometown school. She continues to feel this support at MHS. We as a family appreciate that many of our teachers are our neighbors. Teachers are a resource and their value cannot be argued, please do not cut teachers*

*Laura Harris Stedman – sent a message to chair of Town Council as well. Expressed concern for proposed cuts of teachers. have 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Oakdale. Been in MPS for 2 years, transition was difficult. staff and support of school has made all the difference. Cutting budget will be harmful to more than her family.*

**Item 6. Approval of the Consent Calendar**

Motion: To approve the consent calendar

Moved by: Carol Burgess  
Seconded: Tina Grove  
Carried: (7-0)

**a. Budget update: John Spang**

*At the end of the year the budget becomes clearer. Most accounts are running according to plan; we should end at 0. The waivers for insurance are paid this week. We know what our staffing number is. Classroom materials ordered for next year, almost of those orders have gone out as planned, there aren't many unknowns left.*

*One thing that will come back is a transfer in the area of SPED Out placed tuition – try to predict 18 mths ahead but things change., We will propose a transfer at our June meeting. Unpaid bills from schools, extra*

*services etc. 125,000.00 over budget is anticipated. We'd like to cover that from some of the line items of positions we have periods of time with no one filling position – turnover from regular things. These vacancies should add up to cover the SPED shortfall.*

*Erika Striebel – Thanked John for his succinct recounting of this information.*

**Item 7. Unfinished Business**

**a. HVAC updates**

*WQ – update. Report of condition that was included in the award from building committee – confirmation from the town in some of the spaces does NOT affect validity of bonding. Contracts at Oakdale and Murphy prepared by architects and signed by contractor action air and DV equipment being ordered. Next step – is work schedule*

*Bid specs for finalizing last 4 schools – being worked on. Walk through's and bid openings in June.*

*DV – WQ, JS and Julie at the town worked great together.*

**b. Review and possible revisions to the 2025-2026 Board of Education Budget**

*DV – As we await final budget allocation, we have been working diligently behind the scenes to review and refine our budgetary items. Our goal has been to identify efficiencies and make responsible reductions wherever possible, without compromising the quality of education and services we provide. This proactive approach positions us to respond thoughtfully once we receive the finalized figures.*

*Carol Burgess – if they've made the revisions?*

*Supt. Vumback - will share as a team once final budget number is received what the proposals are*

*Carol Burgess – does that affect ability to recall staff*

*Supt. Vumback – we are in between – we did receive word on 1 of 2 anticipated retirements*

*Carol Burgess – by when will we know*

*Supt Vumback – before we meet again –there is a domino effect when retirements and resignations are received.*

**c. Capital Plan Discussion**

*Supt. Vumback =John and I have been discussing capital plan. John spoke with Julie and confirmed that the mayors \$857,200 approved number was specific to 3 out of 10 projects – namely the second year of a three-year lease for smart boards and charging carts, underground fuel tank replacements (a state environmental mandate due to its age), and replacement of two full size school busses that are slated to be replaced. We will need to discuss at our next meeting how to move forward with end-of-life IT requirements that were on the plan.*

*Wills Pike – Mayor picked our capital projects because it is a state statute – town gets to determine what projects get approved.*

*Erika Striebel – asked for clarification about how statutes can be ignored*

*Supt. Vumback – said they cannot be put off.*

*Wills Pike – opportunities for grants*

*Carol Burgess – what are these grants – you’ve mentioned a couple of times*

*Wills Pike – DEEP grants – not yet applied*

*Erika Striebel – is that something the town applies for?*

*Wills Pike – we can look into that*

*Carol Burgess – I am concerned, if we don’t ask we don’t get \$*

*Wills Pike – I can make it a personal action item if you like*

*Carol Burgess – concerned is it the school or the town, and by when*

*Wills Pike – will take as action item*

**Item 8. New Business**

- a. Assign Board Member Norman E. Sylvia III to vacancy on Policy Committee

*Supt. Vumback – welcome to the team – meet before the BOE meeting at 5 or 5:15 June should be meeting*

