

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

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 Steven Loiler, Colleen Rix, Joseph Aquitante, Sandra Berardy, James Wood, Dan Boisvert, Carrie Baxter, and Monica Pomazon.

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

Mohegan School:

Principal Klinefelter presented student Makenzy Kasper with her Marvel for showing she values physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle by completing the most days of physical activity during the Summer Fitness Challenge.

Principal Klinefelter presented student Tenzin Saldon with her Marvel for her amazing participation in the Summer Reading Program by reading over two hundred books!

Oakdale School:

Principal Mazzalupo presented Kelsie Brown, Anna Bubucis, Melinda Siismets, Anneliese Beauchene, and Alexander Joseph with Marvels for consistently doing well and continuing to show growth on assessments and for acting as role models for the school by demonstrating strong work ethics, positive attitudes, and perseverance when things become difficult.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School:

Principal Espinoza presented Marcia Wilcox with a Marvel for skillfully recognizing a dramatic change in the eyesight of a student which potentially resulted in a course of

treatment which saved the eyesight of the student.

Principal Espinoza also presented Erica Clewell with a Marvel for her exemplary work on creating new initiatives with staff and students making the Murphy cafeteria a place where students feel welcome and excited to visit.

Presentation: B) Oakdale School; Blue Ribbon School, presented my Principal Jill Mazzalupo. On September 28, 2017, Oakdale School was named a National Blue Ribbon School. Oakdale was named an exemplary high performing school. Oakdale was one of only 342 schools recognized. Oakdale was nominated in February of 2017. An extensive application packet was completed and submitted in May. In September the district was notified that we had received the award and the announcement was made by the Secretary of Education. Principal Mazzalupo played the pre-recorded announcement by Betsy DeVos. There will be a recognition ceremony in Washington D.C. from November 6-7 and a celebration at the school with the students and staff, also in November.

Item 2. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

None

Item 3: Letters and communications.

None

Item 4. Approval of Consent Calendar.

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

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried; (vote 8 -0)

Item 5. Unfinished Business.

a. Presentation and board training by Patrice McCarthy, CAFE.

As was requested and scheduled at the August 15th Board Retreat, Patrice provided training to The Board of Education. Patrice provided a handout of Board members roles and responsibilities. Board Members are locally elected and act as agents of The State. Patrice discussed State Statutes that require The Board to set policies on specific issues; an example is the Board must have a policy on Homework however, the State does not specify what that policy has to be, that is a local decision. The Board only has power when they come together in a legally constituted meeting. One responsibility of a board member is to help the public understand the chain of command. When approached by a member of the town with a problem your job is to say, "Have you talked to the principal?" or "Here is the number to call". You can't help by hearing the problem because you do not have the power to do that. The Board only addresses policy motions and evaluates the

Superintendent. The Board's only evaluation role is that of the Superintendent and of themselves. The Board should take some time every year to reflect on how the Board functions. The role of board members is an adjudication in terms of HR terminations so should never get involved in the early stages of a process or you may be put in a position of having to recuse yourself from a decision. If you have had previous conversations with parties involved or hear information which is not part of the meeting, you cannot make a decision based on the information presented. Kikl The Board must make decisions based solely on evidence presented. The Board has a responsibility to prepare and present a budget and make transfers as needed. Emails between board members about board issues are considered an illegal meeting if it triggers a back and forth conversation. Social media can also become an illegal board meeting. When you post something on social media, you are perceived to be representing the board. Even if it doesn't violate law, when others comment it may become an illegal meeting. Do not go down the road of posting board business on social media. Topic becomes fuel for blogs etc. A Facebook debate being set up for Board Members running for re-election might be problematic. Patrice and Bob advise against it. Problem isn't when you posit it is with the replies. It can be put out without allowing replies- that would avoid FOI issues. Is "liking" a response an issue? Don't know. A debate would be fine with a neutral moderator. Any further questions? Board Chair Robert Mitchell thanks Patrice for providing this training to the Board. There is a December 7th New Board Member workshop.

Item 6. New business.

