

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.**

2014-15 Board of Education Goals:

To engage in a cycle of continuous improvement to ensure all students are educated with high standards and achieve at the highest levels of learning in the Montville Public Schools.

Item 1. Call to order.

Board Chair David Rowley 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, Steve Loiler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Deborah Reed-Iler, Valerie Smith, James Wood and David Rowley.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patten, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinha, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville.

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

Mohegan School: Principal Allison Peterson recognized Kendra Campbell and Karen Stauble for going above and beyond their monitor responsibilities to support both the children and adults at Mohegan School. The certificates were presented by Board Member Steve Loiler.

Oakdale School: Principal Jill Mazzalupo recognized Emma-Claire Caskey, Jordan Godburn, Matthew Hooper, Emma Krause, Allison Olsen, and Faith Terni for being leaders and role models to their peers at Oakdale School. Beverly Blackstone was also recognized for single-handedly coordinating gift giving for Oakdale families in need during the holiday season. Board Member Kim Navetta presented these certificates.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Amy Espinoza recognized John (Jay) Podziewski for his selfless contribution of \$200 of his own money to the Murphy Mad

Dash and Sebastian Colon for volunteering his time and efforts to the Eastern Connecticut Wounded Warrior Project and helping to provide appropriate housing for a local disabled veteran. Rocco Cinelli was also recognized for changing his path and making admirable decisions about his academic and behavioral choices to become a model student. These certificates were presented by Board member Deb Reed-Iler.

Presentation: B) Mindset – Leonard J. Tyl School.

Principal M. J. Dix, assisted by Assistant Principal Will Klinefelter, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Mindset, a program based on research done by Angela Lee Duckworth, to engage students who do not perform well academically. According to A. Duckworth, educators should take the best ideas and test them to encourage student mindsets from broad ones that can be fixed to growth mindsets for learning new things and overcoming challenges. Principal Dix stated that the goal of the program which is in its first year is to have students feel intelligent even when they work hard to learn new content.

Motion: That the Board moves agenda Item 8.h, Superintendent’s Mid-year Evaluation to Item 12.a.

Proposed by: De Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously

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

Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. Town Councilor Jaskiewicz asked for an explanation of agenda Item 8.f and asked if the district needs to purchase five (5) buses in order to be reimbursed by the State regarding Item 8.g. Referring to Item 8.f, Superintendent B. Levesque stated that the State has a formula that it follows for lunch program prices and that the district lunch program prices will be good for two (2) years. Responding to the question concerning reimbursement for buses, B. Levesque explained that the district applied for and was approved for the one-time grant through the EPA for replacement of five (5) buses that must be used within 90 days.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

There were none to report. Chair D. Rowley reminded the Board of its annual budget meeting to be held at a special meeting on February 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

The student representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinja gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. Resident State Trooper Sgt. Smith led two sessions about cell phone and Internet safety to all of the high school students. It was eye-opening for some, and well-received.
2. Students and staff were treated to the annual holiday concert which featured the band and choir students, as well as a performance by the faculty band, which received a standing ovation.
3. American Studies II took a field trip to see the film, *Unbroken*, since the class had read the book over the summer vacation.
4. The International Club raised \$121 to benefit the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London by selling handmade ornaments made of recycled greeting cards.
5. The Drama Club took twenty-five students on a trip to the Hartford Stage on Saturday, January 17, to see "Private Lives."
6. Mid-terms were completed without any snow delays, to the regret of the students, and the second semester began today.
7. Shaun Radgowski will play the piano accompaniment for two songs in both the 7th Grade Chorus and 8th Grade Chorus concerts.
8. The National Honor Society is planning a 5k road race to benefit local veterans.
9. Student Government is planning the second annual winter pep rally that is set for Friday, January 30th.
10. The wrestling team is a very young group with only two seniors in the lineup. They are currently 7-2 and have only lost to top ten teams that were close in scoring and the team has performed well. Seniors Tommy Wynosky and Ian Concascia have been outstanding players. The team placed 4th out of 19 teams in a recent tournament and the Connecticut teams that finished above them were top ten teams. Finally, the team has also placed some top team votes ranking them about 14th in the state. This season was anticipated as a rebuilding season but these students have gone above and beyond expectations.
11. The girls basketball team has started the season 7-5 and is currently in the middle of a 4-game winning streak. The team just returned from its holiday trip to play in a KSA tournament at the Disney Wide World of Sports complex. While the team finished in fourth place in its bracket, it was deemed a successful trip by all. The team spent six days in Florida and visited the Disney parks every day making the two losses a little easier to take.

