



**MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
October 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Item 1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance.**

Board chair Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library. Board members present were Sandra Berardy, Daniel Boisvert, Monica Pomazon, Steven Loiler, Joe Aquitante and Robert Mitchell. Board members Colleen Rix, James Wood and Dana Ladyga were absent.

Also present were Acting Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jill Mazzalupo, Will Klinefelter, Amy Espinoza, Paula LaChance, Robert Alves, M.J. Dix, Denise Dunning, Heather Sangermano, and Laura Zurell and Board Liaison, Wills Pike.

**Presentation:**           A) Montville Marvels

**Mohegan, Oakdale and Murphy Schools:** Board Chair Robert Mitchell introduced Principals Amy Espinoza, Jill Mazzalupo and Will Klinefelter. Isabella Estelle, Calvin LaFrance, Ziyang Xu, Tyler Chen, Fiona Wu and Lillian Mahonen were introduced by their principals and presented as Marvels for receiving the top scores on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, reaching a level 4 in both Math and Reading.

Students Anna Bubucis, Ciena Feragne and Eric Richmond were also presented as Marvels for being the top 5th grade scorers on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, having the highest combined Math and Reading scores.

The Marvels were presented by Board Members Joe Aquitante and Monica Pomazon.

**Oakdale School:** Board Chair Robert Mitchell introduced Principal Jill Mazzalupo. Cameryn Spurgas was introduced by Mrs. Mazzalupo and presented as a Marvel for demonstrating her spirit of giving by organizing and planning a personal hygiene product drive for The United Way.

The Marvel was presented by Board Member Joe Aquitante.

**Districtwide:** Board Chair Robert Mitchell introduced Laurie Pallin, Acting Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Pallin presented Liz Dumond and Michelle Lathrop as Marvels for the support and expertise provided to elementary teachers which has led to exceptional student growth in mathematics.

The Marvels were presented by Board Member Dan Boisvert.

B) Presentation; Oakdale School, Community Service; Students in Action.

Oakdale Principal, Jill Mazzalupo presented *Students in Action, Community Service*. During the presentation Jill discussed the many benefits associated with performing community service. Jill highlighted the

connections between the recently updated Mission Statement of the Board of Education and the student-led community service happening in our schools. Volunteering at a young age can set a lifelong pattern of advancing the common good. The benefits to the children include increasing their social circle, teaching them empathy and compassion, and giving them opportunities to take on leadership roles.

Jill introduced Cami Spurgas, a student from Oakdale School who ran a personal care drive to benefit The United Way which she initiated at Oakdale Elementary School during the 2017-2018 school year. She collected over 1,000 items.

Oakdale Community Club (OCC) is a before school club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The club meets once a month. The students work together to design their own projects. The club is run by Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Lathrop. At the beginning of each school year 4th and 5th grade learners are asked if they want to be a part of helping our community, our country, and our world. Their first meeting of each year is spent reviewing the expectations and norms of being a member of the club. They quickly get down to business and meet once per month throughout the school year.

Students are given a series of guiding questions to think about on their own and with other members of the club. They work together to design their own projects.

You can see some of the projects they have completed in the past...at the school level they have completed some projects to boost spirits and celebrate the accomplishments of our school community. Within the town of Montville they have organized a snack drive for the members of the Oakdale Fire Department for times when they are working late or long hours. They also collected books to donate to the Youth Service After School Program and they run a canned food drive for Montville Social Services each year. On a larger scale, they have participated in Trick or Treat from UNICEF. They truly embrace the spirit of community service, which as they define it is: helping people in a variety of ways.

Taking a look at what's ahead:

We are about to kick off our United Way staff campaign and as Cami mentioned, we are going to get ready for the coming months by collecting essential cold weather items. The OCC is gearing up for our annual canned food drive and they will once again participate in Trick or Treat for United Way.

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

None

## **Item 3. Letters and communications**

A postcard from the World of Business in New York City.

## **Item 4. Approval of the consent calendar**

**Motion:** That the board approves the consent calendar.

**Proposed by:** Monica Pomazon

**Seconded by:** Dan Boisvert

**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

## **Item 5. Unfinished Business**

None

## Item 6. New Business

**Motion:** To move 6e to item 11, making adjournment item 12.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Joe Aquitante  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

- a. **Consideration and action to appoint a delegate to the CABA Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 15, 2018, Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

**Motion:** That the board appoints Robert Mitchell to the CABA Delegate Assembly, scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2018.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Abstentions:** Robert Mitchell  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 5-1-0)

- b. **Consideration and action to strike Atlantic Broadband from the Liaison reports.**

**Motion:** That the board strikes Atlantic Broadband from the Liaison reports.

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

- c. **Consideration and action to comply with the Permanent Single Agreement for the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Child Nutrition Programs and to authorize The Board of Education Secretary, Colleen Rix to certify the action of the Board of Education that authorizes Laurie Pallin, Acting Superintendent of Schools and Kathy Lamoureux, Business Manager as signers of the CSDE reimbursement claims submitted on behalf of the Montville Public Schools.**

**Motion:** That The Board complies with the Permanent Single Agreement for the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Child Nutrition Programs and to authorize The Board of Education Secretary, Colleen Rix to certify the action of the Board of Education that authorizes Laurie Pallin, Acting Superintendent of Schools and Kathy Lamoureux, Business Manager as signers of the CSDE reimbursement claims submitted on behalf of the Montville Public Schools.