- a. Consideration and action to appoint a delegate to the CABA Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 16, 2017, Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

Motion: That the Board appoints Bob Mitchell to the CABA Delegate Assembly scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017 at the Mystic Marriott, Groton.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

The assembly will take place from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on the 16th.

- b. Consideration and action to comply with Public Act 06-63, an act concerning Healthy Foods & Beverages in School for the 2017-2018 school year by modifying the March 21, 2017 vote which passed to comply with the Healthy Foods and Beverage for the 17-18 school year.**

The Montville Board of Education elects, for the 2017-2018 school year, to permit the sale of all foods and beverages that are not legally permitted during the regular school day if the following conditions are met:

- 1) The sale of foods and beverages is in connection with an *event* occurring *after the end of the regular school day* or *on the weekend*.
- 2) The sale of foods and beverages is at the *location of the event*.
- 3) The foods and beverages are *not sold from a vending machine* or *school store*.

An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Motion: That the Board complies with Public Act 06-63, an act concerning Healthy Foods & Beverages in School for the 2016-2017 school year.

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- 3) The foods and beverages are *not sold from a vending machine* or *school store*.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried: (vote 8-0)

Item 7. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

The committee met and reviewed Policy number 5128; Procedures concerning Notice of Intent to Instruct Student at Home, the discussion surrounding this policy will continue at the December meeting. The meeting dates for 2018 were also approved. There will be no November meeting due to change of BOE members and re-assignment of committee members.

b. Educational Evaluation (Carrie Baxter).

The committee approved the meeting dates for 2018. Learning scales were discussed and an update of assessments was given.

c. Communications Committee (Colleen Rix)

Colleen reported that she was unable to attend the scheduled meeting and Sandra Berardy may be able to report on the meeting. Sandra reported that because she was the only member present, the meeting had to be cancelled.

d. Montville Education Foundation (Dan Boisvert).

Reported that he did not attend the meeting. Rill Slack was elected new president and other officers were also elected.

e. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

Colleen reported that she did not attend the meeting.

f. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

Convention is November 17-18. Bob hopes to see everyone there. Bob has CABA seat on Digital Citizenship advisory council. The Board is encouraged to give Bob ideas.

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

Monica reported that every T.V. set will need a box attached no matter how new, due to total digital formatting. First two boxes are free, additional boxes will be \$2.99/mo. Don't know how this will impact schools.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

Community conversations rescheduled for November 8th or Nov 1. Holiday food collection will take place the 9th and 10th of November. Dec 2nd, Holiday parade MYSB may have a float.

i. Student Representative Reports.

Senior, Joshua Archibald; The high school Homecoming Dance nearly sold out, selling 399 tickets. It was a huge success. This event is a great way for students to get involved in the school community.

College application season in full swing – seniors are frantically writing and rewriting essays and getting their letters of recommendation in hopes of getting into their dream colleges. It's amazing how everyone in the school, from teachers to counselors to students, works together to complete this process for so many students.

Junior, G. Chouhan; PSATS Good response from kids on how they thought they did and how prepared they were. School Spirit; At sporting events- many spectators. A lot of school spirit. During spirit week: many people participated; shows how involved the students are in the school, including demonstrating Pride.

j. Chair's Remarks.

Tonight is the last meeting for Board Secretary Carrie Baxter after eight years on the board including six years as secretary. She will be missed.

k. Other. – None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Special Services – Mrs. Paula LaChance.

We have had quite a bit of movement with the Special Ed Department this year. A few incoming families were fairly complex which required some research into the family's history to best understand and plan for these students. We also have two litigious cases which has occupied a great deal of my time.

I have conducted many observations and meetings at the Transition Program. It continues to run well with lots of community collaboration.