Board member Deb Reed-Iler asked the student representatives about the students' perception of Sgt. Smith's presentation. Board member B. Mitchell invited the student representatives to the CABE Day on the Hill in Hartford on March 25th.

Item 7. Unfinished business. -- None

Item 8. New Business.

- a. Consideration and action to approve Policy #1101.1 (a), Students, Communications with the Public, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #1101.1 (a), Students, Communications with the Public, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

- b. Consideration and action to approve Policy #1120, News Media Relationships, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #1120, News Media Relationships, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously

- c. Consideration and action to approve Policy #1120.1, Media Access to Students, as recommended by Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Boards approves Policy #1120.1, Media Access to Students, as recommended by Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously

- d. Consideration and action to approve Policy #1311.1, Promotion of Private Interests, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #1311.1, Promotion of Private Interests, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

- e. **Consideration and action to approve Policy #1411, Pupils and Law Enforcement Officials, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #1411, Pupils and Law Enforcement Officials, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously

- f. **Consideration and action to approve for the 2015-16 school year an increase for lunch of \$.10 at the elementary and middle school levels (from \$2.50 to \$2.60 for elementary and from \$2.75 to \$2.85 at the middle school) and an increase of \$.15 at the high school level (from \$2.85 to \$3.00). The increase is necessary to comply with State Regulations.**

Motion: That the Board approves for the 2015-16 school year an increase for lunch of \$.10 at the elementary and middle school levels (from \$2.50 to \$2.60 for elementary and from \$2.75 to \$2.85 at the middle school) and an increase of \$.15 at the high school level (from \$2.85 to \$3.00). The increase is necessary to comply with State Regulations.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Steve Loiler

Vote: Carried unanimously

Responding to a question by Board member C. Baxter concerning free and reduced lunches, K. Lamoureux stated that those lunches would not be affected.

- g. **Consideration and action to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to pursue funding for the purchase of up to five (5) busses which qualify for reimbursement of \$20,000 per vehicle under the National Clean Diesel Rebate Program – 2014 School Bus Replacement Funding Opportunity.**

Motion: That the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to pursue funding for the purchase of up to five (5) busses which qualify for reimbursement of \$20,000 per vehicle under the National Clean Diesel Rebate Program – 2014 School Bus Replacement Funding Opportunity

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

Superintendent B. Levesque commented on the pros and cons for retaining the district bus fleet versus leasing and the associated cost to the District. Board member B. Mitchell explained that once a District removes its private bus fleet it cannot be reinstated. Board member D. Reed-Iler commented on the ability of the District to hire its drivers that provides a level of safety and comfort.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood stated that a meeting was held earlier this evening and reviewed policies on personal gifts and sales and disposal of books which will be added to Dropbox for the Board's review. Policy #2131.4, Superintendent's Yearly Physical was rescinded.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that at the last meeting of the Committee it approved 16 textbooks for CARP totaling \$207.84 that he asked the Board to approve this evening. He also approved that a policy for grading and homework be forwarded to the Policy Committee for review and consideration.

Motion: That the Board approves the purchase of sixteen (16) textbook at a cost of \$12.99 each for CARP.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler/Brian Levesque). -

No report

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).N

C. Baxter reported that she was unable to attend the last LEARN meeting due to delay of school opening on the last meeting date.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell commented on a recent meeting with a congressman and reported that he and D. Rowley would be attending the NSBA Conference in Nashville, TN, March 21-23, 2015.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon). – No report

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for January 21st at 5:30 p.m.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau is sponsoring a Penny Drive to raise funds that will benefit the Montville Animal Shelter and matched by Dime Bank.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Chair D. Rowley commented that the bar was raised by the addition of pictures. Board member C. Baxter asked whether the presentation by Sgt. Smith concerning Internet safety can be given to Tyl students.

j. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley reported that cable access Channel 22 is in limbo. He stated that he would be interviewing Board members C. Baxter and B. Mitchell concerning the CABE award and Board goals. Chair Rowley also commented that he represented the Board at a series of events: (1) the outstanding student of the trimester at Tyl; (2) the Grade 2 Christmas play at Murphy School; (3) the MHS Christmas concert, and (4) the pizza party given to Mohegan School by the Board for having the highest percentage of donations for the United Way drive.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Special Services – Mr. Johnson.

