

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
March 15, 2016, 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 Sandra Berardy, Daniel Boisvert, Todd Pomazon., Kim Navetta, Colleen Rix, James Wood, and Carrie Baxter. Board members Steve Loiler and Robert Mitchell were absent.

Also present were Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Athletic Director Phil Orbe, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Tanya Patton, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Superintendent Brian Levesque was absent.

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: Principal M. J. Dix and Assistant Principal Will Klinefelter recognized Jennifer Desillier-Fleming for acting as the champion of the Problem-Solving Initiative at Tyl Middle School. Derrick Debbis, Toby Leonard, and Shannon Huang were also recognized for the integral role which they each play as members of the Robotics Team, utilizing strong problem solving skills in designing, building, and driving the robots to first place. These certificates were presented by Board member Kim Navetta.

Montville High School: Principal Jeff Theodoss and Assistant Principals Jason Daly and Tanya Patton recognized Shaun Radgowksi for his outstanding academic, dramatic, and musical achievements during his four years at Montville High School. Mr. Robert Alves was also recognized for his support of Montville High School programs and his work

towards improving the climate and culture at the school. For her excellence in teaching and her dedication to the students at Montville High School, Ms. Susan Laurencot was recognized. Board member Dan Boisvert presented these certificates.

Palmer Building: Principal Heather Sangermano recognized Bradley Farr for demonstrating a sense of commitment and generosity to his internship site and the work that they do. This certificate was presented by Board member Jim Wood.

Presentation: B) Leonard J. Tyl Middle School Chamber Choir, led by Judy Abrams, Performing: Star Spangled Banner and Ani ma'amin

Music teacher Judy Abrams led the Tyl Chamber Choir that was comprised of 7th and 8th grade students in two (2) selections, Star Spangled Banner and Ani ma'amin. J. Abrams said that the choir "sings everywhere" including an event with the Harlem Globetrotters. She said that the group has existed for six (6) years and has achieved awards for their performance for the past five (5) years. J. Abrams also said that three (3) members have auditioned for the Carnegie Hall Honors Choir for middle school students. The choir was accompanied on piano by East Lyme resident, Beth Pierce.

**Presentation: C) Recognition of Board of Education Members – Laurie Pallin
(10-minute break)**

On behalf of Superintendent B. Levesque and herself, Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin thanked Board Members for all that they do to promote and support the education of Montville's school children. She said that their dedication, time, and hard work was appreciated and that she and Superintendent Levesque frequently comment to others that they are very fortunate to work with such a caring and committed Board. A small token of thanks was presented to each Board member.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments in recognition of the Board and resumed session at 6:47 p.m.

Presentation: D) Update on Palmer Building Programs – Heather Sangermano

Palmer Building Principal Heather Sangermano gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Palmer programs. She provided an overview of the following:

- Instruction: involving activities for problem solving using establishing exemplars to model expectations.
- Formal Student Goal Meetings: take place three times per year- presently 92% of students are reaching their goals.
- Discipline: 116 referrals in year 2013-2014 and only five referrals this year.
- Attendance: continues to be a struggle with an attendance rate of 81% and is a concern for students.
- Community Service: students took on a full week of work at Waterford Country School beautifying an outdoor area.

- Project Based Learning Unit on Homelessness: students gathered evidence by interviewing at the Covenant Shelter in New London and used math to interpret these real world experiences.
- Internship: take place for two (2) full days every week.

Data from the program shows that reading has improved from mid-year as well as writing and math problem solving. The Palmer Grant will be used for a marketing approach to rebrand the school that is seeking more students. Board member C. Rix asked about the current population of the school—29 students. Board member T. Pomazon asked about the number of students being sought—double the current population.

Presentation: E) Problem Solving Initiative – M. J. Dix

Tyl Principal M. J. Dix gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Problem Solving Initiative—what is being done and is happening in the classroom. She explained the “Marking the Text” strategy used to enable students to read more carefully and retain information. Students use text annotations to create written responses and study for quizzes as was demonstrated in the presentation by the 6th grade writing and note taking lesson; the 7th grade marshmallow challenge and the 8th grade space survival exercise. The robotics video that was not shown will be sent to Board members with L. Pallin’s weekly report.

