



## MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 21, 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

Carol Burgess

Robert Mitchell, Jr.

Bonnie Bacon

#### ABSENT:

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Dianne Vumback (Superintendent), Andrea Flynn, Deb Martin, Kristin Brewer, Kristine Roberge, Willie Quinones, David Gollsneider, Rob Alves, Amanda Brown, Jill Mazzalupo, Liz Dumond, Will Klinefelter

Not in Attendance: Greg Gwudz, and Jessica Lilienthal.

- I. Call to Order, Board Chair Carol Burgess  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence
- III. Consent Agenda
  1. Board Minutes – March 17, 2026  
March 25, 2026  
March 31, 2026  
Policy Minutes February 10, 2026
  2. Financial Reports – February 2026

**Motion by Timothy Shanahan and seconded by Robert Mitchell to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of the revisions to the February 10, 2026 Policy Minutes. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).**

- IV. Communications
  1. Letter, Holly Gardner  
Board Member Tim Shanahan read the letter into record. *Ms. Gardner is requesting transportation from students to regional magnet schools.*  
*Letter is included in Board Materials*
- V. Public Comment – *Shannan Brazee, of 266 Connecticut Blvd, who was represented in the letter submitted by Holly Gardner, reiterated her hopes that the board may be able to provide transportation to students attending regional magnet schools.*
- VI. Student Representatives' Report –  
  
Tiana Bamber

*Good evening,*

*I'd like to start with an update on our spring sports teams. Baseball is currently 2-5, Boys Lacrosse is 3-2, Girls Lacrosse remains undefeated at 3-0, Softball is also off to a great start with 6-0, Boys Tennis is 1-2 and Girls Tennis is 2-1. Overall, it's been a competitive season and it's great to see strong participation and school spirit across all teams.*

*Other exciting news, on April 10th, the counseling office hosted an in-school career fair which gave students the opportunity to connect with local employers, unions, military representatives, and colleges. Students found the fair to be a valuable opportunity to explore different career paths and future options.*

*In the music department, the so far bi annual New York field trip will be happening on Friday and conclude on Sunday. Students will have the opportunity to watch a Broadway play (*The Outsiders*) and are invited to a workshop with one of the actors of the show. Students will also be able to perform on *The Edge*, and if you don't know, it's the highest building in the western hemisphere (not scary at all...) So music students are very excited and looking forward to that once in a lifetime experience!!*

*Now that we have returned from break, things at MHS are starting to ramp up. Senior Prom is set for May 2nd. AP exam season is approaching with our first exam being on May 5th. Juniors have been conducting their meetings and figuring out their plans for their final year of high school and beyond. In addition, May 1st is College Decision Day which is an extremely exciting milestone for the seniors in selecting and finalizing their plans for next year. That's all I have, thank you!!*

## VII. Superintendent's Report

### 1. Marvels Presentations:

Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary, presented by Mrs. Dumond – Principal Dumond presented Ava Maher, Sophia Graves and Reagan Bazinet as April's Montville Marvels.

Mohegan Elementary, presented by Mr. Klinefelter – Principal Klinefelter presented staff members Hayleigh Annibalini and Shanice White as Montville Marvels.

Oakdale Elementary, presented by Mrs. Mazzalupo – Principal Mazzalupo recognized the organizers and coaches of the Girls on the Run program: Helen Granskog, Catherine Dodge, Kate Felter, Melina Igoe, Megan Jackson, Kelly Smith and Taya Valdez.

### 2. Personnel Report – Resignation; Spanish Teacher Christaan Aguilar Assistant Transportation Coordinator; Kim Ryone High School Principal Secretary; Karen Dragoo (27 Years)

*Dr. Vumback: I am sharing with you that Christaan Aguilar, one of our Spanish teachers at the HS left us for an administrative opportunity. Kim Ryone from the Bus Garage resigned this month and Karen Dragoo, HS Secretary is retiring at the end of the school year after 27 years of dedicated service.*

### 3. Student Attendance Data - Asst. Superintendent Flynn presented the attendance data received from the state (February 2026 numbers). Data provided:

*Andrea Flynn: You had asked to share some information about attendance. Currently we have 17.1 students chronically absent district wide. Our lowest numbers are at Oakdale at 8.1 and our highest numbers (aside from Palmer) are at the high school at 22.5. While our numbers are higher than we would like, every school has consistent attendance meetings ranging from weekly to monthly. These meetings are a time to strategize ways to engage all students to come to school but they are also a time to look at individual students as well.*

### 4. Date to recognize certified retirees, June 4, 9:00 a.m. – Superintendent Vumback invited all board members to join in recognizing certified retirees. *At this time there is only once staff member who has submitted paperwork.*

## VIII. Director of Finance & Operations Report

1. 2025-2026 Year to Date Financial Report – *Director of Finance, Deborah Martin updated the board on current financial status, stating that with past expenditures and remaining expenses, 12.6% of the budget remains uncommitted and we will finish the fiscal year within the allotted budget (inclusive of the allocation from the Town).*
2. HVAC Update – *Willie Quinones provided an update on all ongoing projects.*
  - a. *Murphy – All 6 DOAZ systems were successfully installed over April Break, and the new stairs were installed.*
  - b. *Oakdale – The final DOAZ unit was not installed as the vendor had concerns regarding the supporting structure. Action Air will assess.*
  - c. *Mohegan and MHS – Nutmeg Companies’ electricians were onsite over break.*
  - d. *Tyl – Sav-More Heating & Cooling requested an extension on the completion date pushing the date from 8/14/26 to 10/1/26. This is due to the lead time on getting units ordered. This is not expected to impact costs.*

*Dr. Vumback: I want to add that we typically host the town’s summer camps at our schools. This is not a district undertaking, it is run by Pete Bushway. They were told we cannot host them at the middle or high school due to the HVAC work. They did ask me to consider splitting the sessions, that when one school is done, they can move to the other. As you know, we are using two different vendors so that the work can be done simultaneously and hopefully be close to completion before school starts. They did reject the elementary schools as an option. Willie is contacting the vendors as they will more than likely be using the gym and cafeterias to inquire if there is anything they can do. This camp is important to our families so I hope we can find a solution, if not here, somewhere in town. I did suggest Fair Oaks as a potential space. I just wanted to put this on your radar.*

3. Report on Non-Lapsing account SY 2025-2026 – *Deb Martin presented that after the approved expenditures from the March 2026 meeting, the remaining balance in the Non-Lapsing Fund is \$64,407.00.*
4. Pine Tree Removal – *Willie Quinones shared that during recent work on the softball field at MHS, it became evident that the roots growing into the infield and the falling limbs, 6 pine trees need to be removed from outside the fence line. The Town Tree Warden has been made aware and quotes have been received (\$6,500.00). Once the required 10-day window has expired, work will be scheduled.*
5. Impact Aide – *Deb Martin presented the board with information regarding the Impact Aide Surveys that were sent out for families to complete. Although we did not qualify, it is anticipated that in the future the District will be able to increase participation which would increase the submissions and ultimately the qualifications.*

## IX. Committee Updates

1. Policy Committee – *No meeting was held*
2. Educator and Evaluation Committee – *Tim Shanahan stated that there was a meeting on 4/21 but no quorum. The committee will be reviewing graduation requirement revision and updating the vision of a graduate.*
3. Montville Education Foundation – *Carol Burgess stated that there was a meeting on 4/20. She was not in attendance as they were discussing grants. The meeting in March was focusing on Grants and the upcoming Golf Tournament.*
4. LEARN – *Bob Mitchell shared that the lottery process is closing for all magnet schools. Work at 51 Daniels is moving along and still coming in under budget.*
5. CABA/NSBA – *Carol Burgess let board members know that if they want to present at the upcoming convention, now is the time to sign up.*

- *There is a board meeting coming up on 4/22/26.*
- *The 2026 Legislative Wrap Up is on 5/12/26 an information regarding registering is in board members' email.*

*Bob Mitchell shared that he attended the NSBA conference in San Antonio. He further shared how impressed he was with one of the workshops he attended. Mitchell requested the board look in to truly celebrating graduating students who are embarking upon careers in the Trades.*

6. *Montville Youth Services Bureau – Tim Shanahan shared that MYSB is focused on upcoming activities during Mental Health Awareness Month in May.*
  - *Erika Streibel asked if any guest speakers were scheduled during this time. Dr. Vumback shared that speakers are scheduled at the elementary schools that will be focusing on respect and kindness.*