- Title IX Committee: Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex and also deals with sexual harassment issues. Representatives are appointed at each building to act as the contact person while M. Johnson acts as the coordinator for the district. T. Patten has spearheaded district-wide meetings of the representatives to assure that we are sharing a common knowledge and expertise on any cases from one of our schools.
- MFWSN Board: The Montville Family with Service Needs Board had its first meeting in January. New members welcomed were: Kimberly Smith from Juvenile Court, along with Montville Police Lt. Lenny Bunnell and Resident Trooper James Smith. An elementary school case was brought forth for the first time, and it reinforced the importance of early intervention, including truancy cases. Other elementary school cases will be brought forward in the future. Principals will act as gatekeepers for new cases.
- Early Childhood Roundtable: This was a regional meeting held at LEARN. The facilitators introduced the updated CT Early Learning and Development Standards which replaces the CT Preschool Framework. This is work that is timely for us and needs to be done. It includes standards and learning progressions. The standards include the following domains: cognition, social emotional, physical health, language and literacy, creative arts, math, science, and social studies.

It was emphasized by members of the group that we need to keep in mind the best practices of preschool education which include hands on activities and discovery. Members who attended became an ongoing committee, and J. Russell volunteered to be one of two lead facilitators. One of the first steps will be to do a crosswalk between the previous CT Framework and the CT Early Learning and Development Standards.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

- Professional Development: Planning for teachers' professional learning on the February 13 half day and the March 2 full day are well underway. A team of teachers from Palmer, MHS, and Tyl will present a full day of PD to their peers on project-based learning; we will hold workshops on the "flipped classroom model" and cultivating a growth mindset in our students as well as sessions on educating students regarding plagiarism, using Microsoft Office 365 to interact with students, and CT Core Standards. Regional professional development opportunities will again be offered to elective area teachers.
- Digital Resources: We are currently piloting a number of digital resources as we look toward a future which involves more on-line learning opportunities for our students. Tyl math teachers will soon begin a pilot of DreamBox for math practice, our reading consultants are working with Reading Plus as a

new on-line intervention program, and grades 1 and 5 at Oakdale will begin a pilot of MyOn this month to engage their students in reading digital texts. The secondary administrators and I met today with a representative to explore a new, and much improved, option for earning credit for online courses. Ultimately, our students' use of on-line resources will create the need for one to one access to devices, and B. Levesque, N. Savoie, and I are currently working on a grant application to solicit potential funds to support increased student access to devices.

- Reading Intervention Audit: This Saturday a group of 17 teachers and administrators will be meeting with a consultant to:
 - Identify assessments that we will use for screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic purposes.
 - Review the reading interventions currently in place and review case studies for students whose needs we are not able to adequately address in hopes that we can identify more appropriate programs for these students.
 - Identify the level of training required for administration and interpretation of assessments and use of interventions, and discuss how that might be provided.

c. Monthly Update – Mr. Levesque.

- Nutrition Program Audit: We will have people from the State Department of Education doing an audit of our Nutrition Program at Mohegan School this week. The school was chosen at random. During the audit, the State will review our program and check for compliance with state and federal regulations. H. Buckholtz and her staff have been preparing for this audit for several months. We feel we are in good shape for this review.
- 2015-2016 Budget Development: K. Lamoureux and he continue to work on the proposed budget for next year. They look forward to presenting this budget to the Board and to the Town.
- WPCA Meeting: He will be meeting with Town Councilor Joe Jaskiewicz and WPCA Administrator Brian Lynch this week to discuss the water issues at MHS.

Item 11. Information items. -- None

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

Board Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. There were none.

Item 12a. Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation (It is anticipated that the Board of Education will meet in executive session.)

This item was moved from Agenda Item 8.h.

Motion: That the Board goes into executive session to conduct the Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

The Board went into executive session at 7:20 p.m.

Motion: That the Board comes out of executive session with no votes taken.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously

The Board came out of executive session at 7:56 p.m.

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____