

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, February 24, 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, Director of Technology Nic Savoie, Director of Facilities Steve Carroll, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Denise Dunning, William Klinefelter, Jr., Heather Mileski, Tanya Patten, 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 Marvels.

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

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Assistant Principal W. Klinefelter recognized Donald Kasper, Sara Luty, Harry Dugas, Gabby Stewart, and Torin Radicioni for being the unsung heroes who often work behind the scenes to make everyone's life run smoother. The certificates were presented by Board Members Jim Wood and Deb Reed-Iler.

Montville High School: Principal Jeff Theodoss and Assistant Principal Tanya Patten recognized Cathy Macri for her leadership and dedication to the students of Montville High School. Also recognized was Montville High School Senior Ryan Wrobel for his academic excellence and his participation in improving the school climate at Montville High School. Board Member Kim Navetta presented these certificates.

Palmer Building: Principal Heather Mileski recognized Brandon Dart for persevering through challenges and demonstrating significant progress both academically and socially. This certificate was presented by Board member Valerie Smith.

Presentation: B) Leonard J. Tyl Middle School Chamber Choir, led by Judy Abrams

- “Star Spangled Banner”
- “Nutcracker Jingles”

Presentation: C) Update on Pathways Program – Heather Mileski, Palmer Building

Principal H. Mileski gave a PowerPoint presentation, Update on Pathways Program. She also gave information about the opportunities that students have through the PBL Campus Program. This year, a part-time English and math teacher are shared with MHS and Palmer, and regular education students have been placed in the program. The Pathways Program deals with students with social/emotional developmental issues and helps them to heal and gain trust. The program is based in the “Circle of Courage.” As part of the program, Palmer is piloting a one-year collaboration with LEARN, which includes two teachers, Bridgette Gorden Hickey and Erica Page. Another portion of the program includes working together with Community Partners: Waterford Country School, High Hopes, and Therapeutic Pet Program. Ben Turner from Waterford Country School explained how the students participate in animal care and adventure training, which helps students in taking responsibility and building trust. The collaboration of everyone working together has been very successful.

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

Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

There were none to report.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

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. Mid-January saw the completion of a two-month physics project that required students to independently integrate content from multiple research sources and construct a catapult that met rigorous design and performance criteria.
2. The Technology Education Department recently hired a new staff member, Mr. Waddicor.
3. Culinary Café did their first staff luncheon of the semester which featured a Cobb salad, chili, cornbread, and spice cookies. Culinary Club made Valentine fudge boxes.
4. The sophomore class had a successful fundraiser selling Valentine roses. They sold out – 300 roses in 2 ½ days!
5. Twenty-five Japanese exchange students are visiting Montville High School for two weeks. Three MHS students are serving as overnight hosts and 22 students have volunteered to be day hosts. A farewell reception will be held on March 2nd, and Board of Education members are invited to attend.
6. Student Government is helping to facilitate the annual blood drive this Friday, February 27th. All Board of Education members are welcome to attend, and appointments begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 1:15 p.m.
7. The Principal’s Newsletter will be mailed out at the beginning of next week.
8. The ALLI (Adolescent Learning and Leadership Institute) group is planning a fun run this year, and the students are currently working on creating a logo and compiling the educational material. The ALLI groups are sponsored by the Southeastern Regional Council (SERAC), and its members include students from six high schools in the area.
9. The MHS English Department has a student teacher, Julia Berry, this semester who is working to complete her certification with Mr. Richmond and Mrs. Brooks.
10. Course registration will be done online this year, and students will meet with their advisors to complete their course selections.
11. The MHS Drama Club will be presenting their musical, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” on March 12, 13, and 14.
12. A basket raffle held at the musical will benefit the MHS English Department Scholarship fund. Last year the raffle earned enough to present two graduating seniors with \$250 awards.
13. The Preschool and Teaching the Young Child classes are preparing lessons and crafts for the MHS Playschool which starts on March 23rd. They are welcoming any 3 and 4 year olds who are potty-trained and live in Montville.
14. Mr. Richmond and Mr. Rousseau are planning this year’s Read Across America trip to the district’s K-2 classrooms, which will take place on April 10th.
15. Montville’s choirs performed at the East Lyme Exchange Concert, which was conducted by Mr. Cushing.
16. The Junior Steel Band will begin this Tuesday.
17. The Concert and Jazz bands will be taking a field trip to the Sayles School in Baltic to perform a concert and present the music program on Friday.
18. The choir and band will have a combined concert on March 4th.