## X. Action Items

### 1. Discussion – [Connecticut Career Pathways Commission](#)

*Dr. Vumback: Tina and Donna asked that we share this information and add it to the Board Agenda for discussion.*

*This partnership is working to ensure all students graduate with college credit and explore career options before entering the workforce. Their work is to focus on “hands-on, career-connected classes, expanded dual-enrollment to local colleges and universities, internships with local employers, and a pathway to high-paying, high-skilled jobs in the community”.*

*This is exciting as they work on creating a systematic approach expanding opportunities beyond the individual districts that have these offerings. It sounds like they are looking to create a framework to support districts on how to move forward and support ALL districts. This is important because it is not leaving it up to only those districts with the staff to explore and create these opportunities or those with access to grants and funds. It will help districts like Montville.*

*CAPSS (CT Association of Public-School Superintendents) is also partnering with Cardona Solutions and they will begin listening tours with Superintendents in May.*

2. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Montville Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale 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, 2026, through June 30, 2027. 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 organization or groups.

*Dr. Vumback: This is an annual motion affirming the district's compliance with all mandatory nutrition standards and its commitment to ensuring that no foods or beverages that fail to meet these standards are offered for sale during the school day.*

3. **Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Wills Pike;** Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Montville Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale 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, 2026, through June 30, 2027. 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 organization or groups **approved; the Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).**

*Dr. Vumback: This is an annual motion authorizing the sale of foods and beverages that do not meet established Nutrition standards at events occurring more than 30 minutes after the close of the school day, provided such items are not sold through vending machines or school stores.*

4. 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.

**5. Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Wills Pike;** 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. **The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).**

6. Act on proposed [2026-2027 Tuitions](#)

	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special Education*</u>
Elementary	\$13,233	\$35,224
Middle School	\$13,897	\$34,835
High School	\$14,447	\$32,318
Pre-school		\$33,898
Other Services		Negotiable
Palmer School		\$45,500
Pathways Program		\$62,487

\*Additional costs may be assessed based on the student’s individual educational program (IEP)

*Dr. Vumback: This is an annual motion. Tuition rates have been increased by 2.5% in accordance with the February 2026 Consumer Price Index. While the district does not accept tuition payments from individual families for student attendance, it does enroll tuition-paying students from other municipalities—most commonly special education students at Palmer—as well as placements through the Department of Children and*

*Families (DCF). Tuition rates for individual students are adjusted as needed to reflect the actual cost of their educational programs.*

**Motion by Angela Sherbanee and seconded by Donna Funk to approve the tuition rates as presented. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0)**

7. Authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative, state and federal grants.

*Dr. Vumback: This is standard language adopted annually to authorize the submission of various grant applications—such as security, Title, and IDEA grants and others—without requiring individual Board approval for each application. This approach streamlines the process while ensuring timely access to available funding opportunities.*

**Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Erika Striebel to authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative, state and federal grants. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0)**

8. Second reading and action on 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

**Motion by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Angela Sherbanee to Repeal, Revise and adopt the policies as presented for second readings. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0)**

Repeal P9326.1 Recording Meetings (**First Read**) **Second reading will occur at May Meeting.**

7. Appoint a member of the Board of Education to serve on Plan of Conservation and Development and a Comprehensive Housing Plan Committee. The Board appoints Carol Burgess.

**Motion by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Tim Shanahan to approve passed unanimously. (9-0).**

8. Request for BOE Representative to sit on subcommittee (Transportation, Buses) After discussion, the board agreed to table this until the May meeting.

**Motion by bob Mitchell and seconded by Tim Shanahan to approve passed unanimously. (9-0)**

XI. Board Information Items

- April 23, 2026 Room 203 Town Hall – Finance Committee Meeting – Budget Review – 5:00 P.M.
- April 29, 2026 Town Budget Hearing - Board of Education – 6:00 P.M.
- April 30, 2026 Town Budget Hearing – General Government - 6:00P.M.
- The Palmer School Graduation – June 15, 2026; 6:00 P.M., MHS Auditorium
- Montville High School Graduation- June 17, 2026; 6:00 P.M., MHS Football Field
- TYL Middle School Promotion – June 18, 2026; 5:00, MHS Football Field

XII. Adjournment

**Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Donna Funk to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0) Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Terni  
Board Clerk