

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.**

2015-16 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 Secretary Carrie Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Deborah Reed-Iler, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Steve Loiler, and Carrie Baxter. Todd Pomazon, David Rowley, Valerie Smith, and James Wood were absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Motion: **That the Board adds Agenda Item 11a, Personnel Matter to be discussed in Executive Session.**

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

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

Secretary C. Baxter asked three times for comments. Town Council Liaison J. Jaskiewicz asked if there would be correspondence forthcoming to the Town. Superintendent B. Levesque responded affirmatively and said he anticipated a surplus from last year's Board budget and that he would ask the Town that the surplus be placed into the one-percent, non-interest bearing account for future Board needs in this fiscal year.

Item 4: Letters and communications. -- None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

Item 6. Unfinished Business.

- a. Consideration and action to review/approve the Board of Education Goals for 2015-2016.**

Board Secretary C. Baxter stated that the Board's 2015-2016 goals were discussed at the Board's August 4th retreat and were added to Dropbox. D. Reed-Iler commented favorably on the community involvement policy. Superintendent Levesque said the goals were talked about at the retreat. No Action taken.

Item 7. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to approve the wage increase agreement between CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for Secretarial contract, September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.**

Motion: That the Board approves the wage increase agreement between CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for Secretarial contract, September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

Superintendent B. Levesque explained that negotiations regarding wages only was done over the summer for a 3% increase that is in line with the Board's budget.

- b. Consideration and action to approve the wage increase agreement between the SCEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraprofessionals Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for the Paraprofessional contract, September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.**

Motion: That the Board approves the wage increase agreement between CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraprofessionals Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for the Paraprofessional contract, September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Steve Loiler

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

Superintendent B. Levesque explained that the negotiated 2.75% increase was in line with the Board's budget. B. Mitchel noted the correction of Secretarial to Paraprofessional in the motion.

- c. **Consideration and action to transfer \$5,500 from Tuitions (560-563) to Contracted Services (423) in the 2014-2015 budget.**

Motion: That the Board approves the transfer of \$5,500 from Tuitions (560-563) to Contracted Services (423) in the 2014-2015 budget.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

Superintendent Levesque explained Agenda items 7c – 7e on tonight's agenda are items required by policy to close out the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget for these overextended accounts.

- d. **Consideration and action to transfer \$4,600 from Tuitions (560-563) to Supplies (2600/613) in the 2014-2015 budget.**

Motion: That the Board approves the transfer of \$4,600 from Tuitions (560-563) to Supplies (2600/613) in the 2014-2015 budget.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

- e. **Consideration and action to transfer \$2,300 from Tuitions (560-563) to Property Account (739) in the 2014-2015 budget.**

Motion: That the Board approves the transfer of \$2,300 from Tuitions (560-563) to Property Account (739) in the 2014-2015 budget.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

f. Appraisal of field trip, Montville High School Boys Soccer Team, Ludlow, VT, August 28, 2015 – August 30, 2015, 16 students.

The Board was apprised of this trip. Superintendent B. Levesque commented that the trip was an annual one.

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood). – None

Per the absence of J. Wood, Superintendent B. Levesque reported that the Committee would meet next in October.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).

S. Loiler reported that he was unable to attend the MEF golf tournament on August 10. Superintendent B. Levesque reported that it was an awesome day and that his team placed third. He also added that the final totals from the tournament are pending. He also reported on tickets that he has for an MEF event, the October 10th Rascal Flatts concert at the Mohegan Sun with seating in the skybox. The tickets are \$100 and include a full meal. Those who are interested in purchasing the concert tickets should contact Superintendent B. Levesque.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter commented that LEARN does not hold meetings during the summer but will resume again in September.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported on an upcoming CABE workshop with LEARN entitled “So You Want To Be A School Board Member” that will be held on October 6. He also reported that CABE now has a phone app. The next NEASBA conference will be in Boston on April 9-11, 2016. Early registration begins on October 28, 2015.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon). -- None

- g. **MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).** None
- h. **Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).**

B. Mitchell reported that meetings are not held during the summer.

- i. **Administrative Monthly Reports.** -- None
- j. **Chair's Remarks.**

Board Secretary reported on the small retreat with three Board members that was held on August 4th.