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

Town Councilor Joe Jaskiewicz thanked the Board for their time and work stating it was well appreciated.

Item 4: Letters and communications. -- None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

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

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 7-0)

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representatives Rohit Sinha and Karishma Chouhan reported to the Board. Their report included activities that occurred in February and March on the following:

Academic

1. CAPT and SAT Testing took place on March 2nd with great attendance.
2. On March 4th, Student Government held its annual blood drive that was a great success.
3. MHS had its second lockdown of the year on March 3rd.

4. FBLA will be hosting its annual “Montville’s Got Talent” talent show on March 24th at 6:00 p.m.
5. The ECE American Experience class attended a gallery talk by curator Alyce Perry Englund on the Sound and Sense.
6. The third open mic poetry took place on February 25th in the media center.
7. The Yes Club continues to support Montville students with their tutoring program at the elementary schools, Palmer Building, and the Montville Youth Center.
8. The robotics team participated in a vex qualifier event at the University of New Haven on Saturday, February 13th.
9. Mr. Stone, Mr. Richmond, and Mrs. Gillis organized and implemented a short test prep course for the impending SAT. Approximately thirty five students received five and a half hours of instruction over three (3) days.
10. The CNA students participated in their first day of practical experience at the Orchard Grove Nursing Home on February 22nd.
11. The Town of Montville is hosting a *Community Conversation on Addiction* at MHS on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Topics of discussion will include the following:
 - Facts and fiction about addiction and opiates
 - Safety advice for the community
 - Helping those struggling with addiction
 - Treatment options for successful recovery.

Drama

12. The Montville High School Drama Club is proud to present the murder mystery “Clue” for our spring production. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on March 18 and 19 at Montville High School. There are complimentary tickets available to you. Please see Ms. LeMay to receive them.

Music

13. The Montville Music Department had a successful combined Band and Choir Concert earlier this month.
14. The concert and chamber choirs are preparing for their trip to Annapolis on April 8.
15. Jazz Night was a success.
16. Mr. Ventres is sporting his Orange Mohawk, as promised, for the entire week.

Sports

17. The wresting team finished third at the CIAC Class S championships. They had one champion, Joel Morth, and three second place finishers.
18. The wrestlers also finished third at the ECC Championships. They had two champions and two second place finishers.
19. The cheerleading squad won the ECC Medium Division Championship this past weekend. It was the team’s second consecutive championship.
20. Junior cheerleader Nicole Frunk has earned All-State Honors.
21. Seniors Abigail Baukus and Troy Sullivan have been selected as CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athletes. They will be honored at a banquet in May.
22. The boys’ soccer team was selected as the soccer officiating board’s Sportsmanship Award winners.

23. The indoor track boys and girls teams competed in the ECC Championships and had three first place winners.
24. Spring sports practices begin this Saturday, March 19th.

Item 7. Unfinished Business. -- None

Item 8. New business.

- a. **Consideration and action to observe the week of May 2 – May 6, 2016 as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees. (5 – Positive Community Relationships)**

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin stated that typically staff is given a gift card to Dunkin Donuts and invited to breakfast or lunch at each individual school. The Board will receive an invitation with dates to the functions held at each school.

Motion: That the Board observes the week of May 2 – May 6, 2016, as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all of its employees. (5 – Positive Community Relationships)

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

- b. **Consideration and action to appoint a Board member to serve on the Transportation Negotiating Committee for wages and insurance only. (5 - Positive Community Relationships)**

Per discussion, Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin stated that the negotiations will take place in the summer during the workday.

