

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
Tuesday, May 19, 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, Deborah Reed-Iler, Steve Loiler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, James Wood, and David Rowley. Todd Pomazon and Valerie Smith were absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Food Services Heidi Buchholtz, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Tanya Patten, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representatives Hanna Marchini and Rohat Sinka; and Mayor Ronald McDonald, Town Councilors Billy Caron and Board Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.**

**Montville High School:** Assistant Principals Jason Daly presented the certificate to Josh Handler who was recognized by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference as a Scholar-Athlete Award Winner.

**Presentation: B) CABA Student Leadership Awards:**

**Holly Richmond – Leonard J. Tyl School  
Tyler Velasquez – Leonard J. Tyl School  
Hannah Marchini – Montville High School  
Cory Meigs – Montville High School**

Principals and administrators M. J. Dix, J. Theodoss, and T. Patten presented CABA Student Leadership Awards to Tyl students Holly Richmond and Tyler Velasquez and MHS students Hannah Marchini and Cory Meigs, respectively, and read words of praise from teachers about each of the recipients. Board Chair D. Rowley read a letter from

CABE that recognized the honorees for their achievement. Board members Bob Mitchell and Kim Navetta presented certificates to the honorees.

**Presentation: C) Presentation to Student Representative to the Board of Education-  
Hannah Marchini**

Board Chair D. Rowley thanked Hannah Marchini for serving as a Student Board Representative for the past two years. On behalf of the Board, he presented Hannah with a gift certificate and token of appreciation and wished her well at UConn where she will attend college in the fall.

**Presentation: D) Reception in honor of 2014-2015 retirees.**

Superintendent Levesque expressed appreciation to the 2014-2015 retirees for their hours of dedication and service to the students of Montville and spoke of each retiree's individual years of service to the district totaling 213.5 years. Three (3) of the nine (9) retirees were unable to attend the reception this evening.

Board members read and presented resolutions that highlighted the achievements of each retiree. B. Levesque recognized Town Councilors Billy Caron and Board Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Certificates of Appreciation from the Town of Montville were presented to the retirees by Mayor McDaniel. On behalf of Representative Kathleen McCarthy of the 38<sup>th</sup> District, Representative Mike France of the 42<sup>nd</sup> District, Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139<sup>th</sup> District, Senator Catherine Osteen of the 19<sup>th</sup> District, and Senator Paul Formica of the 20<sup>th</sup> District, and the Connecticut General Assembly, Board Chair D. Rowley read a state proclamation to the retirees. He then congratulated all of the retirees and announced a brief recess for a reception in their honor. The 2014-2015 retirees are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years in Montville</u>
Margaret Tripp	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent	31 1/2 years
Naomi Fiora	Special Education Teacher, MHS	34 years
Kathy Constantine	Reading Consultant, Tyl Middle School	16 1/2 years
Nancy Kivlin	First Grade Teacher, Oakdale School	20 years
Brenda Kollwitz	Fiscal Secretary, Superintendent's Office	20 years
Linda Knotts	Speech Therapist, Oakdale School	21.5 years
<b>Total</b>		<b>143.5 years</b>
<u>Other Retirees*:</u>		
Penny Baril*	English Teacher, MHS	22 years

Maureen Epps*	World Language Teacher, MHS	14 years
Mary Jorkasky*	World Language Teacher, MHS	34 years
<b>Total</b>		<b>70 years</b>

**Total Years for Retirees** **213.5 years**

\*Non-Attendees

*At 6:35 p.m., the meeting recessed briefly for a reception in honor of the retirees. The meeting resumed at 6:52 p.m.*

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

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

**Motion:** **That the Board moves agenda Item 8.e to Item 12.a.**

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell

**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter

**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

**Item 4: Letters and communications.**

C. Baxter reported on thank you letters regarding teacher recognition from Amy Espinoza, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade staff at Murphy School, the Oakdale staff, and Anna Wojick and Lynn Littlefield and other Oakdale staff.

**Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.**

**Motion:** **That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.**

**Proposed by:** Deb Reed-Iler

**Seconded by:** Jim Wood

**Vote:** Carrie; 7-0

**Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.**

Student Board Representatives Hanna Marchini and Rohat Sinka reported to the Board on the following:

1. On May 14, the French, Spanish, and National Honor Societies inducted their respective new members, with over 50 students entering the societies.
2. The Junior Prom, held on May 9, and the Senior Prom, held on May 16, were both successful events. The Junior Prom was held in a hotel ballroom adorned with

