



MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 16, 2026

6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Montville High School, Library Media Center

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Burgess, Erika Striebel, Wills Pike, Timothy Shanahan, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Tina Grove, Bonnie Bacon

ALSO PRESENT: Supt. Vumback, Asst. Superintendent Flynn, Kristin Brewer, Willie Quinones, Rob Alves, David Gollsneider, Elizabeth Dumond, Jill Mazzalupo, Will Klinefelter

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Board Members Angela Sherbanee and Donna Funk. Amanda Brown, Greg Gwudz, Jessica Lilienthal, Deb Martin, Ken Daniewicz

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

III. Alterations to the agenda – Chairman of the Board, Carol Burgess asked to include discussion surrounding formation of committee to address two different issues to the discussion surrounding the August meeting.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Board Minutes –May 19, 2026

E&E Minutes – May 19, 2026

Policy- May 19, 2026

2. Financial Reports – April 2026

Motion by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Bob Mitchell to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

V. Communications - none

VI. Public Comment

Brian Baker of 560 Chesterfield Road. Mr. Baker asked several questions as a follow up to the Special Meeting held on Monday, June 15th.

Who determines what defines “comfort level”? With regard to what is comfortable for students and staff in the buildings.?

MHS will be the only school with AC in cafeteria and gymnasium. What about other schools, what about kitchen staff in other buildings, etc.?

With regard to the Testing of Systems discussed at the Special Meeting, I having been approved and I tabled...Performance Testing is to take place. But will this testing take place when the buildings are occupied?

Lastly, it was mentioned that the warranty purchased on these systems began the day the work began. Why would we accept this? The warranty shouldn't start until the systems are in, approved, and implemented.

***Paul Tar** of Fox Hollow Dr (Teacher at The Palmer School) Mr. Tar expressed his concern with the oppressive conditions for students and staff at The Palmer School. Students who have a difficult enough time in school, should not have to contend with this additional challenge that could be controlled.*

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Personnel Report – Resignation: Dean Fallas, Teacher Montville High School
Hannah Seddon, Teacher Mohegan Elementary

Retirement: JoAnn Dixon, Tyl Middle School

2. Parent Involvement Reports – Parent Involvement Reports included in June's Board Materials

Dr. Vumback - These annual reports, submitted by each school in accordance with district policy, highlight the many ways our schools foster meaningful partnerships with parents and families. Family engagement remains a key priority across the district, and these reports showcase a variety of opportunities for parents to stay informed, connected, and actively involved in their children's educational experience, including:

- *Ongoing communication through School Messenger, social media platforms, teacher emails, school websites, and weekly or monthly newsletters.*
- *Family-centered events and activities such as Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) nights at elementary campuses, Back-to-School events, parent-teacher conferences, PTO-sponsored programs, theatrical productions, musical performances, concerts, athletic competitions, and student recognition ceremonies and assemblies, open houses and PPT/504 meetings.*
- *Regular updates regarding individual student progress through platforms such as Google Classroom and PowerSchool, providing families with timely access to academic information.*
- *Numerous volunteer opportunities that encourage parents and guardians to contribute their time, talents, and support within the school community.*
- *Transition and orientation programs designed to help students and families successfully navigate key entry points, including kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade.*

Together, these efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to building strong school-family partnerships that support student success and strengthen our school communities.

VIII. Committee Updates

1. Policy Committee - Five *New policies were reviewed and will be introduced for first read.*
2. Educator and Evaluation Committee (No Meeting)
3. Montville Education Foundation – No Report
4. LEARN – *Nothing new, last meeting held; construction continues to move forward on Early Education Center.*
5. CABA/NSBA – *Summer learning institute information is in email/ CABA Convention is coming up in the fall for those interested in attending. The Leadership Conference will also be available.*
6. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Met 6/11, follow up to May's Mental Health month. Shared about SRO Ofc. Todd retiring and moving to North Carolina. Which will leave the district short an SRO.*

IX. Action Items

1. Discussion on redistricting, The Palmer School, Elementary Schools
Dr. Vumback - Carol asked me to put this on the agenda for the Board to determine if it makes sense to put together two committees to look at the feasibility of relocating The Palmer School out of the Palmer Building and redistricting the elementary schools. As a reminder, redistricting the elementary schools was last looked at in 2018 through an established committee.

Carol Burgess opened up discussion about the potential need to rehome the Palmer School. The Town (therefore the Board) does not own the building, and with the extensive work needed and restrictions in place, it may be inevitable that a new location is necessary. HVAC Upgrades are not an option and a new roof is estimated at \$350,000.00. Burgess asserts that a committee should be formed to evaluate next steps.

Wills Pike contends that a committee is premature at this time. Superintendent Vumback needs to drill down and determine exactly what is needed, then a committee should be formed. Tina Grove backs Pike's perspective.