- k. **Other.** -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

M. Johnson reported to the Board on the following:

- Changes in the restraint and seclusion
- Changes in the process of a parent requesting an independent outside evaluation
- Personnel changes
- Raising Expectations, Creating an Independent Learner
 1. Professional Development in Literacy and Mathematics
 2. Training in the Use of Accommodations and Modifications
 3. Formation of an Assistive Technology Committee
- Elementary Schools
 1. Programming for Autistic Children in Preschool and Kindergarten
 2. Creating a Pathways Program at CEM
- Middle School
 1. Year 2 of Pathways
 2. Transition from Tyl to Palmer
- Palmer
 1. Year 2 of Pathways and PBL Campus

- Montville High School
 1. Provide Learning Labs for Students in Literacy and Mathematics
 2. Revise Study Skills and Transition Programs
 3. Reform the Vocational and Life Skills Programs
 4. Newly Formed Partnership with Mohegan Sun

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- Summer Curriculum Work: With the start of the school year approaching, we are wrapping up our summer curriculum projects. Grades 2-6 teachers began their work by spending a day with Nancy Boyles on writing ELA assessment items aligned to common core standards and their subsequent work focused on rewriting our ELA assessments. All elementary curriculum, instructional materials and assessments have been moved to OneNote Binders. Teachers at the secondary level and elective areas continued to work on revision or creation of curriculum units and alignment to standards such as the newly approved social studies standards. In total over 140 teachers worked on curriculum projects this summer.
- District Wide Goal Work: For the foreseeable future our district will focus heavily on building students' skills in problem solving and in the related task of argumentative writing. I have been developing materials for teachers and administrators to use as we embark on this work. Our narrowing of focus on one goal is an offshoot of our administrative professional learning work with Jonathan Costa in May and at this summer's retreat which Brian will discuss more fully.
- August 25th Professional Learning: Yesterday I met with a group of high school teachers to prepare for our August 25 professional learning on problem solving. Seven high school teachers have volunteered to serve as facilitators for this professional learning session. Nic and I have also been working with Microsoft to bring in 12 presenters who will train our elementary teachers in the use of their PC new laptops.
- Writing Initiative: A team of our high school English and social studies teachers will be working this year with a professor from University of New Hampshire. She will help us to develop and implement instructional strategies improve students' skills in argumentative writing. She will also work with us to design assessments to measure students' progress and will analyze their results. Teachers will be able to use her work to set their student learning goals, and in turn she will use our data for her sabbatical research.
- New Teacher Orientation: We will meet with new teachers tomorrow and Thursday to review policies and procedures, use of Aspen, teacher evaluation,

curriculum and instruction, special education procedures, and the TEAM program. We have two full days planned for them to ensure they feel supported as they begin their careers in Montville. Superintendent B. Levesque that Town Councilor J. Jaskiewicz would be conducting the bus tour of the district for the new teachers as he has done for the past four (4) years.

c. Monthly Update.

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- Hiring: We have hired 7 new teachers to date. We currently have one more vacancy, which is the result of a late resignation. He have numerous para vacancies. The principals are working to fill all of these prior to the start of school. We also are working to fill a nurse vacancy at Oakdale.

In Central office, we are finally back to full staff. Sara Sadowski started in payroll in June. We also hired Melissa Almond in August to replace Brenda Kollowitz.

- Retreat: We had a great three day retreat last week. The first two days we focused on professional development in the area of school improvement. We had a presenter that planned with us for our school goals for this year. The schools will all be focusing on problem solving as a common goal. The third day we had a day of team building with the admin team. The feedback from the group has been overwhelmingly positive. We are all ready to start the year.
- Administrators Negotiations: We have begun negotiations with the administrators. We have more dates planned in September after school starts.
- School Buildings: Our buildings are all in great shape. Steve Carroll and his crew have done a great job getting our schools ready. They have done all of this while having summer school, kindergarten readiness and park and rec in our buildings all summer.
- Superintendent's Meeting: He will be attending a Superintendent's Committee Meeting in Hartford, tomorrow August 19.

Item 10. Information items.

Open House/Back to School Night Dates:

Mohegan School, Thursday, September 10, 5:00-6:30 PM

Oakdale School, Wednesday, September 9, 5:30-6:30 PM-revised

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School, Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 PM revised

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, Thursday, September 17, 6:00-8:00 PM

Montville High School, Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 PM-revised

Palmer Academy, Thursday, September 24, 6:00 PM

Superintendent B. Levesque noted that some of the dates are incorrect. The list will be corrected and added to Dropbox.

Item 11. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).

Town Council Liaison J. Jaskiewicz asked Superintendent B. Levesque if the Board would be sending a letter to the Town Council. Superintendent Levesque replied that he would wait until the Board's audit of last year's budget is complete as he is anticipating a surplus.

Item 11a. Executive Session.

Motion: That the Board goes into Executive Session at 6:27 p.m. for discussion and possible action regarding a personnel matter, and invites into Executive Session Superintendent B. Levesque and Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

Motion: That the Board comes out of Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. with no votes taken.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Steve Loiler
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

Item 12. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 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: _____