

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
June 11, 2018, at 6:15 p.m.**

2017-2018 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/Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were; James Wood, Colleen Rix, Monica Pomazon, Sandra Berardy, Steven Loiler, Daniel Boisvert, and Joseph Aquitante. Board member Dana Ladyga was absent.

Also present were Acting Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Jennifer LeMay, Administrators, Mary Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano and Rob Alves.

Item 2. Community comments, agenda items only.

None

Item 3. Discussion and action on the 2018-2019 Board of Education budget.

Motion: That the Board enters a discussion regarding the 2018-2019 Board of Education Budget.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Acting Superintendent Pallin provided a handout of potential reductions to the 2018-2019 budget, which had previously been posted in OneNote and went over the potential reductions with the board.

Palmer Resignation and Replacement \$27,854

Jamie Wolfradt resigned last week to accept a job in another district. We would post this job for a teacher lower on the salary scale. It may also enable us to recall a teacher who had been non-renewed.

Late Retirement - PE Replaced at 1 FTE \$12,234

We did receive an additional retirement by re-opening the early retirement incentive last week and would replace this teacher with a new teacher.

Late Resignation – Elementary Teacher Difference in Salary \$38,691

We also received the resignation of an elementary teacher and would replace this teacher with a teacher lower on the salary scale.

Electricity, Savings Due to Solar Panels \$25,000

The savings this first year would only be a half year savings and it would occur in the winter months. This is simply an estimate of anticipated first year savings.

Program Leader Replacement, 5% Reduction in Salary \$5,412

Jennifer Russell has resigned as elementary program leader and we can replace her for 5% less than the current salary.

Sandra Berardy: Did the solar panels go through yet? Not yet, the contract is still being fine-tuned and is in the hands of our attorney. Sandra: My understanding from the finance chair, we could go back to the town if we ran out of money. Mrs. Pallin: To our knowledge we have never gone back for additional funds. Sandra Berardy: I believe that we should leave the budget as is and go back to the Town Council for additional funds if necessary. Bob: Legally, we cannot put out a deficit budget. Colleen Rix: Is this adjustment after the capital improvements? Laurie Pallin: The capital improvements are not in the school budget that is separate. Colleen Rix: So what are the reductions to our budget? Laurie Pallin: \$320,519. Sandra: Will the solar panels be in the capital improvement budget? Laurie: There is no out of pocket expense for the solar panels. Those are operating costs for electricity only.

Laurie: The blue list is something that I feel more comfortable recommending to reach our total required reduction.

Regular Education Tuition \$15,000

We budgeted 725,895 for regular education students attending out of district school like New London Magnets, LEARN, Ledyard Vo-Ag, etc. We have not receive the enrollment numbers from all of these placements yet, but we did receive them from New London and LEARN last week and there is a decrease in the number of students choosing these out of district placements, especially in New London. We are not certain of the numbers of students at other placements yet, but our current costs assuming our estimates for other placements are correct is \$708,377. There is some risk that students not attending NL may have shifted to other out of district schools, but I would recommend we take this reduction.

Tyl LMS to Part time \$43,346

This was proposed in one of the earlier budget scenarios. MJ and I believe that this reduction can be accomplished with some adjustments to expectations of the library

secretary and the classroom teachers. It would not involve unemployment as one of our LMS's is interested in working part-time.

Custodian Resignation, Not Replaced \$65,594

An elementary school custodian has offered his resignation. We currently have two evening custodians at each school. If we did not replace this custodian, we would rotate two of the custodians through the three schools. The principals believe their schools can still be cleaned though there are some concerns about overtime work like snow removal. Steve has created a schedule of how this reduction might look and I believe we should try it.

Imagine It Online Resources \$11,600

The Imagine It online resources are primarily used by K-2 teachers. I surveyed them through their principals, and was told they utilize the website frequently and find it valuable. However, we have used the site for a number of years and I think teachers can rely on past resources they have saved if necessary.

All Supply Budgets, Textbooks, Property

We can look at supply lines for instructional supplies, extra-curricular supplies, office supplies, transportation supplies, as well as textbooks, and property (e.g. switches, copiers) and make the decision not to purchase some of the items we usually purchase (e.g. we could defer purchasing new copiers). These are resources we currently use, but we would have to adjust and do without them. We can set a figure tonight and then come back to you with the specific supply lines we have decided to reduce. This is a large total figure and the amount you choose to cut would then be allocated to specific supply purchases. It would be a struggle, but we could reduce this by up to \$75,000 if it was required.

611 Instructional \$252,690
641 Textbooks and workbooks \$192,970
730 Instructional equipment \$255,777
612 Non-instructional
616 Extra-curricular

Laurie: We are looking at where the savings are that would not require eliminating a staffed position.

Supply and textbook budget. We have money in our supply budget that we may defer, we may choose not to purchase some of the consumables there. This is one of our larger pools of money that is not salary.

Dan: Is there a way to get in a lease program for instructional equipment? Laurie: We have done as much as we feel comfortable doing at this point. That is problematic if we face further reductions in the future as it is an annual expense.

Do you feel comfortable taking all of the money from the supplies? I am hesitant but I feel confident that we could identify those reductions if that is the way you would like to go in your reductions. We often freeze the supply budget mid-year, when we have overages in other areas such as special education. These transfers are necessary when we face these overages.

