



MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 25, 2025 at 4:30 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, Montville High School

Item 1. Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence – 4:30 P.M.

Board Chair Wills Pike called the meeting to order.

Board members attending were: Bonnie Bacon, Timothy Shanahan, Bob Mitchell, Donna Funk, Norman Sylvia, and Tina Grove. Superintendent Vumback, Assistant Superintendent Flynn, Director of Finance and Operations, Deborah Martin, Town Council Liaison, Joe Jaskiewicz, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, and Andy Whitehouse (JH Architects). Absent: Carol Burgess, Erika Striebel.

Item 2. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion and possible action concerning the appointment of the Director of Special Education.

Motion: Moved to appoint Kristen Brewer as the Director of Special Education for Montville Public Schools, effective

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Superintendent Vumback: I am thrilled to introduce Kristen Brewer - our candidate for Director of Special Education. Kristen survived a pretty rigorous interview process – going three rounds and rising to the top at every meeting. Her current role for the past five years has been as an Assistant Director of Student Services for Region 8. She has spent time working at RHAM Middle/High School, EastConn and Norwich Free Academy. She was a special education

teacher prior to going into administration. She prides herself on open communication, strong relationships and the unwavering belief that all students can learn.

We did three rounds of interviews with a couple of representatives from every school or level – a total of 14 teachers (gen ed, special education, speech & language, at all three levels), administrators representing elementary and secondary and both Theresa, Amanda and Jill M our interim Director. Wills Pike represented the Board. We interviewed six highly qualified people, narrowing the pool down from the larger pool of applicants.

Kristen’s references were excellent. She was described as a strong advocate for special education, detail oriented with a strong special education background. She focuses on student growth and success and sets the bar high, she is open to innovation and embraces new ideas. One reference stated that she has proven leadership skills and built a strong cohesive team and added – this is the strongest team we have ever had. I said – thank you very much!

I am excited to recommend Kristen Brewer to the Board of Education for the position of Director of Special Education.

Since March we have been working with Jill Marocchini who honestly has been outstanding! She understood the position and the work that was needed and never stopped. She has put in systems where needed, worked with our staff building their capacity, designed professional development opportunities during the year and for next year, and is working with our specialized programming.

b. Discussion and possible action – HVAC Bid Proposals.

Motion: Moved to appoint the Superintendent, Director of Facilities and Director of Finance and Operations to create a subcommittee for HVAC Projects.

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Deb Martin introduced Architect and Engineer who shared drawings outlining the DOAS System. Drawings and recommendations were shared. Will ensure that funding is secure based on the options in the plan. These changes are a result of cost escalations.

c. Discussion and possible action on Capital Plan including Murphy steps, Montville High School wireless access points, baseball and softball field repairs.

Motion: Moved to authorize the use of the non-lapsing account in the amount

of \$188,536 for repair of Murphy steps (\$53,800), Montville High School wireless access (39,900), two water heaters at Murphy (\$44,836), and accounting software (\$50,000).

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (7-0)

I would like to clarify the wireless access points – I said server last time but it is the access points on our capital plan. This is what Nic shared with me: The current wireless network infrastructure at the high school was originally installed during the summer of 2017. As part of our ongoing effort to maintain and enhance the district's technology environment, we applied for E-rate Category 2 funding to support an upgrade of the wireless access points throughout the building. The application and funding was approved – we did a RFP, reviewed bids for the project and the total cost was determined to be \$39,000. This upgrade will ensure that MHS continues to provide reliable high speed wireless connectivity to support the needs of students, staff and instructional technology for years to come.

- d. Consideration and action to authorize the use of \$44,836 from the non-lapsing account for the purchase of two water heaters to replace the water heater at Dr. Charles E. Murphy.

Moved in motion under (2c)

- e. Discussion and possible action on LEARN Human Resource Consultant.

Motion: Moved to authorize the use of up to \$60,000 from the non-lapsing account for the purpose of Human Resource consulting services from LEARN for the 2025-2026 Fiscal year.

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

I met today with the H/R Director with LEARN. We had an in-depth conversation about our needs. Our plan for now is for someone to assist, train, document and create systems for us, all related to H/R. The end goal is a SOP (standard operating procedure manual) and a needs analysis following the work (they will look at our efficiencies). Best estimate is that \$30k would be maximum based on one day a week and allow room for adding department cross-over work if needed.

- f. Discussion and possible action regarding the non-Lapsing account.

Moved in motion under (2c)

Item 3. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____