



## MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 17, 2026

6:00 p.m.

### REGULAR MEETING

Montville High School, Library Media Center

### MINUTES

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Wills Pike

Donna Funk

Tina Grove

Erika Striebel

Timothy Shanahan

Angela Sherbanee

Robert Mitchell, Jr.

Bonnie Bacon

#### ABSENT:

Carol Burgess

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Dianne Vumback (Superintendent), Andrea Flynn, Deb Martin, Kristin Brewer, Willie Quinones, David Gollsneider, Rob Alves, Amanda Brown, Jill Mazzalupo, Liz Dumond, Will Klinefelter, Greg Gwudz, Jessica Lilienthal, Nic Savoie and Tim Dilweg.

I. Call to Order, Board Vice Chair Erika Striebel  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

III. Agenda Items Requested by Board Member

1. Recognition, MHS Indoor Track Team (Chair Burgess), presented by Tim Dilweg  
*Representative Nick Menapace contacted Carol Burgess about wanting to recognize the Indoor Track Team on their Division 2 ECC win. So, on behalf of Carol, I turn this over to Athletic Director Tim Dilweg.*

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Policy Minutes – February 10, 2026
2. Board Retreat Minutes – February 10, 2026
3. Financial Reports – January 2026

**Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Robert Mitchell to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously. (8 -0).**

V. Communications

1. Letter, Victoria Snarski

*Letter is included in Board Materials*

VI. Public Comment –

*Robert Cromwell, of 17 Joy Lane, Uncasville, addressed the board, citing his concerns regarding his daughter, a student at Tyl Middle School. Cromwell stated that his daughter and her friend are currently experiencing bullying. He outlined examples, and asked the board for assistance in dealing with the manner. Mr. Cromwell also stated that Tyl Middle School has been addressing the issue, but the problem persists.*

*Dr. Vumback assured Mr. Cromwell that she would contact him directly to further discuss.*

VII. Student Representatives' Report  
*Tiana Bamber presented [BOE Student Rep. Reports](#)*

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Marvels Presentations:

Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary, Presented by Mrs. Dumond

The Palmer School, Presented by Mr. Gollsneider

Montville High School, Presented by Mr. Alves

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School Presented by Mr. Gwudz

2. Board Recognition

*Dr. Vumback: In March, we recognize and celebrate Board of Education Member Appreciation Month, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to each of you. Your time, thoughtfulness, and steadfast commitment to our district are deeply valued. The work you do plays a critical role in shaping meaningful opportunities for our students and strengthening our schools.*

*Your leadership and service help ensure that every student in Montville has access to a high-quality education and the support they need to succeed. On behalf of our students, staff, and families, we are truly grateful for your continued dedication and care.*

*On a personal note, I appreciate the encouragement and partnership you have shown me during my second year as Superintendent. I am proud of the collaborative spirit we share and confident in the progress we are making together as one team.*

*I would like to recognize our wonderful students who worked so hard to make the gifts you are receiving tonight.*

*Our Elementary Schools Created beautiful cards for members. Tyl Middle School with Keith Vitali leading the chorus singing- Milles Regretz, High School Students in the cultures and cuisines class made the delicious Sticky Toffee Pudding Bundt cake and the pottery students made the clay ornaments on your pastry boxes*

*Please enjoy them on behalf of Montville Public Schools. And THANK YOU for always supporting us.*

3. PTA Lane Discussion

*Dr. Vumback: As we briefly discussed last month, the town has received a request for abandonment of PTA Lane. We were asked to meet with several town officials to address our questions and concerns. I have shared with you our Districts' response to the PTA Lane proposal and would like to include any other considerations we may have missed. Please know that Deb, Willie, Theresa and Will spent time with the representatives from the town. Dennis Goderre, Director of Land use and Development is here to answer any questions you may have.*

*Mayor Bunnell made a statement thanking the board for their consideration and support. He welcomes any questions, and hopes for continued support.*

4. Personnel Report – *Dr. Vumback*

*Resignation James Catalano, Technology Education Teacher (TYL)*

5. Negotiating Committees – Montville Educator's Association (Full Board)

General Teamsters Local 493 (Transportation)

*Request was made for Board members to serve on the Transportation negotiations committee*