- b. Consideration and action to resolve that the Board of Education authorizes the deposit of \$143,054.94, representing its total unencumbered balances from the 2023-2024 operating budget into non-lapsing educational fund in accordance with policy P3171.1

Motion: The Board of Education authorizes the deposit of \$143,054.94, representing its total unencumbered balances from the 2023-2024 operating budget into non-lapsing educational fund

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded: Tina Grove  
Abstained: Bonnie Bacon  
Carried: (6-0)

*John Spang – Email from 4/28 from town finance director Julie Chapman towns’ annual report – clarified with the auditors – “education carry over” \$739,574 as of 6.30.2023. You have a copy of the policy and line by line of 23/24 budget which totals 143K which we are asking to move. Audit is not complete but our part is complete. Town and BOE numbers agree. If resolution is approved – 739 would be added 143K – total \$882,628. Resolution to draw \$49K out of it for financial software upgrade which would come out of that 882K.*

*Bonnie Bacon – so the maximum is 2 percent of operating budget –*

*JS - 23/24 put 820K if we had it – we don't 2% every year can be put in*

*Wills Pike – Whole purpose of this \$ is if we have something the town can't afford - one-time cost – not to bring back teachers. Recurring costs don't work. Budget cut 874,000 – mostly operating costs. Can't use the 2 percent for that – because they are not 1x costs. Inclined to support this because we are likely going to have to use most of the 2 percent funds for the capital improvements that's how we help the town. In favor of absorbing the money in 2 percent fund*

*Bob Mitchell – one other thing – unanticipated special education costs which go beyond your budget. Says it can be used for – unanticipated SPED budget items. State is 600 million behind in SPED costs in the coming year. Which will have to be picked up by the town. So that fund can disappear quickly.*

*Erika Striebel – one kid could be 250k kid, go very very quickly – so it is a concern to use it on capital*

*Tina Grove – the sped cost is not going to end. There is no remedy, no cap. Has to be a cap somehow somewhere.*

*Erika Striebel – concern is that we have 800k, talking about using it for capital – but we have used it in the past for unanticipated sped costs. We create a tight, excellent budget. So, if we get those kids, it's scary.*

*Wills Pike – the capital outlay helps both of us. Make it very clear – don't recommend exhausting this funding on capital. But there are significant and timely things that are critical*

*Supt. Vumback – state has been trying to regulate the cost for some time – not just for cost but because of awareness of how keeping a kid to avoid \$\$ is not what you want either. As a team, we are getting better at looking at the future. Being in neighborhood school is the best thing possible until we can't 'meet needs.*

*Just received a letter of increasing costs from outside provider – hourly rates, para rates, etc. from LEARN etc. Transportation etc.*

*Norman Sylvia – SPED – agrees with everything is said.*

*Bonnie Bacon – people are talking about 2 ways that \$\$ can be spent – 822K + is almost a million – we do have needs, but it is wise to save some for Special Education overflow. Have we need to use large sums in the past for SPED?*

*Supt. Vumback – ¾ years ago – budget was very high had to go in to 2 percent for outplacement we were not prepared.*

*Wills Pike - Also had to go in to 240K to get out of the red for the budget*

*Bonnie Bacon – we should use for capital purposes do you have plans?*

*Wills Pike – wasn't planning on going in to the specifics about the capital plan until we have final numbers but I do have thoughts*

*Bonnie Bacon – Doesn't think we should stockpile \$\$ when we have only spent 49K*

*Tina Grove – Won't be there for long WP – so far*

*Wills Pike – not a big fan of keeping a big number in here – but it is nice to see*

*Carol Burgess – Supports moving \$\$ in to 2 percent fund. Then we will look at the numbers. WE can't be spending it all on capital but should spend some and not just wait for SPED*

*Bob Mitchell – for it.*

**Item 9. Information Items**

- a. Certified Staff retirement recognitions, meet at Central Office on June 4, 2025, 8:30
- b. Palmer Graduation June 11 6PM; Montville High School
- c. Leonard J. Tyl Middle School; June 12 5PM
- d. Montville High School Graduation; June 13 6:00 P.M.; Dodd Stadium