**Proposed by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

- d. **Consideration and action to establish a supplemental pay committee as specified in the MEA Contract.**

**Motion:** That the Board establishes a supplemental pay committee which includes board members Steven Loiler, Joe Aquitante as alternates and Robert Mitchell, Monica Pomazon,

and Sandra Berardy as members.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

**Item 7. Committee and liaison reports:**

- a. **Policy** – No Meeting was held, next meeting will be in November.
- b. **Educational Evaluation** – Dan Boisvert, committee chair reported a proposal to the course *Introduction to Digital music and Recording*, utilizing Ipads and Software. This would require eleven new Ipads and hardware. All of the funding will come from grants or the music boosters. We will vote at the November meeting. Graduation requirements for 2023 increase from 24 to 25. Humanities would be lumped into one group and would be a 9 credit requirement and include arts. Next month will be a combined meeting of Policy and E&E to look at a revised graduation policy based upon changes to the state statute.
- c. **Communications Committee** – No meeting was held.
- d. **Montville Education Foundation** – Laurie reported; they discussed the grant process, grants are due at the end of the month and will be reviewed in November. They have a very healthy balance from fundraising so they are offering \$10,000 grants as well as mini-grants. Hopefully they receive a lot of applications next month.
- e. **LEARN** – Robert Mitchell, was unable to attend.
- f. **CABE/NSBA** – Robert Mitchell, Convention is next month. Most of the Board has registered. Student Board Reps are still welcome to attend. Information was sent to the Principal and Assistant Principal for the students.
- g. **Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council** – The Board voted to strike this committee from the Liaison Reports.
- h. **Montville Youth Services Bureau** – Dan Boisvert; meeting was postponed until this Thursday. The pancake breakfast was well attended.
- i. **Student Representatives Reports**

Geetanjali Chouhan (Senior Representative)

Good evening, tonight I would like to showcase a variety of sports teams at Montville High School. To start off, I would like to congratulate the girls soccer team for their win against Waterford on this past Saturday in double overtime. Their record is 10-3 and they have a chance of winning the divisional title and are 4th in the ECCs. They also now have at least a share of the divisional title. The boys soccer team also has the record of 10-3 and they are 3rd in their division. The boys and girls soccer team's senior night is October 22nd, next Monday. The football team's record is 2-3 and they won their homecoming game on October 5th. The football team's senior night is on November 21st. The volleyball team is said to be having one of their best seasons yet with a record of 10-5 and have been playing wonderfully with the leadership of the seniors. Their senior night is tomorrow at 5, in the gym. Last and certainly not least, the boys and girls cross country teams both have a shot of winning their division titles. The girl's team record is 4-0 and the boys have a record of 3-1 for the division title. They will be competing at the ECC meet this Thursday and that will determine their standing in the ECCs.

These significant accomplishments by the sports teams are not only made possible by the incredible coaching staff and the student-athletes themselves, but also by our fellow peers. The student section for all the home sporting events has had a huge impact on the performance of the athletes. The great school pride from the students has been very apparent in the student section and shows how students have a positive moral towards

the school and school pride.

Ashley Seldon (Junior Representative)

Status Update: Returning from one of the best weeks to be at Montville High School, the students are in great spirits. At the moment I don't see any pressing concerns expressed from our student body. I have heard an interesting initiative from multiple sources that we're looking to open more opportunities around the school for students to show their creativity and personality. Ex: painting student parking lot spots/adding murals/paint bricks. I think because the students are currently so driven and content with our school the time to act on these initiatives is now. It can only excite the kids and staff further, and really show who MHS is and what we're about. I think our focus should be shifted to maintain this positive atmosphere and continue it into the future.

j. Other - None

## **Item 8. Acting Superintendent's Report**

### **a. Report from the Director of Special Services - Mrs. Paula LaChance**

You had asked for a cost breakdown for our ODD and I am still working on that however, I can tell you currently we have fourteen students attending eight different clinical day schools for which we pay tuition. We have a total of twenty-six special education students attending magnet or tech schools.

I have conducted several observations in these schools this month in order to assess the appropriateness of programming. I will continue to monitor each student's placement closely. We currently are working with an outside agency for a Registered Behavior Technician required for one of our ODD students and in an effort to reduce this cost I am providing training to one of our staff who will, once certified, take over this role.

This month I met with the behavioral staff at Murphy School. We recently had a new student transfer to the program for a diagnostic placement making a total of seven students in the program. We will meet every two weeks to review and analyze data on the student's progress. We are also working closely with the parent to assist with outside resources.

