

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
October 18, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.**

2016-2017 Board of Education Goal:

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 Robert Mitchell 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, Steve Loiler, Kim Navetta, Colleen Rix, James Wood, and Robert Mitchell. Board members Carrie Baxter and Todd Pomazon were absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Tanya Patton, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Karishma Chouhan and Joshua Archibald, and Town Council Chair/Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels

Mohegan School: Principal W. Klinefelter recognized Montville Marvel Ethel Roy for volunteering in our kindergarten classes four full days per week. Montville Marvel Abby Lumbra was also recognized for volunteering before school and during recess as a library helper and serving as a mentor to our kindergarten and first grade students. Their awards were presented by Board member J. Wood. Beverly Valle was unable to attend the meeting tonight and will be recognized at the November Board of Education Meeting.

Oakdale School: Principal J. Mazzalupo recognized Montville Marvel Cathy Brush for her dedication towards helping others through her volunteer work. Montville Marvel Jackie Meislitzer was also recognized for her efforts to help make Oakdale School the best that it can be. Board member K. Navetta presented these awards.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal A. Espinoza recognized Montville Marvel Vicki Apicelli for tirelessly volunteering at Murphy School. Montville Marvel Mariely Henry was also recognized for allowing Murphy School to capitalize on her first

language of Spanish in order to transition two newly immigrated students. The awards were presented by Board member S. Loiler.

Presentation: B) Oakdale School Enrichment – Jill Mazzalupo

Principal J. Mazzalupo gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Enrichment Program at Oakdale School. The enrichment program is offered daily during the 45 minute Reading Workshop for grades K–3. Fourth and fifth grade enrichment students also attend a one-hour block that is taught by the special area teachers. During this enrichment block, students follow a 10-step protocol to complete a semester-long project. Seven students took part in a PowerPoint presentation describing “The Nature Trail,” a project that was a focus for the 2015-2016 school year and was presented to provide an example of the authentic, problem-based learning which lies at the foundation of the enrichment program. The students made visits to the Connecticut College Arboretum and outside classroom and discussed research and planning strategies for building the trail. The trail is made up of 12 sites marked with posts that display photographs and written descriptions of the surroundings. By using a cell phone, visitors can access narration for each spot via the school website. The students also made maps and brochures for the trail and this year will move on the next phase, creation of an outdoor learning space. Board member D. Boisvert commented on the students’ perseverance.

Presentation: C) Spring 2016 Assessment Results – Laurie Pallin

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2016 spring assessment results: Smarter Balanced (grades 3-8), Advanced Placement (grades 11-12), SAT (grade 11), and Science CMT/CAPT (grades 5, 8, and 10). She reported that the math results for the Smarter Balanced assessment were greatly improved in grades 3 to 5 and attributed this improvement to the continued implementation of the Eureka math program and the hard work of teachers and math coaches. Montville’s percent of students scoring proficient or higher in grades 3 to 8 increased by 9 percentage points while overall the State results showed an improvement of 4%. Grades 3-5 at our three elementary schools showed an average growth from 2015 to 2016 of 16.75% more students scoring proficient or higher. This was greater growth than any other district in our DRG. The Smarter Balanced math results did not show the same growth at the middle school but as students with years of Eureka-based instruction enter the middle school and with the help of our new part-time grades 6-8 math coach we anticipate better results in the future. Language Arts assessments indicate that the percent of Montville students scoring proficient or higher in grades 3-8 score is in the top third of DRG F. English SAT scores were a percentage point higher than the State average score and near the top of the DRG. L. Pallin spoke about the historical data regarding science for CMT grades 5 and 8 and CAPT, grade 10 and stated that the district is holding its own in this area. AP results are spectacular with the district out in front of the State and the nation from 2012 to present while at the same time increasing the number of AP courses offered and doubling the number of AP exams given. L. Pallin concluded the presentation by highlighting the district’s focus on improvement using STAR benchmark assessments to

help teachers providing strategic instruction to build skills. She recognized the hard work of teachers and building administrators to promote student growth

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

New London resident Jason Moore whose daughter attends school at Mohegan School and lives with her mother in the Town asked the Board to reconsider its membership with CABE as, in his point of view, it is expensive and the district doesn't get enough for the money spent. Board Chair B. Mitchell said he would be willing to speak with Mr. Moore since he is the CABE vice-chairperson.

Town Councilor Joe Jaskiewicz commented that he hoped the Board would consider a RFP when discussing agenda Item 7b concerning transportation. He said he has been speaking about doing this for the past 20 years.

Item 4: Letters and communications. None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

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

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Sandra Berardy

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 7-0)

Item 6. Unfinished Business.

Board member S. Berardy commented that the Board had talked about class size and having someone come in to discuss projected economic changes in town and their possible impact on the population of school-aged children. Superintendent B. Levesque spoke to the declining school enrollment within the State, anticipated at 12% over the next eight (8) years. He agreed to seek a speaker at no cost to the district.

Item 7. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to appoint a delegate to the CABE Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 17, 2016, Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

Motion: **That the Board appoints Board member Sandy Berardy as a delegate to the CABE Delegate, Assembly, Thursday, November 17, 2016, Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

Per discussion, Board member S. Berardy volunteered for the appointment and The Board agreed that she would represent them at the CABE Delegate Assembly.

b. Discussion and consideration for action to discuss an FRP for transportation.

