



MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 19, 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, Liz Dumond, Will Klinefelter, Greg Gwudz, Nic Savoie

Not in Attendance: Ken Daniewicz, Jill Mazzalupo, 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 – April 21, 2026
E&E Minutes – April 21, 2026
 2. Financial Reports – March 2026

Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Wills Pike to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).

- IV. Communications
 1. Letters – [Tricia Hatcher](#)
Board Member Tim Shanahan read the letter into record.
- V. Public Comment – N/A

Student Representatives' Report – Tiana Bamber and D'Mitri Charles were both in attendance.

Tiana Bamber - 5.19.26

Good evening,

Tonight's report is a bit shorter, as things at MHS are beginning to wind down as we approach the end of the year and final lock-in has begun.

Junior Prom was held here at MHS this past Saturday, and students reportedly had a wonderful night. The theme was Under the Sea, and the decorations and props were truly excellent. Looking ahead, on Wednesday, Track and Field will be having their ECC tournament in Griswold, this Thursday evening is the Spring Music Concert,

held in the Auditorium from 7:00 to around 8:00pm, followed by Senior Outing this Friday. We will be heading to Quassy Amusement Park for the day, which is something students are very excited about.

On the academic side, ECE Writing classes are currently producing short films as their final projects. The goal for these short films is to compile all we've learned this year and dive into the complexity and vastness of humanity. There are 11 total short films and here are the names of them: The Final Bell, Last Man Standing, I Did it For Her, The Friend Group, The Summer of '22, The Fine Print, The Reunion, Tell No Lies, Mirrored, Eat Your Young, and last but not least, Sonder. Trailers will be released on May 21st and 22nd, and the completed films will be showcased at the 3rd Annual Film Festival on June 9th at 5:00 PM in the Auditorium. It is definitely an event worth attending.

Finally, I am pleased to introduce our newest incoming Student Representative: Makenzie Emilyta. Makenzie is a junior at MHS and is deeply involved in the school community. She serves as President of the Class of 2028 Student Council, is a member of FBLA and the Montville Leo's Club, and participates in multiple sports including volleyball as a manager and as a player on the Girls' Basketball, Unified Basketball, and Lacrosse team. She has been described by those around her as a dedicated, driven, and hardworking individual who is eager to make a meaningful difference wherever she can. I am confident she will be an excellent representative!!

Thank you.

D'Mitri Charles - 5.19.26

Mohegan Elementary

Since I missed last month's meeting, I'll cover some of those topics here tonight. Kicking things off with Mohegan Elementary, there are two highlights worth sharing.

Our third graders attended the Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra's Young People's Concert at the Garde Arts Center. Students learned about the different instrument families, explored the history of classical music, and got to experience the sound of a live professional orchestra in person. And looking ahead, first graders will be heading to Mystic Seaport in May for a hands-on exploration of 19th century maritime life, so there's a lot of great learning happening outside the building as well.

Murphy Elementary

At Murphy Elementary, two events really stood out this spring.

The school took part in Read Across America during the first week of March, with students engaging in daily spirit activities alongside their daily reading—a fun, school-wide celebration of literacy.

Then, just recently, Murphy held its first-ever talent show. After weeks of preparation, 26 student acts took the stage before a packed cafeteria. The range of talent on display was impressive singing, dancing, instruments, speed cubing, comedy, ATV riding, and even crocheting. It was a fantastic night, and the school is already hoping to make it an annual tradition.

Palmer School

And finally, a few updates from Palmer School.

Q3 Honor Roll results are in, one student earned High Honors and two students earned Honor Roll. Congratulations to all three.

Palmer also ran an after-school seat time recovery program during the third quarter. Eleven students were invited, ten attended at least one session, and together they recovered 59 academic hours. That's a real and meaningful outcome for students who needed the extra support.

And just last week, on May 8th, Palmer had a very special visit. Deisha Quinones, a 2026 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Semifinalist, and Ashley Wright from the CT Department of Education came to honor Kerri Flanagan, Montville's own Teacher of the Year. It was a proud moment for the Palmer community and for our entire district.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Montville Education Foundation Recognition

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank the Montville Education Foundation for its unwavering commitment to our students, staff, and schools

The Foundation's mission to "enrich educational opportunities" has had a meaningful impact across our entire district. Through its fundraising efforts and generous grant programs, countless projects and inspiring initiatives have become possible—creating opportunities that extend far beyond the traditional classroom experience.

The Montville Education Foundation has truly been a valued partner in education. Its "dedication to supporting excellence" not only supports academic achievement, but also empowers our teachers to be creative and innovative in their instruction while helping us provide engaging, relevant, and exciting learning environments for our students.

We are deeply grateful for the Foundation's continued investment in our schools and our community. Their support helps expand learning opportunities, encourages innovation, and makes a lasting difference in the lives of our students each and every day.

Thank you for your generosity, your partnership, and your steadfast belief in the importance of education. It is our honor to present this plaque in recognition and appreciation of all that you do.