I attended the annual ConnCASE leadership conference last week and the focus for this conference was on Executive Functioning and cognitive and educational assessment issues.

Additionally I attended a training for the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. As you know this program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. All homeless youth are entitled to equal access under FAPE including a public preschool education. It was interesting to learn that the guidelines are not black and white and much is left up to subjective reasoning. The decisions of eligibility is on a case-by-case basis.

Today we held our first School Community Family Support Team meeting, known previously as FWSN. We held a brief discussion on the scope of our work as a team and reviewed two cases that were continued from last year. I am also in the process of looking at our procedures for addressing attendance issues at the school level.

Lastly I held our first monthly meeting with the mental health team and OT/PT staff.

Sandra: Are we on track with our Special education Budget; Mrs. Pallin, I can tell you I have checked we

are on track.

**b. Report from the Acting Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin**

Water: We have stopped ordering bottled water and are in the process of removing all of the water dispensers. MHS fountains are open and the cafeteria is using our new water supply. All tests of the water have been completed and it is safe to drink.

Solar Project: Interconnectivity agreements have been received for both MHS and Tyl and we are currently in the permitting process. There has been some discussion about including solar panels on the roof at Oakdale as part of this project because ZREC (zero emission renewable energy credits) were granted for all three schools. We have some significant questions about that are will investigate further before bringing to the BOE (Does it affect our warranty on the Oakdale roof? Will it slow the installation at MHS and Tyl? Will it meet the allowable annual power generation in the Constellation agreement?)

Fuel tank removal: The first PO's were issued today for this project.

Bus garage parking lot repair should take place the last week of October and the first week of November.

ALICE training: Will, MJ and two teachers, Anthony Occhialini and George Dawe attended two days of ALICE training which allows them to serve as trainers for district teachers. George told me it was the best professional development he has ever attended and Will and MJ expressed the power of ALICE training saving lives in the event of a school shooting. Next month's BOE presentation by Will Klinefelter will highlight aspects of the training and we have put the opportunity to be trained out to faculty as an option for the Nov. 6 PD date.

Palmer Interviews: We have two candidates coming for second interviews this week and we are hopeful that we will reach a final decision and sign a contract with a candidate next week.

United Way Campaign Kick-Off: Our campaign will kick off this Friday. Jen has been working hard with coordinators for the campaign at each of our schools. Hopefully we will continue our pattern of annual increases in participation and contributions.

Principals' Goal Setting Meetings: Last week and this week I have been meeting with principals to review their goals for growth at the building level.

Standards-Based Grading: I shared with you in one of the recent weekly summaries an outline of the process which we used to move to standards-based grading at Tyl and I have a sample of a mock progress report to share with you. In short this change is the culmination of 8 years of review into grading practices and reading of relevant literature. It was researched and reviewed by a team of Tyl teachers, Tyl and CO administrators, the E&E committee of the Board, and the CSDE. The state department has an entire section of their website dedicated to mastery based learning and grading. I received email responses from 17 middle schools when I put out a query to local administrators about their plans to use standards-based grading. Of the 17, 11 middle schools currently use S-B grading or a blended system like ours and 6 are studying or transitioning to the process. Research provides evidence that the practice results in improved student outcomes.

Policy Review: Our administrative team has begun to review several policies and we have some suggestions for revision to policies including those on: nonresident attendance, student discipline, sex offender registry, and graduation based upon changes in legislation, changes in the times, and the desire for greater clarity.

Steven Loiler: Are the leased buses in? Laurie: Not yet unfortunately, we were told end of November or beginning of December. We are really working hard on maintenance of the buses, we currently have one

mechanic working a lot of overtime so we are anxiously awaiting the delivery of the new buses. Steven: What about the overall vibe at the bus garage, how is that going? Laurie: It's much better. Kathy and I had a meeting with the coordinator and I feel that we have made a lot of strides, the routes are shaping out well. We are going to make some changes with the late buses. We had three late buses and they are not full, because of the length of the elementary runs, one was getting to the high school at 4:30, which is too late so we are going to condense them into two runs beginning next Tuesday.

**Item 9. Information Items**

NEASC Visit - Sunday is the start of the visit with a panel presentation at 1:00 PM, and the board interviews begin at 3:30 PM.

Rob Alves; I think we are in really good shape. The bar starts rolling on Sunday morning.

**Item 10. Citizen's Comments (non-agenda items only)**

None

**Item 11.** It is anticipated that the Board will meet in executive session to discuss school security and contracts.

**Motion:** That The Board enters executive session to discuss school security and negotiations; inviting Acting Superintendent Laurie Pallin into the session.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Joe Aquitante  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

**Motion:** That the Board exits executive session at 7:43 p.m. with no votes taken.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler  
Seconded by: Dan Boisvert  
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

**Item 11. Adjournment**

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

**Proposed by:** Joe Aquitante  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

*Minutes Approved:* \_\_\_\_\_