

**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM
February 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

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/ Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Sandra Berardy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood and pledged the flag. Board members present were: Bob Mitchell, James Wood, Sheelagh Lapinski, Carol Burgess, and Monica Pomazon. Absent were Steven Loiler, Dana Ladyga, and Joe Aquitante

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Paula LaChance, Heather Sangermano, Jill Mazzalupo, Will Klinefelter, M.J. Dix, Amy Espinoza, Jason Daly, David Gollsneider, Denise Dunning and Laura Zurell and Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz.

Presentation:

A) Montville Marvels

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School – For her outstanding work in Writer's Workshop, excelling in her completion of a realistic fiction piece through her editing and revisions: Allie Kondash.

For his leadership, musicality and technological skills, leading the Robotics Team to the quarter finals of a recent competition: Tyler Lawton.

Marvels were presented by Principal MJ Dix, supported by Board member Carol Burgess.

Montville High School – For the exceptional manner in which they represent the Montville High School student body as Board of Education Representatives: Ashley Seldon and David Baukus.

Marvels were presented by Principal Heather Sangermano and Assistant Principal Rob Alves, supported by Board Member Jim Wood.

Palmer Building - For his success at his internship, his consistent attendance and his commitment to his academics: Jeff Aronson.

Marvels were presented by Principal Heather Sangermano and Assistant Principal David Gollsneider, supported by Board Member Sheelagh Lapinski.

B) Montville High School – Presentation of School Goals

Heather Sangermano presented MHS goals including the early indication tool which looks at attendance, test scores, failing grades and OSS/ISS as indicators of at risk students. She described the high school's work towards ensuring that all students can identify one go-to adult in the building. In an effort to reach these school wide goals a Collaborative Intervention Team was

established to address discipline, attendance, and other factors affecting students' success. One tool used is a collaboration/consultation hour.

The school is working toward utilization of the skills learned through RULER training. They follow a case management approach to work with an identified group of students using the social worker and a deliberate focus on developing relationships with students. Heather presented data received from a survey indicating that students still struggle with feelings of sadness, indicating that they feeling inclined to keep their problems to themselves. The school will continue to analyze this data and work towards ensuring that all students establish a relationship with at least one adult in the building who they feel comfortable with as a "go-to adult."

With the addition of the SAT Prep Class, an average 60 point increase was seen in English ERW and a 72 point increase in Math based upon practice tests given at the end of the course. We are optimistic that these increases will translate into higher SAT scores for these students.

Sandra – To the Student Board Reps – do you hear the same information as presented from your classmates regarding students' survey results? Ashley: No, but again I think that many would keep their problems to themselves. Sandra – Do you have any suggestions? David: It is confusing as to how to schedule time with your counselor and who your counselor is. Monica- How many students take the SAT prep course? Heather: 45 students. It is a good variety of students who took the class.

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

None

Item 3. Letters and communications

None

Item 4. Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion: That the Board approves the consent calendar as presented.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Item 5. New business

- a. Consideration and action to appoint a Board Member to the hiring committee for the position of Athletic Director.**

Motion: That the Board appoints Board Member Jim Wood to the hiring committee for the position of Athletic Director.

Moved by: Carol Burgess
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie: It is with regret that I accepted Phil Orbe's resignation from his position as AD effective on March 13th. I know he is excited about his new opportunity and we wish him the best. He has certainly worked hard to build our district's athletic programs during his tenure as AD and as coach. Interviews are set for March 11 probably beginning at 3:00. Application review will begin on March 6.

b. Consideration and action to approve 3000 Policy Series as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves 3000 Policy Series as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Moved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie: The 3000 series is the Business Policies and includes policies regarding budget, purchasing, funds for athletics, food services, bus transportation, safety and facilities, data privacy, and student and staff records. We felt about 2/3 of the series was not needed and recommended a smaller group of policies for adoption

c. Appraisal; Montville High School Choir trip to Annapolis, MD & Washington DC, March 26, 2020 to March 29, 2020, thirty-five students.

d. Consideration and action to approve the World Language field trip to Spain; April 9-17, 2021 for approximately twelve students

Motion: That the Board approves the World Language field trip to Spain; April 9-17, 2021 for approximately twelve students.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie: We will need to look into this year's April trip scheduled to Italy to determine the safety of the students traveling based upon recommendations regarding the spread of Coronavirus.

