

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
November 15, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Superintendent of Schools Pam Aubin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie T. Baxter, Sandra Berardy, Deborah Reed-Iler, Steve Loiler, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, David Rowley and James Wood.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Pamela Aubin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Lorilyn Caron, Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, Mark Johnson, William Klinefelter, Jr., Tanya Patton, Sheila Reagan and Eileen Richmond, Student Board Representatives Matthew Clark and Rachael Orbe, MEA president Joel Farrior, Town Council Liaison Gary Murphy and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for Board Chair:

Motion: To elect David Rowley as Board Chair.
Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Written Votes: 9 votes – Unanimous for D. Rowley (*as reported by Recording Secretary*)

Nominations for Board Secretary:

Motion: To elect Tom McNally as Board Secretary.
Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Steve Loiler
Written Votes: 9 votes – Unanimous for T. McNally (*as reported by Recording Secretary*)

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

It is recommended that the Board of Education acknowledge the following students, teachers, and community members in the areas noted:

Districtwide: Superintendent Aubin recognized Laurie Pallin for her dedication and hard work, going above and beyond to provide knowledgeable leadership to ensure the Regional Professional Development days were of the highest quality. Board member Carrie Baxter presented this certificate.

Mohegan School: Principal Lorilyn Caron recognized Abigail Orbe for embracing her learning about the formation of an independent social studies government project. Rebecca Grabon was recognized for displaying exemplary character. The certificates were presented by Board member Steve Loiler.

Oakdale School: Principal Mark Johnson recognized Janet Wrobel for her willingness and dedication in supporting the success of Oakdale School's students. Garrett Brown was recognized for his continued academic effort and growth, his resilience, and his citizenship. Board member Todd Pomazon presented their certificates.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Amy Espinoza recognized Chase Swinburne for his quick thinking and cool head, which helped his family in a true medical emergency. Also recognized was Kassidy Stackpole for her dedication in raising money for worthy causes. Board member Tom McNally presented these certificates.

Motion: **That the Board moves up items 8a, 8b and 9a on the agenda.**
Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded b: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8a. Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy #5142, Health Manual. (1—School Safety/Positive Climate)

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and also met last month to review and make language changes to the district health manual. The Committee approved sending the revised policy to the full Board.

Motion: **That the full Board approves revisions to Policy #5142, Health Manual.**
Vote: 8-0, D. Reed-Iler abstained

Item 8b. Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy #5131.90, Bullying. (1—School Safety/Positive Climate)

J. Wood reported that bullying is a huge topic that is being reviewed and the Committee approved the policy with its revisions and agreed to send it to the full Board.

Motion: **That the Board approves the revised Policy #5131.90, Bullying.**
Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded b: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 9a. Policy (6—Advocacy)

J. Wood reported that the Committee discussed a new policy regarding safe school climate. Revisions will be made to the proposed policy and given to the full Board for review as the policy must be complete by the December meeting. P. Aubin will forward an electronic copy of the policy to the Board. The Committee also reviewed language changes to the policy for credit requirements for graduation.

Presentation: C) Recognition of Montville High School Baseball Team for winning its second consecutive Class M State Championship: Representative Team members: Tre Gonzalez, Tyler Guetens, Max Hart, Nick Kinder, Jason Volpe and Corey Wilcox

Coach Orbe introduced six seniors representing the championship baseball team, who were recognized for their second consecutive state win. Certificates were presented by Board member Deb Reed-Iler.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:25 p.m. for a reception in honor of the baseball team and resumed at 6:40 p.m.

Presentation: B) The ELL Experience in the Montville Elementary Schools – Mohegan School.

Principal Lori Caron and Lisa Kaplan gave an overview of the ELL experience at the elementary level at Montville School, explaining that there are thirteen languages other than English spoken at this grade level and nine of those languages are represented at Mohegan. L. Kaplan provides direct instruction to staff and students with data and tools. Montville Schools have far exceeded the federal and state standards in this area.

Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

None

Item 4: Letters and communications. (8 – Communications/Marketing)

None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried 8-0; Todd Pomazon abstained

Item 5b. Budget Projection – Kathy Lamoureux (3—Budget/Resources)

P. Aubin reviewed the quarterly budget projection that the Board received in its packets. Items that are being closely watched are pupil transportation outside of the district, fuel oil and gasoline that have not yet been pre-paid for the current year, projected shortfalls in tuition accounts, insurance claims and the potential impact on next year's premiums and reduced funding and its effect on hiring staff.

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representatives Matthew Clark and Rachael Orbe gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. The Spanish 2, 4, and 5 classes visited the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on October 25 and viewed works by Goya, El Greco and Miro.
2. Student Government organized a successful Spirit Week and a Homecoming Dance attended by 200 students.
3. A collection of 128 non-perishable food items collected at the Montville vs. New London football game was donated to Montville Services.
4. Student Government held a panel discussion at Tyl at two assemblies for eighth graders to talk about Montville High School.
5. The eleven MHS ELL students who will graduate this year are researching scholarships.
6. The MHS Marching Band concluded their competitive season with a 4th place finish at the USSBA I-AA New England Champion ships on November 5 and also won the I-A Connecticut State Title in color guard and visual performance.
7. The MHS Winter Guard will begin its season later this week and will travel to five competitions in the MAC circuit.

8. *The Chieftain* is in full production with a staff of freelance and journalism class writers. The first issue was distributed two weeks ago, and the second should be available this week.
9. On October 26, the Senior Internship class, Basic Foods and Culinary classes and the FBLA club hosted a Career Fair attended by 19 employers and students during their lunch period.
10. Tyl eighth graders visited Mrs. Dorff's Chemistry class at the high school to reinforce identification of variables and the aspects of experimental design.
11. The boys soccer team tied for the ECC Medium Championship with Ledyard for the second consecutive year. They are also ranked fourth in the state tournament for the medium division and play in the quarterfinals tomorrow, November 16.
12. In October, Mrs. Abrams, the choral director at Tyl, brought the Tyl Chamber Choir members to MHS to sing with the high school chamber choir.
13. Parent conferences will be held at MHS on Thursday, November 17.
14. In honor of American Enterprise Day, two entrepreneurs came to speak with members of the FBLA.
15. The FBLA is hosting a Cell Phone for Soldiers Drive and held a Paint Your Nails Pink fundraiser to support Breast Cancer Awareness.
16. The GSA is hosting a coat drive at the high school to benefit the local community.
17. Yearbook photos were taken earlier this month.
18. The Shakespeare play, The Twelfth Night, is being performed December 2-3 at the high school. Tickets will be available in the Main Office and half the proceeds from the Saturday matinee will be donated to the Carol Beaulieu Scholarship Fund.
19. Tomorrow, November 16, eight graders from the Sayles School in Sprague will tour MHS. Tyl eight graders will also tour the school.
20. The annual Thanksgiving football game against St. Bernard's will be held on Tuesday, November 22.
21. The YES Club took a field trip to UConn today for a tour.
22. On December 12, a band concert will be held and a chorus concert will take place on December 19.
23. Rachel's Challenge, that promotes equality, will be coming to MHS on Friday, November 18. Students will see a presentation during the first and second blocks and a presentation is scheduled that evening from 7-8 p.m.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

- a. **Report and update of the Ad-Hoc Kindergarten Feasibility Committee. (8—BOE Knowledge)**

C. Baxter reported that the Committee had its second full meeting today and the following topics will be touched upon—space needs, staffing, finances, parents' survey and communication with the community. Several sub-committees have been formed, and a parent survey will be posted on district and school websites by Friday, November 18. A full presentation will be given to the Board at the January meeting.

Item 8. New Business

- a. **Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy 5142, Health Manual. (6—School Health/Safety)**

This item was moved up on the agenda.

- b. **Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy #5131.90, Bullying. (6 – School Health/Safety)**

This Item was moved up on the agenda.