19. On Monday, February 23rd, the Music Department went to Tyl to give a presentation to the eighth grade students about the available options in the high school Music Department.
20. The Wrestling Team finished 2nd out of 33 teams in the State and was awarded with a State plaque.
21. Noah Caskey and Ian Concascia were named State champions in their weight classes.
22. The Cheerleading Team won the ECC Medium Division Championship.
23. Girls basketball will play the first game in the State tournament next Tuesday.
24. The Unified Basketball Program has already held a round robin scrimmage with East Lyme and Ledyard High School, which was a huge success. They also participated in the ECC Bowling Tournament on Monday at the Waterford Family Bowl.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

- a. **Consideration and action for recommendations/approval of the proposed budget for 2015-16, with submission to the Town by March 1, 2015.**

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed 2015-2016 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$37,626,668, a 1.15% increase over the current budget, and forwards it to the Town Finance Committee.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Steve Loiler

Vote: Carried unanimously

D. Rowley noted that a 1.15% increase is substantially lower than other districts in the area. B. Levesque remarked that CAPSS has reported a 3.3% percent increase in Superintendents' budgets. In addition, he said that the budget supports the work being done in the District and gets us to move forward. It is a budget that is fiscally responsible while supporting Montville's students.

R. Mitchell told Superintendent Levesque that he did a great job. B. Levesque said it was a team effort. D. Reed-Iler noted that the items in Purchased Services make sense for our students.

Item 8. New Business.

- a. **Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy #1212, School Volunteers, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #1212, School Volunteers, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Valerie Smith
Vote: Carried unanimously

- b. Consideration and action to approve Policy #3260, Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board approves Policy #3260, Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies, 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 #3280.1, Personal Gifts, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Boards approves Policy #3280.1, Personal Gifts, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Valerie Smith
Vote: Carried unanimously

- d. Consideration and action to rescind Policy #2131.4, Superintendents' Yearly Physicals, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.**

Motion: That the Board rescinds Policy #2131.4, Superintendents' Yearly Physicals, as recommended by the Policy Committee at last month's meeting.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. Policy (James Wood).**

J. Wood stated that a meeting was held earlier this evening and policies on Grading, Homework, and Credit Requirements were reviewed and approved. These policies had language changes, and will be sent to the full Board next month for approval. Policy #2135, Ombudswoman was rescinded and, again, will be sent to the full Board next month for approval to be rescinded.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

No meeting was held.

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

The MEF held a successful fundraiser so that the MEF will be able to fund the next grants. A mailer will be sent out to try to encourage new people to join the committee.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that the Superintendent of Old Saybrook spoke at the last meeting and talked about the budget cycle. In addition, a discussion was held about openings at the Magnet School, and everyone was reminded that Day on the Hill was coming up soon.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that he and D. Rowley would be attending the NSBA Conference in Nashville, TN, March 21-23, 2015.

B. Mitchell also reminded Board members that Day on the Hill will be held on Wednesday, March 25th. If interested in attending, contact Margaret and she will register you. After he knows who will be attending, R. Mitchell will set up a time to meet with our legislators to make contact and have “face” time with them. The Area 9 CABE Legislative Breakfast was cancelled several times because of snow – it will not be re-scheduled.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

The State has been sent an email about the projects but we have not had a response.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that MetroCast is looking to change the government channels; they are looking for input from the Mayor.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau is concerned because the Governor's budget will underfund the Youth Service Bureaus by 1.3 million dollars. This will devastate the Bureaus. He is also looking to change oversight of the Bureaus to DCF. B. Levesque mentioned that the MYSB has a successful fundraiser last Saturday that supported both the Youth Services Bureau and the Senior Center.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