Superintendent B. Levesque stated that he was seeking direction from the Board and commented that the topic of transportation was reviewed 4-5 years ago but did not garner significant savings for the district. He further explained that the Teamsters' contract will expire in June 2017 and stated that budget savings is more critical and the pros and cons for transportation should be weighed by evaluating the results of an RFP. B. Levesque also reported that there are now only 12 districts within the state that still have their own bus fleet. Board member J. Wood said he was not convinced that there would be savings but is willing to hear options. Board members C. Rix and S. Loiler concurred. Board member K. Navetta asked about the cost for the RFP and Business Manager K. Lamoureux responded that there was money left from a prior RFP which could be applied to the process. Superintendent Levesque commented that some districts have discussed a regional RFP to reduce the cost and obtain a better bid with volume.

Motion: **That the Board approves an RFP for transportation.**

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

Vote: Carried (vote 7-0)

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and approved meeting dates for 2017 and reviewed a new policy regarding transgender students that was tabled until the November meeting.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).

S. Berardy reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and approved a textbook for American Studies that will begin in 2017. This recommendation will be brought forward to the full Board at the November Board meeting. She also reported the pilot of a new writing program at Tyl and in some elementary classrooms and the implementation of a new social-emotional curriculum in grades K to 5 which uses a daily morning meeting to build students' skills in mindfulness, self-determination, and self-regulation.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

K. Navetta reported that the MEF will have a Dub-Smash on November 18th and told Board members to check the MEF website for details. Individuals and civic organizations will compete at the event. She also reported that the education grant cycle will end on October 30th.

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

C. Rix reported had no report for LEARN.

e. CAFE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that Board members should be getting information soon about the upcoming CAFE convention.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon was absent from the meeting.

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

T. Pomazon was absent from the meeting.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

D. Boisvert reported that there are three tickets left for the Pancake Breakfast. The tickets are \$7 and the breakfast be held at the Mohegan Firehouse from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon on October 23rd. He also reported that the 10th annual Lights on After-school will be held at the Bureau on October 20th.

i. Student Board Representatives.

Student Board members Karishma Chouhan and Joshua Archibald reported to the Board as follows:

Academic

1. Student Perspectives on the year so far:
 - Mostly positive – most students have settled into a routine and like their teachers.
 - Juniors are adjusting to well to their increased workload
 - Seniors are focused on college visits and applications.
 - The student body as a whole is more enthusiastic about school than in my previous two years at MHS.
2. Over 300 students attended the Homecoming Dance, the largest number in years.
3. Students, particularly freshmen, are excited for the year ahead and looking to stay involved with school activities.
4. High school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are taking the PSAT on October 19th.

Music

5. The high school music program will join other schools throughout CT to perform.
 - Choir students: American Choral Directors Association Conference, October 29

- Choir and band students: Charter Oak Music Festival, November 3 and 9
- Collaboration with other schools to build unity around a shared love of music.

Student Concerns

6. Back parking: Is there a way that this area can be used for parking by seniors or could they use a side lot?
7. Marking the text: Karishma reported that students in high level English classes found that marking the text was not useful when reading lengthy novels. Due to their length and the complexity of the text, students need more latitude as they annotate while reading.
8. Field Trips: Students at MHS enjoyed the numerous field trips of past years, and some have expressed the willingness to pay more to preserve these trips.
9. With our smaller student population, is there a way of having two lunch waves rather than three so that students are not eating lunch at 10:30 a.m.?
10. Senior students' college meetings with counselors this year are a great resource for students. Karishma described the usefulness of the Naviance program to students and expressed the importance of ensuring that all MHS students and parents are aware of the program. She asked if there was a way we might give more presentations for students or walk-throughs for parents to learn about this useful tool.

j. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from Director of Student Services – Mrs. Paula LaChance.

Director of Student Services P. LaChance indicated that she had nothing to report.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

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

- AP Scores: There is a new AP course this year that will bring the total number of AP courses to 14. Two new AP courses for next year are being considered and will bring the total to 16.

c. Monthly Update.

Superintendent B. Levesque reported to the Board as follows:

- Hiring: We filled our final certified position on Friday afternoon. However, on Friday evening, we received a resignation from the PE teacher at Mohegan. It was nice to be full for a short time. We continue to have some paraprofessional vacancies. We had some students move from Murphy School, so we are moving

a paraprofessional to Tyl to fill a position there. We also have a full-time vacancy due to a retirement at Murphy.

The transportation positions have been posted. We are working to fill them. I will be meeting with some prospective candidates this week. Joann Church is doing a great job in the interim. Morale has really improved at the garage. Kathy Lamoureux has also done an outstanding job of helping through this transition. I cannot thank her enough.

- Budget: I continue to work on next year's budget. Crunching enrollment numbers has been a large task.

Item 10. Information items. -- None

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

New London resident Jason Moore requested that the Board not to privatize its buses stating that benefits, security, and wages would be lower. He also stated that he believed monitors should be placed on every bus. His daughter, who lives in Town and attends school experienced issues on the bus. J. Moore also asked the district to consider healthy choices of breakfast food with less sugar.

Item 12. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____