Pike defers to Vumback for a timeframe.

Supt. Vumback shared that due to the timing and summer being a time of limited staffing, October would be a good time to come back to this issue, giving all parties time to gather information.

Chairwoman Burgess opened up conversation about creating an exploratory committee on new construction of a school in Town. This committee would be comprised of the whole board of education. After much discussion, Burgess asked for a motion.

Motion to form an exploratory committee on new construction of a school made by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Wills Pike. Approved (6-1).

2. Consideration and Possible action to approve new course proposal – STEM SEAPERCH at Tyl Middle School

The Board failed to make a motion on this item; it will be reconsidered at the August Meeting.

3. Consideration and Possible action to approve revisions to Montville High School Graduation

requirements by creating a Senior Showcase and Digital Portfolio

Motion to approve revisions to Montville High School graduation requirements by creating a Senior Showcase and Digital Portfolio made by Wills Pike and seconded by Tim Shanahan. Approved unanimously (7-0).

4. First reading and action on new, revised or repealed policies:

- a. New P5118.5 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety
- b. New P1009 Non-Discrimination
- c. Repeal P4118.51/4218.51 social media
Replace P4118.5/4218.5
- d. Repeal P6144.1 Exemption from Instruction
Replace P6144.1 Curricular Exemptions
- e. New P3542 Food Service
- f. Repeal P6161.1 Selection of Instructional Materials
Replace P6161.1 Library Collection Development and Maintenance

Motion to approve policies referenced above as Line Items a. – f., made by Tim Shanahan and seconded by Bob Mitchell. Approved unanimously (7-0).

- g. Repeal P1112.6 Videotaping of Staff/Students by Non-District Parties
Replace P1112.6 Digital Recording and media of Students/Staff
- h. NEW P1112.7; 4118.61; 4218.61 Recording Meetings Without Consent
- i. Repeal P1312 Public Complaints
Replace P1312 Public Complaints
- j. Repeal P5112 Ages of Attendance
Replace P5112 Ages of Attendance/Admission/Placement
- k. Repeal P5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault
Replace P5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

Asst. Superintendent Flynn introduced Line Items g. – k. and reviewed. These policies have been made available as a first read. They will be presented for approval at the August meeting.

4. Consideration and action to approve the final candidate for the position of Elementary Special Education Supervisor, as recommended by Dr. Vumback

Dr. Vumback introduced the candidate - I am thrilled to introduce Lori Susi - our candidate for Elementary Special Education Supervisor. After three interview rounds, Lori really rose to the top. And currently serves as interim Elementary Special Education Supervisor in Vernon. Her current supervisor said that "Despite the scope and complexity of this responsibility, Lori has established herself as a steady, knowledgeable, and highly respected leader. Teachers consistently express appreciation for her support, expertise, and presence in our schools".

Prior to that role she served as the executive director of Intensive Education Academy for three years. There the President of the Board of Directors said: I worked very closely with Lori during her time as the Executive Director. As the Board Chair, I found our work together was something that IEA had not had with previous

directors. Her transparency and ability to communicate what needed to be done and how we could grow was outstanding. She continued to amaze me with her enthusiasm, diligent work ethic, continuous strategizing for new programs and reimaging of our academics in the areas of reading and math curriculums for the students.

Previous to that, she worked at UCONN as the Assistant Director of the Center for Students with disabilities and as a Principal in the Lyme/Old Lyme School district for 7 years.

Lori's career has been grounded in inclusive practices, strong special education systems and collaborative leadership focused on improving outcomes for students with diverse learning needs.

I am excited to recommend Lori Susi to the Board of Education for the position of Elementary Special Education Supervisor.

Motion to approve the final candidate, Lori Souci, for the position of Elementary Special Education Supervisor made by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Wills Pike. Approved unanimously (7-0).

X. Board Information Items

Superintendent Vumback proposed 8/4/26 at 5:00 pm, as the date for the August Board Meeting. All members agreed to this date.

Chairwoman Burgess revisited the conversation started at the Special Meeting on 6/15 regarding the need for AC units at The Palmer Academy. It was agreed that 2 units need to be rented ASAP, at the cost of \$3400/month in order to provide relief for the staff that work summer hours in the building.

Motion made to move forward with the rental of 2 AC Units for The Palmer Building made by Tina Grove and seconded by Bob Mitchell. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0), with the commitment from Supt. Vumback that she confers with Deb Martin and relay back to the Board, how this will be paid for (as questioned by Wills Pike).

Chairwoman Burgess reminded members of the CABA conference to be held on 8/6/26. Burgess also stated that at the August meeting she would like to invite someone from CABA to come assist with Board's self-evaluation. Lastly, Burgess said she would like to start a conversation about potentially revising the methodology used for evaluating the Superintendent.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Wills Pike to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Terni