Monica - \$40,000 – Pay to play covers everything after school which is not academic. There are concerns that students in these economic times who may not be able to afford this. Laurie: We would use list of students on free and reduced list to determine who qualifies for a scholarship.

We can also reduce activities. This is not a popular choice, which has been made apparent in previous meetings when parents have spoken out about reductions. The enrichment program services sixteen students and is .20 fte. This includes Natures Classroom, History day, and they are all popular programs.

The After School Program at Oakdale is the only one which is paid for by the board, the other two schools are under the Title I grant.

Kindergarten readiness, began as a grant and is now funded by the board. This year we have 41 students who were tested and were recommended for the program. The results that we see on these students are very positive.

Reduction of a teaching position at Murphy and Mohegan. One of the teachers would be transferred to a position which will be vacant for one year. If you went up to 22 students in a class would an aid be added? There may already be an aid in the classroom assigned to a specific student but there would not be an additional aid added.

Monica: I would hate to reduce a classroom teacher over an enrichment position.

Colleen: I have never been a fan of pay to play, but knowing that it works for other towns, I am interested in it knowing that there would be funds to help those student who cannot afford to pay. The children who need to be challenged should be challenged just like the ones that need help, should get help. I would hate to see kindergarten readiness go away. We could reduce the estimated \$40,000 of pay to play, to \$20,000 and would need to put a policy in place which spells out how to define who would be required to pay.

We reviewed all of the special education tuitions and we think based on the anticipated movement we are already in a deficit for the 2018-2019 budget. There were after school programs we did not run this year because early on in the year we had special ed increases and chose not to fill advisor vacancies as a result of these overages.

If you tell us to take the full \$64,000 out of supplies we will. What if we changed the amount of pay to play to \$50 maybe that would be more workable for some families?

Colleen: I do not want to get rid of kindergarten readiness at all. Bob: There are a few things I would never want to go for at all and that is closing the classes at Mohegan and Murphy and that is because of the students who are served there. Colleen: Are there items in supplies that teachers could use Donors Choose for?

Jill Mazzalupo: This year we started the After School Program in January, maybe we could delay it again next year? This worked well this year and we still saw results. Tyl Enrichment program students, are with one teacher for an enrichment class. They do the projects at home, during and after school, parents are also involved. Is there any way that students could still participate in History Day without having enrichment? It would be difficult to pick up the thread of the research from one teacher to the next. Students could participate without teachers' guidance. The philosophy of eliminating elementary enrichment was that students were taught at their level some years ago by differentiating.

Sandra: Years ago they would bring in a program every few months to present a topic. Colleen: There are some programs like that now which are funded by the PTO.

Special Education and Excess Cost Grant

We have looked carefully at our special education tuitions. We know of only one child who is currently reflected in the budget who is not returning and we already know of one pending placement which is not in the budget. We also believe there is at least one potential residential placement and two other students who may be outplaced. Therefore, I do not recommend cutting from this area.

This year we transferred \$225,000 into special education tuitions, and I believe we may need to transfer money in next year.

Residential placements don't qualify for excess cost grant as that only pays for excess costs of transportation and tuition.

We cannot go back to the town for additional funds for just special education, we have to show that we can't meet the whole budget unless the town were to choose to make a special transfer.

To Kathy's and my knowledge, we have never requested a special appropriation from the town because we have never put forward a budget with a deficit and we are able to meet increase special education costs by freezing spending and transferring funds.

Motion: That the Board moves to adjust the 2018-2019 Board of Education Budget as discussed.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
 Seconded by: Daniel Boisvert
 Opposed: Jim Wood
 Vote: Carried (vote 6-1)

Change	Possible Savings	Total Reductions
Palmer Resignation and Replacement	\$27,854	\$27,854
Late Retirement - PE Replaced at 1 FTE	\$12,234	\$12,234
Late Resignation – Elementary Teacher Difference in Salary	\$38,691	\$38,691
Electricity, Savings Due to Solar Panels	\$25,000	\$25,000
Program Leader Replacement, 5% Reduction in Salary	\$5,412	\$5,412
Regular Education Tuition	\$15,000	\$15,000
Tyl LMS to Part time	\$43,346	\$43,346
Custodian Resignation, Not Replaced	\$65,594	\$65,594
Imagine It Online Resources	\$11,600	\$11,600
All Supply Budgets, Textbooks, Property		\$58,202
Close Second Grade Class at Mohegan	\$66,512	
Close Third Grade Class at Murphy	\$57,673	
Enrichment at Tyl, 0.2 FTE	\$11,586	\$11,586
After School Program at Oakdale	\$12,000	\$ 6,000
Kindergarten Readiness Program	\$8,000	
Pay to Participate	\$40,000	
Extra-Curricular Stipends, \$3,400 to \$6,700 / activity		
Late Retirement - PE Replaced at .5 FTE	\$43,818	
Tyl LMS eliminated	\$71,496	
Total Savings		\$ 320,519

Item 4. Executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

Motion: That the Board enters executive session to discuss contract negotiations and invites Lauri Pallin.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon
 Seconded by: Daniel Boisvert
 Vote: Carried (vote 7-0)

Motion: That the board exits executive session with no votes taken at 7:33 pm.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
 Seconded by: Joe Aquitante

Item 12. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____