This month I attended the Annual ConnCase Leadership conference which is always educational. This year's focus was on Collaborative Problem Solving with Challenging students and School Threat Assessments. Surprisingly enough the data shows that in CT there is a trend of reduction for bullying in schools. Both days were very interesting and provided information to bring back to my staff.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

Federal Entitlement Grants – Kathy, Mel and I have been working on completing grant applications for our Title I, II, and III grants which are due this Friday. Our Title I grant funds intervention services for students at Mohegan and Murphy. This includes portions of the salaries of our reading consultants and math coaches, reading and math materials, the afterschool program at Mohegan, and the consultant we are using for training in the Readers Workshop model as well as out-of-district transportation for homeless students. Title II grant funds are used for instructional improvement and in addition to funding a portion of a teacher's salary, at this time it is our only source of funds for professional development. Title III funds are exclusively used to support the learning of our English Learners and are used to pay a portion of the salary for a tutor and to purchase supplies. We recently learned of a new Title IV grant which will be available to us soon and it can

be used to continue our efforts to upgrade technology at our Title I schools, Murphy and Mohegan.

Palmer Gradebooks – We are in the process of transitioning Palmer to the Aspen electronic grade book, report card, and transcript. This process is a little more complicated in a project based learning environment, but teachers recently posted their first progress report grades.

New Teacher Training Sessions – Tomorrow I will hold our third new teacher training session. At that session we will focus on the elements of the Teacher Evaluation System.

Fund for Teachers – An FFT representative spent this afternoon in the district. We have at least nine teachers interested in pursuing grants and our former FFT fellows are actively supporting them in the application process.

c. Monthly Update.

We have reached a tentative agreement with the Teamsters Union on the transportation contract, but they have not yet ratified the contract, we hope to bring this to the next board meeting for a vote.

DMG; Interviews were completed, the data has been submitted, there will be more to come as they build a plan.

Today I attended the Aspen Advisory Council along with about ten users from around the country. The discussion was about the future roll outs of products and what works well and what does not. This was in collaboration with the folks from Follet and it was a great meeting.

Budget; I continue to follow news on the budget very closely. The horrific impact of the possible 1.5 million dollar cut to our budget would be catastrophic to our district. The Executive order reduces ECS finding by more than six million dollars. Overall funding to the town more than nine million. I cannot even fathom what a six million dollar cut would look like, it is hard to imagine that. Governor released a budget yesterday which is a revised budget from previous releases. This budget reduced ECS funds by around 150K and the Town would be funding teacher's retirement in excess of 450K. I have been working on what these cuts would look like, a 1.5Mil reduction means horrific cuts, in excess of twenty certified staff members cut and programs that take place both during and after school. My focus will be on how we provide an education to kids from 7:30-3:30 anything additional will be considered extras and will have to be looked at carefully. We cannot run in a deficit. My hope is that it is only the 600K. These cuts would be devastating to our district. This would have a long lasting impact on our district. If the State does not pass a budget this fiscal year, the cut in effect will be that six million. Please encourage your legislators to pass a budget, not passing a budget is more dangerous than anything else. This is a State issue and the Town cannot support a nine million dollar cut. The bills are coming and the Town will not have the money to pay the bills.

These are unprecedented times; this is why I have taken the measures that I have in putting a hiring and spending freeze into effect. We do not want to over spend and open ourselves up to more liability in the form of un-employment. We are doing everything we can to control the costs. We are only purchasing the essentials. The administrative team is very frustrated with me but I have to do everything that I can to maintain spending. My hope is that a budget will be passed soon. We have not even begun building next year's budget because we do not even know what our budget is this year.

Sandra; will the water project go forward? We are moving forward with the project as if it will happen, however with the uncertainty in the State we are concerned that they may pull the plug on the project. We are on track but the budget could throw a wrinkle in it.

On a positive note, I met with The National Honor Society on a community service project which will be a regional project. We have some ideas and I will keep you up to date on what we accomplish, I know we will do some really great things.

Item 10. Information items.

None

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

Joe Jaskiewicz; The budget will impact the town also, but we will work it out. Everyone will work together. Thank you for allowing me to be your liaison and for serving as board members.

Item 12. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by:	Joe Aquitante
Seconded by:	Monica Pomazon
Vote:	Carried; (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Jennifer LeMay, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Minutes Approved: _____