- Great Gatsby decorations to fit the evening's theme. The Senior Prom was held at the Mystic Aquarium, where prom attendees danced among the fish.
3. Four students attended the first annual STEM-fest at UConn Storrs on May 14. Students participated in five hands-on activities related to science, technology, engineering, and math.
  4. Thirty-six students took a field trip to Six Flags last Friday, May 15. The students observed momentum, forces, energy conservation, and centripetal motion in amusement park rides.
  5. The first round of SBAC (Smarter Balanced) testing was completed today without any problems or issues.
  6. On May 18, the annual spring band concert was held and was followed by the spring choir concert on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS auditorium.
  7. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter honor roll cookout will be held this Thursday, May 21; students look forward to seeing Mr. Rowley perform his grilling skills.
  8. The pre-school students will graduate during second block this Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  9. On Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, MHS is hosting a tag sale at Fair Oaks School from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and the proceeds from it will benefit programs at the high school.
  10. The Montville Arts Council will host an Arts Café Night on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the MHS Library/Media Center. All are welcome to attend and support the arts.
  11. On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the second annual Hunger Games Pep Rally will be held where "tributes" will compete in a game modeled after capture-the-flag to be crowned the victor. Tribute entries will continue through this week and students are already getting excited about cheering on their "districts."
  12. The first annual MHS Hall of Fame banquet will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Mohegan Sun.
  13. Sports Update:
    - The baseball team is currently 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state with a win-loss record of 15-2 and went on to win in their ECC division title.
    - The softball team currently has a 10-7 record, 22<sup>nd</sup> in the state.
    - The boys' lacrosse record is 2-11; the girls' lacrosse record is 3-10.
    - The golf team and the girls' track team finished the season as ECC division winners.

**Item 7. Unfinished business.**

**a. Update on 2015-2016 budget.**

Superintendent B. Levesque reported that at its meeting last week the Town Council approved the Board's proposed 2015-2016 with a reduction of \$28,000, foregoing any potential referendum within 30 days. He thanked the Town Council for their action.

**Item 8. New Business.**

- a. Consideration and action to appoint a Board member to serve on the paraprofessional negotiation committee for wage reopener.**

Superintendent Levesque reported that the union group for agenda Items 8.a and 8.b are the same and that one board member can be a representative for both committees that will meet during the afternoon in July.

**Motion:** That the Board appoints Carrie Baxter to serve on the paraprofessional negotiation committee for wage reopener.

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell

**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler

**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

- b. Consideration and action to appoint a Board member to serve on the secretarial negotiation committee for wages reopener.**

**Motion:** That the Board appoints Carrie Baxter to serve on the secretarial negotiation committee for wages reopener.

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell

**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler

**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

- c. Consideration and action to appoint a Board member to serve on the administrators' negotiating committee.**

Superintendent Levesque stated that the commitment for the administrators' negotiating committee that involves a full contract review will begin in July and continue after the start of school in the fall.

**Motion:** That the Board appoints Bob Mitchell to serve on the administrators' negotiating committee.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood

**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler

**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

- d. Consideration and action to approve changes to the Montville System for Educator Evaluation and Development Plan for the 2015-2016 school year.**

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin commented that both plans will be uploaded to Dropbox for the Board's review.

**Motion:** That the Board approves changes to the Montville System for Educator Evaluation and Development Plan for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell

**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter

**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

**e. Consideration and action to approve the extension of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year to June 30, 2018.**

This item was moved to 12.a on the agenda.

**Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.**

**a. Policy (James Wood).**

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and voted to bring to the full Board for approval policies on hazardous materials in schools and green cleaning. Further, discussion is required on students' sports. He also reported that a policy that will be mandatory next year was postponed pending guidelines from the State.

**b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and voted to send to the full board for approval an elementary math pilot entitled Eureka Math. The Committee also heard a presentation from L. Pallin on NexGen regarding science standards for district compliance by the State.

**c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).**

S. Loiler reported that the MEF is looking to offer mini grants. The MEF annual golf outing will take place again this summer and Board members were asked to contact B. Levesque if they wanted to participate on a team.

**d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).**

D. Reed-Iler reported that a meeting was held last Thursday, May 14 at the Marine Science Magnet School. Dr. Nick Sperra, director of the school talked about the pending 2016 NEASC evaluation. LEARN Executive Director Eileen Howley will be evaluated on Friday, May 22.

**e. CAFE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell reported that the current legislative session should conclude soon with a legislative update in Hartford on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The CAFE Summer Leadership Workshop for superintendents and administrators will occur at the Old Saybrook Inn on Monday, July 27 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. followed by a dinner.

**f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).**

Chair D. Rowley commented that there was no report for the Committee and updated the Board on an injury suffered by T. Pomazon.

**g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon). - None**

**h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell reported that he was unable to attend the Bureau meeting as he was at his son's wedding.