Motion: That the Board appoints a Board member to serve on the Transportation Negotiating Committee for wages and insurance only. (5 - Positive Community Relationships)

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Tabled by motion to April meeting

Motion: That the Board tables the appointment of a Board member to serve on the Transportation Negotiating Committee for wages and insurance only until the April Board meeting. (5 - Positive Community Relationships)

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried unanimously, (vote 7-0)

c. Consideration and action to approve Tuesday, August 16th as the Board of Education Retreat.

Per discussion, Secretary C. Baxter stated that the meeting is high priority and a quorum is needed in order to complete the Board goals.

Motion: That the Board approves Tuesday, August 16th as the Board of Education Retreat.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 7-0)

d. Next Generation Accountability Report from CSDE.

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reviewed the data from the report stating that the information is the first report from Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability Model for districts and schools. She explained how the indicators 1-12 had been changed this year to include data on participation in arts courses, attendance rate, physical education assessment results, and other coursework. The new report also takes in to account the growth which students make from year to year and the percent of students considered "college and career ready" based upon assessment data. The results of the report will be discussed at administrative meetings with work continuing on them.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported there was not a meeting this evening but one would be scheduled for April.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that the meeting was informational pertaining to courses at Tyl and changes in schedules.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

K. Navetta reported that the MEF met last Monday and about 100 people had purchased tickets for the March 19th fundraiser at which MHS students would be playing the steel drums and guitars funded by previous MEF Grants and which also included a Hypnotist

and Basket Raffle. Grant requests are due by April 30 with a one-time grant of \$10,000 being offered. The annual fundraiser has raised \$3,250.

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

C. Rix reported that she was unable to attend the LEARN meeting.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell was absent from the meeting.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that he had nothing new to report.

g. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the Council meets tomorrow night, March 16 and that the minutes would be sent to J. LeMay.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

D. Boisvert reported that he was unable to attend the meeting last Thursday, March 10th. He also said that he would be volunteering there during the summer.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Secretary C. Baxter commented on an event at the Palmer Building.

j. Chair's Remarks.

Chair B. Mitchell was absent.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Interim Director of Student Services – Mrs. Shaughnessy.

K. Shaughnessy reported that tonight would be her last meeting and that she enjoyed her time working within the district as well as serving the staff and others. She stated that springtime is a busy time for PPTs. She added that she has gathered data for decision making by the Central Office and Administration including data related to compliance indicators by state. Her official last day is April 1. Secretary C. Baxter thanked Mrs. Shaughnessy for her time.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- Project Oceanology: Last week, we interviewed seven (7) candidates for the position of executive director of Project Oceanology. This is a very hard position to fill because we need a strong manager, a director of a nonprofit business, a director of development, and an educational leader which is impossible to find in one person. We completed our interviews and discussed candidates late in to Friday evening. We decided to bring one candidate back for a tour of the facilities and to meet staff on Monday and for a second interview and performance task tomorrow evening. This has been a very time-consuming, difficult process and I am hopeful we are close to selecting a permanent leader.
- Professional Development: On Saturday, March 19 we will send about 30 teachers to an open house at Columbia University for the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. This is a free day of professional development for teachers. We sent several teachers in the fall and they found it so valuable that we decided to send a larger group this spring. We are sharing a bus with Colchester to transport the group.
- Transportation: She was happy to report that we have generated purchase orders for our three new buses and are currently awaiting their delivery.
- CSDE: A panel met and recommended to the State Board of Education that there be no change to teacher scores evaluation requirements this year and that teacher goal scores remain uncoupled from State test results next year.
- State Board of Education: The Commissioner of Education and Governor Malloy announced on February 25th that the State Board of Education would no longer include a weekly performance task effective this March. This announcement took districts by surprise. We have long had a standardized assessment of writing and will have to discuss how we will collect this data in the future.

c. Monthly Update. -- None

Item 11. Information items. -- None

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

Resident Christine Roth, commented on behalf of the Project Graduation team who were also in attendance regarding the date for graduation. The lack of snow days has created

problems with the site for the event. The team's request was for a graduation date of June 9, June 14, or June 11.

Item 13. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____