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

- a. **Montville Education Foundation- Carol Burgess** - *awards meeting was held, do not attend these*
- b. **LEARN** - *Bob Mitchell – end of year, inviting Dianne Vumback to 6/8 meeting. Presentation of what has been done for the year. Approved budget for next year. Fluid based on numbers every month 52 million budget for upcoming year – to service students and run 4 magnet schools*
- c. **CABE/NSBA** *Wills Pike -no longer members of CABE Rob – went to NSBA went to Atlanta conference last April – Learn sent him. Always worthwhile PD for board members with networking opportunity wishes CABE convention was back on calendar and in budget. Leonard Lockhart, Windsor board president-elect, good friend of Bob Mitchell next year's Sacramento conference will be president*
- d. **Montville Youth Services Bureau pass**
- e. **Student Board Representatives**

**Adam Gallagher**

*I want to start off by introducing your new student liaison for next year, Dimitri Charles. Dimitri is a student-athlete with a strong passion for sports and personal athletics. He's a versatile competitor both in the classroom and on the field.*

*The National Honors Society's final project for the year is a handful of fundraisers, including a spike ball tournament (a lawn game), which we held last Thursday and car washes over the course of the next month. The money raised will go towards Lilly Hall, an alumnus of Montville who was recently hospitalized from a car crash.*

*Our tennis team has been performing very well this season and has so far been undefeated in our division.*

*National Art Honors society recently had elementary schoolers draw monsters which the high school members actually made with clay to be able to give back to the elementary schoolers. The senior ECE English class is holding their second annual film festival, where students write, film, and edit their own short film. They will be shown on June 3rd in the auditorium, and I encourage everyone to come see the hard work we all put in for our final projects of the year as the premiere is open to all and there is no admission fee. The music department will be having their spring concert on May 22 and will be having a rock concert at the Oakdale pavilion on June 6th.*

*As this is my last report to you all, I wanted to share my appreciation for the time I've spent in the Montville schools. I have a couple stories to tell that remind me of how much the people in these school's care. In the second grade, my teacher went on maternity leave so we had Mrs. Mann, currently the culinary arts teacher at the high school, substitute for her. We were learning about frogs, and Mrs. Mann went to a park and grabbed frog eggs out of the pond and brought them into class to show us what they looked like. So we washed our hands and were able to poke at them and hold them and such. It was a very cool experience, especially for a seven-year-old. I'm not sure how "allowed" it was, but it goes to show the things our teachers do for us. Another time, in middle school, I had a friend express thought of self-harm to me. I told the school counselor and, fortunately, that person is still present at school to this day. I just have so much respect for the person who was able to keep them safe, and I'm glad we have people that can in our community, others aren't as fortunate to have that help. Pretty much all of my high school teachers have been unbelievably helpful in allowing me to achieve every I have, but Mr. Richmond has been one of my biggest supporters through all my writing and I couldn't thank him enough for the advice and critiques and praise he's given me in my classes. I also want to say our tennis coach has been such a great guide in the three years he's been our coach. He always brings snacks and drinks and does so so much for us, I could not appreciate him more. For a long time, I thought being academically successful and athletically successful were mutually exclusive, but his support along with all of my teammates and the work that all of you do towards giving us the resources to practice and play has given me a lot of athletic confidence that I didn't know I had in me. I've spent 12 very gratifying years in these schools, and I cannot put into words how thankful I am for the staff, administrators, and everyone else who cares about the students that come through here. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.*

**Tiana Bamber**

*Tiana Bamber*

*\*Cannot Attend Tonight's Meeting - Dress Rehearsal for Thursday's Chorus Concert*

*Intro: As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I am extremely happy to give an update on recent events and more exciting moments to come!!*

*Report: As of now, besides just AP Psychology, AP testing has officially ended, which is especially relieving for students and staff. Now that exams are over, classrooms are preparing for end of the year projects and working to finish off curriculums so that they can kick start into final exam prep.*