- c. **Consideration and action to adopt the proposed schedule of Board of Education meetings for 2012, and file the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to December 31, 2011. (4—Communication/Marketing)**

Motion: That the Board adopts the schedule of Board of Education meetings for 2012 and files the schedule with the Town Clerk prior to December 31, 2011.

Proposed by: Tom McNally

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously

- d. **Discussion of budget developments for 2012-13, and consideration and action to approve budget assumptions, constraints, guidelines and priorities for 2012-13.**

P. Aubin commented that budget assumptions, constraints, guidelines and priorities for 2012-13 were discussed with the Central Office Leadership Team and few changes were made to the 2011-12 documents. She added that the Colchester district will hold a Legislative Breakfast on January 12, 2012.

Motion: That the Board approves the budget assumptions, constraints, guidelines, and priorities for 2012-13.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously

- e. **Consideration and action to adopt the proposed school calendar for 2012-13 (6—Advocacy)**

P. Aubin commented that area districts met and came to an agreement on Professional Development dates and the April vacation.

Motion: That the Board adopts the proposed school calendar for 2012-13.

Proposed by: Tom McNally

Seconded by: Steve Loiler

Vote: Carried unanimously

- f. **Appraisal of field trip: Montville High School, Chamber Choir, Boston, MA, March 30- April 1, 2012, 17 students. (2—Student Achievement)**

Board members were apprised of this trip. B. Levesque commented that the trip would be overnight but there would be adequate chaperoning.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. **Policy (James Wood). (1 – Advocacy)**

This item was moved up on the agenda.

- b. **Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell). (5 – Monitoring District/School Improvement)**

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and approved to bring to the full Board tonight for approval a Digital Illustration Curriculum that will be offered next year. B. Levesque commented that the course was approved and written this past summer.

Motion: That the Board approves the Digital Illustration curriculum for the 2012-13 school year.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried unanimously

Board Committee Appointments:

Policy Committee: J. Wood, S. Berardy, T. McNally, S. Loiler

Educational Evaluation Committee: B. Mitchell, C. Baxter, T. Pomazon, D. Reed-Iler

CABE/NSBA Delegate: B. Mitchell

MetroCast Advisory Council: T. McNally

Montville Education Association: S. Loiler

LEARN: D. Reed-Iler

Montville Youth Services: B. Mitchell

Capital Improvement: T. McNally

c. Montville Education Foundation (Deborah Reed-Iler). (7 – Positive Community Relationships)

D. Reed-Iler reported that three submissions were received for grants and \$5,000 is available for the same. A presentation by the library/media specialists regarding summer reading that the MEF supported was heard. B. Levesque added that a Soprano's Dinner will be held at the Montville Polish Club on Friday, November 25. Tickets are \$50 each and 180 tickets are available. Two corporate sponsors have signed on and the foundation is looking for a third. Also, name plates for MHS auditorium seats are for sale at \$75-\$100 per seat. The funds from the sale will go directly to Montville Public Schools.

d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler). (1 – Advocacy)

D. Reed-Iler reported that she was unable to attend the meeting. An executive meeting will be held later this week.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell). (1 – Advocacy)

B. Mitchell reported that the CABE Delegate Assembly is this week and the CABE convention will take place this weekend.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon/Donna Jacobson). (6 – School Health/Safety)

T. Pomazon reported that no meeting was held.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally). (8 – Communication/Marketing)

T. McNally commented that a meeting was held today, November 15, and he was appointed chairman.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell). (7 – Positive Community Relationships)

B. Mitchell reported that a meeting was held last week and that the Juvenile Review Board will be reconstituted to review youth before they are placed in the juvenile system. The liaison for the police will be Officer Karen Morehead, the SRO. Also, the Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was a success as all of the food for the event was donated.

i. Capital Improvement Committee (1—School Safety/Positive Climate)

T. McNally reported no meeting has been called yet.

j. Administrative Monthly Reports. (5 – Monitoring District/School Improvement)

These reports were submitted to the Board in their packets. Per D. Rowley, "Keep them coming."

k. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley commented on the following:

- He visited Oakdale School today.
- On Wednesday, November 16, he will tape a Channel 22 program with S. Reagan and Dawn Guntner, "Stress Management Thru Movement and other programs at Palmer Academy."
- He attended a meeting with C. Ellis where the Rocky Mountain Rifle Club presented a \$10,000 endowment to the Rifle Club that will be used for targets, supplies and scholarships; not guns.

l. Other.