6. Budget Presentation – Presentation of the Superintendent’s 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

*Dr. Vumback provided a detailed presentation of the Superintendent’s proposed budget for 2026-2027. The proposed budget reflects major drivers to the success of students with only slight increases from our status quo budget, namely increasing from 3.71 to 3.79%.*

[2026-2027 Budget Presentation](#)

*Dr. Vumback shared that the average budget request from superintendent’s across the state to date is 5.24%. The average Board approved budget is 5.01% as of today. Locally, some examples include: Stonington – 5.8%, Griswold – 4.7%, Groton – 6.33%, East Lyme – 6.31%, Waterford – 5.3%..*

*Dr. Vumback asked board members to review the provided Budget Binders and be prepared to meet on the agreed upon date, March 23, 2026. The Budget needs to be presented to the Town by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.*

IX. Director of Finance & Operations Report

1. 2025-2026 Year to Date Financial Report

*Director of Finance & Operations Deb Martin provided an update for FY 2026.*

- Present Budget - \$47,284,831.00
- Expenses - \$27,504,006.00
- Encumbered - \$12,784,748.00
- Remaining - \$6,996,077.00

2. HVAC Update

*Willie Quinones, Director of Maintenance provided an update.*

- *Murphy & Oakdale Schools, DOAZ work slated for April break.*
- *Mohegan & MHS – Nutmeg Companies has been onsite multiple times. Preliminary work will begin April break.*
- *Tyl Middle – HVAC has been awarded to Sav Mor. Contract is to be signed in near future.*

3. Report on Non-Lapsing account SY 2025-2026

*Deb Martin provided an update:*

- *Started the year at \$705,851.65*
- *Approved expenses of \$381,373.00*
- *Remaining balance of \$324,478.65*

X. Committee Updates

1. *MEF - Carol Burgess, Carol was absent, no report*
2. *LEARN –Bob Mitchell reported that he attended LEARN’s Disability Summit at Great Wolf Lodge this past weekend. It was a wonderful, well attended event.*
3. *CABE/NSBA –Carol Burgess was absent, no report*
4. *Montville Youth Services Bureau – Tim Shanahan reported that the meeting was last Thursday, however no report.*

XI. Action Items

1. Act on proposed 2026-2031 Capital Plan Proposal

*Dr. Vumback informed the board that the project to replace the stairs at Tyl Middle has been added to the proposed Capital Plan, in the amount of \$120,405. Due to concerns regarding the significant cost associated with the project, the board asked for additional quotes. The approval of the Capital Plan has been tabled at this time.*

2. Act on proposed kindergarten Waiver policy

*Asst. Superintendent Andrea Flynn presented the recent development of the kindergarten Waiver being optional for the upcoming school year. The board had previously understood that it was required to offer the Waiver to members of the community, and information had already gone out to families. It was explained that if the board decided to offer the Waiver this school year, it will, in fact expire at the end of 2027, with no further action required.*

**Motion by Robert Mitchell and seconded by Donna Funk to approve proposed kindergarten Waiver policy as recommended. The Motion passed unanimously. (8-0).**

3. First Reading of new, revised or repealed policies:

New P1008 Sex Offenders

New P4100 Reports of Sexual Abuse

Repeal P5125 Student Records; Confidentiality

Revise P5125 Student Records; Confidentiality

Repeal P5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

Revise P5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

New P5118.2 Military Children

*First reading, no motion made.*

4. Set Montville High School 2026 Graduation Date

*We would like to set the Montville High School Graduation date for Wednesday, June 17th 2026. The Palmer School will host their graduation on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026. Tyl Middle School will have their 8th grade promotion ceremony on Thursday, June 18th, 2026.*

*Dr. Vumback: Graduation may occur before the district completes all 180 instructional days, as long as the graduation date is no earlier than the originally scheduled 180th day listed on the adopted calendar. Because June 12 meets that requirement for Montville, the district may keep the June 12 graduation date despite having used five snow days.*

**Motion by Wills Pike and seconded by Tim Shanahan to set June 17, 2026 as the graduation date for Montville High School. The Motion passed unanimously. (8-0).**

XII. Board Information Items

*Special meeting set for March 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

XIII. Adjournment

**Motion by Robert Mitchell and seconded by Timothy Shanahan to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously. (8-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Terni (Board Clerk)