2. Personnel Report – Resignation: Rachel Berk
Kathy Przywara
Michelle Guertin
Retirement: Joan Smith

We have received three certified support staff resigning/retiring from Mohegan: Rachel Berk, School Psychologist moving to Florida; Kathy Przywara, Speech & Language Pathologist, re-retiring after working part-time; and Michelle Guertin, part-time certified occupational therapist assistant. Joan Smith, Science teacher at MHS is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service. We wish them all well!

3. Recognition – Senior Board Representative

Dr. Vumback: I am honored to present Tiana Bomber with this small token of the Board's appreciation in recognition of her dedicated service as a student board representative. Your thoughtful insights and genuine perspective have provided the Board with a valuable connection to the student experience and have helped guide our discussions and decisions in meaningful ways.

We sincerely thank you for your leadership, professionalism, and commitment to representing the voices of your fellow students. Your contributions have made a positive impact on our district and school community, and we are grateful for the time and energy you have devoted to this role.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations on your many accomplishments at Montville High School. You have distinguished yourself through your hard work, character, and dedication, and we are excited to see all that you

will achieve as you begin this next chapter at Central. We know you will continue to grow, succeed, and make a meaningful difference wherever your path leads.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, thank you again for your service. We are very proud of you and wish you all the best in the years ahead.

4. CABE Student Leadership Awards –
Tyl Middle School, Presented by Principal
Aiden Perry and Elliot Chen, 8th graders from Tyl Middle School were recognized on Monday evening at the CABE Student Leadership Dinner for their outstanding academics and citizenship. Both students represent the Tyl Way, every day.

Montville High School, Presented by Principal Alves
Eric Richmond, Tiana Bamber have been recognized as this year's MHS CABE Award recipients. Both students are exceptional students and contribute greatly to their community through their extensive involvement in sports and extracurricular activities.

5. Universal no-cost breakfast for all, and no-cost reduced price lunches this year.
Dr. Vumback provided an update that next school year, breakfast will be free for all students. This is good news as we know there is a link to academic achievement and students who consume regular meals – and specifically breakfast.

We have not received official word, but we are anticipating that that there will also be NO COST for students who are eligible for reduced priced lunches.

6. Budget – Update, Dr. Vumback

Over the last two weeks there has been a lot of communication about the extra funding that has come to school districts and towns. I wanted to share a few things:

The state budget invested \$190M+ in public schools and offers towns relief. It was \$173M in supplemental funding for local public schools and nearly \$18 million in one-time funding for public school choice programs.

- *Funding is based off the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula but is not allocated as ECS funding.*
- *Distributed instead as one-time funding through two new grants: The Supplemental Education Aid grant and the District Relief and Compensatory Use Learning Aid (DRACULA) grant.*
- *Supplemental Education Aid grant amounts were calculated based on the ECS formula and provide towns with the greater of 1) the increased amount they would receive if the ECS foundation amount were raised to \$13,087 per student, or 2.) a 2% increase over the town's FY 2027 ECS grant.*
- *DRACULA grant provides funding necessary for every town to receive additional education funding equal to at least 4% of their FY 2027 ECS grant.*
- *Keeps ECS formula the same.*
- *Allows towns to reopen their approved FY 2027 budgets.*
- *We can hope with this kind of funding they give us the funding AND the \$300,000 that was cut by the Mayor.*
- *\$512,114 for Supplemental Education Aid and DRACULA grant.*

7. Website – *Dr. Vumback: Three years ago, the district launched a new website with the hope of creating a more modern, functional, and user-friendly experience for our families, staff, students, and community. Unfortunately, the final product did not fully meet the expectations or promises that were presented to us.*

Over the course of this year, we have worked diligently to ensure that those concerns were addressed and that our community would receive the high-quality website experience it deserves. I would especially like to thank Andrea for her leadership throughout this process, Nic for his expertise and collaboration, and Deb for her support and assistance along the way.

Together, they have helped create a website that is more modern, accessible, engaging, and reflective of who we are as a school district. We are excited about the improvements and the enhanced experience it will provide for our community.

At this time, I would like to give you a brief preview of our new district website, which will officially be unveiled tomorrow. Director of IT, Nic Savoie provided a preview of the district's new website that will go live tomorrow

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,*
 - a. *Initial Budget: \$47,284,831.00*
 - b. *Expended: \$34,468,390.00*
 - c. *Encumbered: \$8,770,184.00*
 - d. *Remaining Funds: \$4,739,256.00*
 - e. *Anticipated Expense: 42,750,000.00*

Board Member Wills Pike commended Deb Martin on a job well done managing this fiscal year.

2. HVAC Update – Willie Quinones provided an update on all ongoing projects.

Murphy/Oakdale Schools: Vendor has been onsite the past few weeks inspecting systems; ensuring everything is operational and making adjustments as needed. The last air handler unit will be removed after school is out (this will be a 3–4-week process).