**i. Administrative Monthly Reports.**

Board members received these reports in their packets. D. Reed-Iler commented to A. Espinoza on Mr. Rubino. S. Loiler stated that the reports are well-structured and a good way to know about what is going on in the schools. D. Rowley commented on the interns that will be at Palmer thru the summer. C. Baxter participated in the *Montville Loves to Read* program and thanked A. Espinoza for her invitation.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

D. Rowley reported that Cable Access Channel 22 will be taping a show with Janet Wrobel of Oakdale School. Mrs. Wrobel was designated as the district's 2016 Paraprofessional of the Year. He also reported that on Montville Loves to Read Day he read to 1<sup>st</sup> grade Oakdale students and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Murphy School. D. Rowley also attended the Senior Prom at the Mystic Aquarium.

**k. Other. -- None**

**Item 10. Superintendent's Report.**

**a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Johnson.**

- Special Education Changes at MHS: I want to thank Jeff Theodoss, Jason Daly, Sheila Bedard, Denise Dunning and the special education staff at the high school for considering some changes in the high school programming and for working with Denise and me to help facilitate those changes. We

have our eye on increasing the independence of our special education students at the high school. We will be eliminating the self-contained classes for next year and instead offering support for those students in co-taught classes shared by general and special education teachers. We are initiating literacy and mathematics labs that will be facilitated by special education teachers to close the skill gaps in those two areas that impact our students. We are also making some revisions to what used to be study skills and moving toward a personalized learning center where teachers are supporting students based on their individualized needs and transition skills. At the same time, we are working on the means to close their gaps through accommodation and technologies that will make them a more independent and successful learner. Brian and Laurie have also been a great support. Change is not an easy process and I commend everyone for their efforts.

**b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.**

- TEAM program: Our new teachers are just about finished with their reflection papers for this year. Montville teachers have submitted 38 reflection papers and, in turn, scored 48 papers as part of our participation in the regional TEAM scoring program.
- Math advisory panel: We have established a team of teachers representing each grade level, K-5, and each building to provide feedback regarding student math assessments and the math section of the report cards. Based upon teacher feedback that our current assessment and report card system is very cumbersome to use, the math coaches have worked to create a more meaningful and manageable system utilizing learning scales. Teachers on the advisory panel were provided with the opportunity to review the changes and provide input. This work will continue over the summer.
- Curriculum work: I am lining up curriculum projects for this summer. In addition to the math assessment work, we will be convening a team to work on revision of *Imagine It* assessments to better measure students' ability to use close reading skills to answer text dependent questions. We received a grant to bring Nancy Boyles into the district to assist teachers in this project. We will also be working with teams of Tyl teachers to align grading practices to communication of mastery of content and skill standards.
- PD May 22<sup>nd</sup>: We have a half day this Friday for professional development. The technology committee members and library media specialists will attend a presentation on Microsoft Classroom. This is a

rich suite of Microsoft applications that are designed specifically for use by teachers and students. Elementary teachers will be working on class sections for next year, MHS teachers will work on department action plans, and middle school teachers will attend a presentation by Gail Fensom on research, writing, and plagiarism. Gail Fensom has worked in the district in the past and been very well received. I will be meeting with her on Friday to discuss further work which we might do with her in the area of argumentative writing.

**c. Monthly Update.**

- Hiring: K. Lamoureux and I interviewed five (5) candidates for the vacant payroll position today. We will bring finalists back for a second interview. We are hoping to hire someone by early next week. Jennifer LeMay, our outgoing payroll person, has been hired to fill the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary position effective July 1.
- Water at MHS: We have received preliminary results on the test well at MHS. The results do show that there is manganese above recommended levels. We are doing some additional testing and research on this matter. It does appear that the levels are lower than the levels in the current well.
- Meetings this week: I have a meeting tomorrow in Shelton of the District Management Council. This meeting is with superintendents from around the state and will focus on use of time in our schools. On Thursday, May 21, I will be at CAPSS for the Early Career Superintendent meeting. At that meeting, a consultant will be presenting on communication in our districts focusing on communications during a crisis.

**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. Consideration and action to approve the extension of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year to June 30, 2018.**

**Motion:** That the Board goes into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. for consideration and action to approve the extension of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year to June 30, 2018, and invites into Executive Session Superintendent Levesque.

**Proposed by:** Steve Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

**Motion:** **That the Board comes out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. with no votes taken.**

**Proposed by:** Bob Mitchell  
**Seconded by:** Steve Loiler  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

**Motion:** **That the Board approves the extension of the Superintendent's employment for an additional year to June 30, 2018.**

**Proposed by:** Steve Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

**Item 13. Adjournment.**

**Motion:** **That the meeting is adjourned.**

**Proposed by:** Steve Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Deb Reed-Iler  
**Vote:** Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

**Minutes Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_