*Academics aside there is some exciting news coming from the arts and athletics from MHS. On Sunday, MHS's concert choir performed the national anthem and a song called "victory garden" at the Memorial Day ceremony before the parade.*

*I have done this gig for 2 years now and each time is just as meaningful as the last and it truly is a great way for students to interact with the community and in this case, honor the day through music. Athletically, Girls Lacrosse recently won the ECC conference title while the boys, although enduring a bit of a rough season with 0-4 divisional score, still are staying strong. Baseball is having a great season; they currently have the best overall record in the ECC with a 6-2 divisional standing and a 15-3 score overall. Softball continues to play strongly as well with a 2-5 divisional score and 8-7 overall. Girls' tennis has also won an ECC conference title with a perfect 6-0 division record and a 6-5 overall standing. Finally, tomorrow, Track and Field will be heading to Griswold for the ECC championship while here at home, the track will be getting prepared for redoing which everyone is extremely excited about.*

*Last but not least, Junior Prom is right around the corner, on May 31st. Students are very excited for that especially since we got to create our own music playlist to send to the DJ so everyone had a chance to get their favorite song played that night. For the final stretch of the school year, everything seems to be going smooth and steady until the end!!*

#### **f. Principals' Report**

*MOH – Second annual SEL night – games activities and yoga – Breann SW led volunteers- 15 staff members came back to help – 100 participants that night. Up from 80.*

*OAK – winding up – lots going on K orientation. Staff meeting to plan a couple more dates – awards, 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion – state testing wrapping up.*

*TYL – winding up – not down – best buddies dance -great event – 6<sup>th</sup> grade science raised 200 salmon – released alone. SBAC testing finishing up – band concert – 8<sup>th</sup> grade to LC.*

***MHS** – busy but exciting time – fruits of labor – unified prom, senior prom – both successful. Well behaved. NHS induction is coming up, choir coming up, senior outing, junior prom, awards and graduation – wrapping up on a positive note*

***PALMER** – Met a Palmer student who met criteria to be considered for NHS – first time – didn't make it but top 15 percent. Celebrating 44<sup>th</sup> graduation this year – don't know a BOE that has supported alternative learning for that long – thanks. Our Tyl student visited today and he was thrilled to visit and is attending*

*Track/ Field – WQ starts tomorrow.*

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

- a. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Andrea Flynn

PD was held on May 8 and all educators participated in trafficking training.

Vertical meetings

Vision of Graduate

Testing will end on 5/31

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

*Introduced Lauren Terni – as Board Recording secretary. It has been a busy month – with many special events – unified prom, National Honor Society National Junior Honor Society, Tyl Buddies dance, teacher appreciation staff appreciation EOY eval meetings SPED support staff meetings, awards, budgets promotions, celebrations – planning for next year already started!*

12. Citizens' comments

none

13. Remarks – Board Members

*Tina Grove – Thank everyone for being at the finish line.*

*Carol Burgess – I second what tina said – thanks for a great year – make it look easier than we know it is.*

*Bonnie Bacon – thank Kath Southard; chair of the democratic committee. Asked all committee members to email legislator – to fully fund education cost sharing- read today that they are cutting education sharing cost to Montville. \$43K less - legislators from Montville work hard. Eastern CT is over looked. Kate made people aware.*

*Erika Striebel – appreciate you all so much – principals thank you for all hard work far beyond working hours*

*Norman Sylvia – appreciate it all– can't be done without you all. Look forward to the future.*

*Wills Pike – will close by saying have admiration for teacher, staff, admin. Shaping persons life. Thank you. Sacrifice is necessary to take this on as a career. We appreciate you very much.*

- a. End of year evaluation – Superintendent, for consideration in executive session

Motion: To enter executive session to conduct the end of year evaluation

Moved by: Carol Burgess

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: 7-0

The board exited executive session at 8:23 P.M. with no votes taken.

- b. Consideration and action to extend the contract of the Superintendent

Motion: The Board moved to extend the contract for the Superintendent by one year.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Carol Burgess  
Vote: 7-0

14. Future agenda items

*None*

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Carol Burgess  
Vote: Carried 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

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