Mohegan/MHS: Nutmeg Companies continue to visit locations. They are ready to start once school is out. There have been three separate change orders, all of which came in under the \$50,000 limit that was set forth by the board for the superintendent to approve at her discretion.

- *2 at MHS where the existing ductwork is wider than new units.*
- *1 at Mohegan, regarding code interpretations.*
- *Tyl – HVAC Upgrade, Save-More will begin afternoon shift work on 6/1.*
- *Palmer – Found a company to provide portable AC units to these areas. Central Office will review this.*

3. Report on Non-Lapsing account SY 2025-2026 – *Deb Martin*
 - a. *Start of Year - \$705,851.66*
 - b. *Initial Approved Expenditures - \$381,373.00*
 - c. *Secondary Approvals - \$263,072.00*
 - d. *Balance - \$61,407.00*

Board Member Wills Pike commented on the replacement of the steps at Murphy School, complimenting the finished result.

VII. Committee Updates

1. Policy Committee – Wills Pike, Policy Chair
Wills Pike reported that they reviewed policies pertaining to Food Services, Library Media, Non-Discrimination (with regard to staff), and AI.
2. Educator and Evaluation Committee – Tim Shanahan E&E Chair
Tim Shanahan shared that, there was a presentation about a new STEM program to be offered to 8th grade students at Tyl Middle School. SEAPERCH is a robotics program sponsored by Electric Boat. There will be a presentation next month.
3. Montville Education Foundation – Carol Burgess
Carol Burgess stated that there was a meeting this month, but she was not permitted to attend as they were awarding grants.
4. LEARN – Bob Mitchell
Nothing new, still on track with new Early Childhood School construction.
5. CABE/NSBA – Carol Burgess
Carol Burgess confirmed that the CABE Liaison Newsletter was distributed. Upcoming events are being held at Water's Edge and the Mystic Marriott. Please register if able to attend.
NSBA – Bob Mitchell reported nothing new. Reminder that the National convention will be held in DC this year, 4/2/27-4/4/27.
6. Montville Youth Services Bureau – Tim Shanahan
Tim Shanahan stated that MYSB continues to focus on Mental Health Awareness and they actually have a new billboard up that will remain up until the owner receives another contract.

VIII. Action Items

1. Consideration and possible action to approve the purchase of switches for Montville High School, Leonard J. Tyl Middle School and The Palmer School
 - a. *Nic Savoie informed the board of an opportunity to have the switch work completed at three schools (MHS, Tyl and Palmer) for less than the initially anticipated cost to complete only MHS. New cost will be \$110,744.64 (saving approximately \$5,000.00).*

Motion by Angela Sherbanee and seconded by Donna Funk. The Motion passed unanimously, (9-0).

Wills Pike asked to make a motion to alter the agenda, as it was not originally offered. He moved to add item 1a. This is a motion to allocate the \$5k savings from the switch back to the non-lapsing fund and use the remainder of this 2% fund to complete the previously postponed tree work at the MHS softball field and purchase the requested truck, sander and spreader for the Maintenance department.

Motion to add item 1a. seconded by Tim Shanahan. The motion passed unanimously. (9-0)

1a. Consideration and action to purchase a maintenance truck, sander and spreader and complete tree work at the Montville High School Softball field utilizing the non-lapsing account.

Motion to spend remainder of 2% fund to allocate the \$5k savings from the switch back to the non-lapsing fund and use the remainder of this 2% fund to complete the previously postponed tree work at the MHS softball field and purchase the requested truck, sander and spreader for the Maintenance department by Wills Pike and seconded by Tim Shanahan. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).

2. Second reading and action on new, revised or repealed policies:
 - a. Repeal P9326.1 Recording Meetings

Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Wills Pike the Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).

3. Consideration and Possible action to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and potential contract extension, for anticipated executive session.

Motion to enter executive session at 6:67 P.M., inviting Dr. Vumback into Executive Session by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Wills Pike the Motion passed unanimously. (9-0).

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:26 P.M. with no votes taken and made the following motions:

Motion to increase the salary of Dr. Vumback by 5% for the 2026-2027 contract year by Angela Sherbanee. Seconded by Wills Pike. The Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Motion to add a stipend in the amount of \$5,000 the contract of Dr. Vumback for her Educational Doctorate by Wills Pike. Seconded by Erika Striebel. The Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Motion to extend the contract of Dr. Vumback through June 30, 2029 by Bob Mitchell, seconded by Wills Pike. The Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Motion to increase the annual Annuity for Dr. Vumback by 5%, by Tim Shanahan, seconded by Bob Mitchell. The Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Motion to add a mid-year evaluation for Dr. Vumback by Wills Pike, Seconded by Angela Sherbanee. The Motion passed unanimously (9-0).

IX. Board Information Items

- 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

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Angela Sherbanee and seconded by Bob Mitchell. The Motion passed unanimously. (9-0)
Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Terni
Board Clerk