None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Maynard.

D. Maynard was absent from the meeting.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported to the Board on the following:

- Aspen/Cognite Pilot: Several staff attended a meeting in Hingham, MA today to discuss the Cognite pilot. At the meeting, we discussed the current features and then saw a demo of the new features for the next release.
- Elementary teachers are completing their report cards for the first time in Aspen. N. Savoie, L. Pallin and B. Levesque have been trouble shooting any problems. Overall, the implementation of the grade book at the elementary level has been a success. They are still working on a few enhancements that will improve the process even more for future grading periods.
- E-Rate: N. Savoie and B. Levesque have been working with Fiber vendors to prepare our e-rate submission for this year. It is our hope to install fiber at all of our schools for next year. We are hoping to maximize our e-rate reimbursement to provide us with greater connectivity to the internet. This will prepare us for 2014-2015 when it is anticipated that all students will be taking on-line state assessments.

c. Monthly Update.

P. Aubin reported to the Board on the following:

- The following report that was received from the CAPSS regarding a recent State Board of Education meeting indicates that some progress is being made towards this goal of aligning Burden of Proof with federal IDEA law:

Burden of Proof mentioned during public comment portion: During public comment, there were three individuals who spoke on the burden of proof issue. One was James McGahee of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities who is a supporter of maintaining status quo for the burden of proof. Two other individuals who spoke in favor of changing the burden of proof urged the Board not to take action until the study is completed by the Department on the burden of proof regulations. This was the study that was required as a result of PA 11-09 which directed the Department to study special education mandates above/beyond federal requirements, specifically inclusive of the burden of proof issue.

Burden of Proof Tabled until March Meeting: Later in the afternoon, the Board took up approving the draft regulations on special education, and Ann Louise Thompson from the Department was present to answer questions on the topic. A motion was made by Board Member Ferdinand Risco that any action on the special education regulations be tabled until after the study on state special education requirements and burden of proof above what is required by the federal government is completed. That study is slated to be completed in February of 2012. After a vote, the measure passed with two dissenting votes.

- **School Building Committee plaques at Tyl and Montville High School:**
Linda Heller followed up with Architect Al Jacunski with regard to the absence of plaques at Tyl and Montville High School. His response was that the creation of the plaques “slipped through the cracks” and conveyed his apologies. As with the other school renovation projects, Mr. Jacunski’s firm will donate the plaques. He is planning to put together a layout sketch for Tyl and MHS and will email it to L. Heller for review.
- **United Way Campaign:**
The United Way Campaign is now complete. As a district, staff donated a total of \$6,077.00. We are appreciative of the support they have provided during these difficult economic times.
- **Next Ed-CAPSS Educational Transformation Project:**
As a member of the CAPSS Board of Directors, P. Aubin attended the press conference at the Legislative Office Building last week where the CAPSS Executive Director, Joseph Cirusuolo presented on the CAPSS Education Transformation Project: Next-Ed. P. Aubin encouraged the Board to attend the session at the CABE/CAPSS Convention about the very bold and comprehensive recommendations from CAPSS that will be needed in the future to better prepare our young people for college and career.

Item 11. Information items.

P. Aubin commented that the Board received in their packets an informational brochure developed by C. Ellis that will be used for students who might want to enroll at MHS.

Item 12. Citizens' comments (non-agenda items only).

D. Rowley welcomed back Gary Murphy as Board Liaison under the new Town administration. He also welcomed Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dave Rowley, Board Chair
Montville Board of Education

Tom McNally, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____