

**MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
SUPERINTENDENT'S LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
January 10, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.**

Minutes for Information Purposes Only, No Votes were Taken

Item 1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Chair Monica Pomazon called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m. and all stood for the pledge. Other committee members present were Sandra Berardy and Student Board Representative Ashley Seldon. Robert Mitchell were absent. Acting Superintendent Laurie Pallin was also present.

Item 2. Budget Forums, Budget Survey.

Survey: Laurie reviewed a flyer with survey information for distribution. Locations suggested for distribution in the community include: Raymond Hill Library, Herbs, Oakdale Pizza, and Montville Hardware. Laurie will bring copies of the flyer with the survey link as well as hard copies of the survey to the Board meeting for the Board members to take and distribute. The survey will also be available at the board meeting on Tuesday for people to complete. Laurie reported that 20 people had already completed the survey and the link was posted on the website and through Twitter. Parents and teachers are also posting the link through social media, and Laurie has requested that it be publicized in the Montville Times.

Budget Forums: Principals have put out invitations to parents for their budget forums. The committee discussed setting up seating at the forums in conversational groups rather than as a panel to better facilitate conversation. The forum will start with an explanation of the importance of informal dialogue and a review of the Board's vision statement. A sample of the handout to be distributed was reviewed, and committee members discussed thoughts about ways to lead the discussion.

Senior Center Budget Forum: It was proposed that the Board visit the Senior Center at their monthly meeting on March 1st at 10:00 A.M. Laurie has requested cookies from our bake shop class to bring to the visit.

Item 3. CAFE Lighthouse Project.

Possible meeting dates proposed by Nick Caruso from CAFE include: January 22, 29, 30 and February 2, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21, 25 or any Saturday. Nick explained that the date should not be set until the Board decides on a new Superintendent. The training is a team process and should include the Board and superintendent once appointed.

Nick Caruso will schedule a meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair so we can make sure the training best meets the needs of the Board and district.

The materials used in the training were funded by the State Department of Education; there may be a nominal cost for them.

Item 4. General Communications planning.

- Laurie has reached out to the Montville Times (Lee Howard) to request publication of a short article regarding the budget survey with the link to the survey and a more regular feature with news from the district.
- Last month's suggestion that the BOE might prefer principals' verbal input at BOE meetings rather than quarterly written reports will be discussed at the Jan. meeting. Verbal reports might alternate between elementary and secondary principals every other month. It was also suggested that dialogue between Board members and the principals be encouraged at meetings with the chair's permission.
- Board Meeting set up: Committee members were pleased by the change in the meeting layout but asked that we try to create more of a U-shape at the next meeting to allow all members to see one another.
- MHS Boosters Sign Board: The committee discussed use of the message board to recognize more students, especially for academic accomplishments, and to offer congratulations to Montville Marvels.

Item 5. Marketing of district schools.

- Pathways documents for MHS- Ashley explained the process of creating the documents showing specific sequences of courses students might select based upon college and career goals. Monica suggested we look at the model developed in Griswold.

Item 6. Future agenda items.

- Use of academic pep rallies to publicize and celebrate academic successes

Item 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica Pomazon, Committee Chair