

**SPECIAL MEETING - MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MURPHY SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
January 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

There was not a quorum of Board of Education members; therefore the meeting was informational only.

Present at the meeting: Board Chair David Rowley, Board Members Sandra Berardy, Jim Wood, and Todd Pomazon, Superintendent of Schools Pamela W. Aubin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Brian C. Levesque, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Facilities Matt Bialowas, Administrators Jeff Newton and Mark Johnson, and staff and community members.

D. Rowley introduced Board members and gave a brief summary of the budget assumptions and constraints, and turned the meeting over to Superintendent of Schools Pamela Aubin. P. Aubin thanked everyone for attending and talked about the need to fund mandated programs, and maintain small class sizes at the elementary level. Costs for new curriculum will be for new social studies textbooks only. There are items that we cannot control such as the cost of fuel. We are part of a regional consortium and use this to get the best possible prices for some items. The Board will be looking to adopt a regional calendar which will save transportation costs. P. Aubin turned the meeting over to the public, asking for any ideas or input about the budget.

Staff and community members spoke concerning the following:

- Keep class sizes small
- Keep the specials such as physical education, music, art
- Maintain the enrichment program
- Add foreign language instruction to the elementary schools
- Make kindergarten a full day
- Keep the reading programs strong

P. Aubin stated that AARA money will go away next year but we will use the JOBS Act money to maintain the same staff members. The big concern will be the following year when federal funding goes away.

A discussion was held concerning mandates, special education, and nursing services. J. Farrior noted that you can use your Stop & Shop card to register and money will be put into classroom supplies. P. Aubin mentioned that Target and Big Y also have programs. She mentioned that it is very important to support local businesses as they put their taxes into the town.

A parent asked what things parents can to help support the schools. P. Aubin said they should stay in touch with the budget process and attend council meetings. Speak from your heart as a parent and bring other parents with you. Advocate for the academic program and top quality programs. There will be a budget workshop on Saturday, February 12 at 9:00 a.m. In March, the Board will vote on the budget and then it goes forward to the Town. We will post information about upcoming dates on the school website. We can't tell parents what to say but do urge them to come to the meetings and speak to their council members. D. Rowley reiterated the importance of parents going to council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Pamela W. Aubin
Superintendent of Schools