C. Baxter asked H. Mileski about the Pathways Weekly Blog that was mentioned in her administrative report. C. Baxter went in and looked but didn't see it. H. Mileski noted that it was set up for students and parents as a way of communication. She will take C. Baxter's suggestion back to discuss with those at Palmer.

j. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley reported that Oakdale School will hold Cozy Book Night on Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Oakdale School. If Board members would like to attend, please contact Laurie Shugrue, lushugrue@montvilleschools.org.

Currently airing on Channel 22 is his interview with match coaches Liz Dumond and Michele Lathrop.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

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

- New Bureau Chief: The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has appointed a Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Special Education (BSE). Dr. Isabelina Rodriguez has experience as a special education teacher, a supervisor of special education, a director of pupil services, and superintendent of schools. Dr. Rodriguez is expected to join the Department in late March.
- Prevalence Data for Students with Disabilities K-12 – 2014-2015 Snapshot: The report indicates that we have an 11.7% prevalence rate which is the percentage of our students in kindergarten through grade 5 being serviced through our special education department. The percentages in each category of identification (LD, ID, ED, SLI, OHI, AU, OD) were 1.2% to 3.3% - no over identification in any one field. The range of prevalence data runs from 9%-17% with some outliers at either end. This data does not include our preschool students. There needs to be a balance between an effective

Scientificallly Researched Based Intervention System and when instruction reaches the level of specialized instruction, this is special education.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

- Professional Learning: Next Monday, March 2, is a full day of Professional Development. Teachers have a wide variety of options from 16 different regional professional development sessions, including workshops for art teachers at the Florence Griswold Museum, a culinary demonstration by a local chef for life management teachers, and a belaying demonstration for PE teachers. The regional groups have also realized that if they allow trade shows and vendor demonstrations during their lunch hour, they can get vendors to provide them with lunch! Speaking of lunch, one of our teachers, Kristen Swanson, has arranged for several local food trucks to be in the MHS parking lot from 11 to 1 to sell lunch to any teachers who are interested! In district, over 50 teachers have signed up for a workshop on Mindset and 25 teachers will be attending a full-day workshop on project-based learning. In addition, we have a presenter coming from Eureka to work for the day with middle school math teachers, and a wide variety of other workshops on common core standards, Marzano elements, etc. It promises to be a full and valuable day.
- Teacher Observations: I have been observing Eureka math classes at Oakdale Elementary School, and I am really excited to see the budding number sense being exhibited by our early elementary students. Their discourse with their classmates indicates true understanding, interest, and enthusiasm for math. I have heard from many teachers that students are currently doing math that they have never been asked to do at that grade level in the past. While it will take several years to build students' skills, the principals, math coaches, classroom teachers, and I believe we have definitely raised the rigor of our mathematics instruction, and students are capable of meeting these higher expectations because they truly understand the concepts.

C. Baxter noted that she has three children in grades kindergarten through grade 4, so has personally seen her children working with the math program. She noted that it challenges them, and she is amazed with what they are doing.

Monthly Update – Mr. Levesque.

- School Calendar Update: We have had an unbelievable month in the weather department. To date we have had 4 cancellations, 3 delayed openings, and 1 early release day. As a result, our last day of school is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 16. We hope we have seen the last of the snow and this stays the same.

- Busses: We posted a bid last Friday for the purchase of up to 5 busses. The bid opening will be held on Monday, March 9th. He is still working to secure funding for all 5 busses, and is hopeful that we will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity.
- Conference Presentation: Laurie and I have been working on developing a presentation for a conference on Thursday. At the conference titled “Moving from Compliance to Coherence: Enhancing Professional Learning and Growth,” we have been asked to present about our teacher and administrator evaluation plans. We both are looking forward to presenting on the great things that we are doing in this area.

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 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Valerie Smith

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Margaret Tripp, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Minutes Approved: _____