Trip for next spring to Spain would include about 12 students; using WorldStrides for 11th year! Cost will be about \$4000 per student.

e. Consideration and action to approve changes to the non-ECE Statistics course as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the changes to the non-ECE Statistics course as recommended by E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie: Goal is to create access to statistics for all students by creating a basic level statistics course which is distinct from College Prep Statistics. No new costs are anticipated. This is typically a junior or senior class.

f. Consideration and action to add the course Integrated Science II to junior year science courses offerings as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the addition of the course Integrated Science II as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Laurie: The junior year science course for non-chemistry students needs to align with NGSS and prepare students for the state assessment at the end of the year. This series of two half year courses is intended to fill that void. The focus will be on NGSS standards not covered in grades 9 and 10 using the topics of Forensics and Space Exploration as high interest themes.

g. Consideration and action to remove Montville High School Science Courses from the course selection as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the removal of Montville Science Courses from the Course selection as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Existing half year electives for juniors and seniors need to be reduced to free faculty to teach these new junior courses. Botany, Blue Planet, Disasters, and Science and Society will be eliminated.

h. Consideration and action to approve the addition of PE elective courses for grades 11 and 12 as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Motion: That the Board approves the addition of PE elective courses for grades 11 and 12 as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon

Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Two half credit courses are proposed, Fitness through Team Activities and Games and Fitness through Individual and Dual Activities. These courses will be elective rather than required courses due to the recent changes to graduation requirements which require only 1 credit of PE instead of two credits and 1 credit of Health (2 half year courses are required instead of 1). We hope students will be encouraged to continue participating in fitness opportunities by choosing these elective courses.

Jim – It does not make sense to me that PE is not required in your jr/sr years. I am happy that we are offering the electives. Laurie – As a Board you could decide to require additional credits for PE, we chose to follow the States guidelines but we could certainly revisit increasing our PE credit requirements. At issue is that we need to free up PE teachers to cover the new Health credit requirements. We would need to add faculty if we increased the PE requirements. The new requirements will be phased in with this year's freshman so we will not be able to collect data about participation in the new junior/senior electives for two years.

i. NESDEC Special Education Data

Superintendent Pallin presented the NESDEC Special Education Data report as part of her budget presentation.

j. Board of Education Budget Presentation

Superintendent Pallin presented her proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year. General information was presented through a PowerPoint, more detailed information was provided in the budget binders distributed to all Board members and Town Councilors. A PowerPoint presentation was used to share both historical and projected enrollment numbers which indicated a leveling in enrollment for the foreseeable future. The Special Education trend report indicated a spike in the number of identified Special Education students who enrolled during the 2019-2020 school year, with the cost per student remaining level.

Budget forums were held for each school level as well as at the senior center to collect input from the community. The community shared their priorities with the Board including small class sizes, improved technology, increased access to social workers and school safety.

During the January Board meeting the principals presented their needs to the Board as follows:

Secondary

- *Updated technology*
- *Full time social worker at each school*
- *Creation of an additional alternative classroom at Tyl*
- *Reinstatement of Head Teacher position.*

Elementary

- *Replacement of part-time paraprofessionals with full-time paraprofessionals in the Pathways and special needs classrooms at CEM and Mohegan*

- *Increase in the time the social worker is in each building*
- *Maintain small class sizes*

Included in the proposed budget were the addition of three certified teachers, including a social worker, the addition of full-time paraprofessional positions, and one-to-one computers at MHS and Tyl.

Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux reviewed the budget binder and provided the following details:

Salaries – Salaries are budgeted based on negotiated contracts. Anticipated increases for contracts in negotiations or non-bargaining staff are based on what the negotiated contracts have settled for. If negotiated salary increases end up being higher than anticipated, we will try to achieve savings on the benefits side to offset cost increases. Additionally we are assuming grants will remain level funded and staff paid with these grants will continue to be paid from the grant account.

Health Insurance - Budget was compiled using 92% of Anthem's preliminary renewal indemnified rates. The 92% is an increase from the rate of 87% which is currently used. This year's staff members' election of insurance plans (such as individual, double, family or waiver) was used to budget the insurance for next year using a 2% holdback in employee co-pays to be able to offset any insurance changes that occur.

MERF – It is anticipated that this rate will increase from 13.73% to 15.24% for any member who is given this benefit.

Property, liability and workers' compensation insurance was budgeted with an 8% increase based on the recommendation from our insurance broker H.D. Segur. The 8% increase is based on the invoices received rather than the 19-20 budgeted amount because we reduced this line in last year's budget due to the credit we received during audit. This is a tentative amount because they have not yet worked out the renewal numbers.

Purchased Services – There are three main areas that were affected.

1. *Object 410 Electricity shows a reduction of \$68,800 for the High School and Tyl based upon our new solar project.*
2. *Function 423/2600 was reduced \$28,000 to reflect the cost savings from the new licensed hires in the maintenance department. We are hopeful there will be more savings in this function but we need additional time to review the trend prior to projecting additional savings.*
3. *Object 510 purchased transportation for outplaced students which reflects an approximate increase of \$160,000. Some of this increase in cost will be offset by additional funding in the excess cost grant received by the town. Special Education has the highest area of volatility in the budget. The budget only accounts for existing students in both the outplaced tuitions (1200/560-563) and purchased services (321). There is no contingency and if additional students are outplaced it may require the utilization of the 2% account.*

Transportation Function 2700/2790/2791/2792 and 3708 – Reviewing the transportation functions you will see that this year’s budget has an overage in both salaries and insurance. This is the result of reduced transportation and a lower than anticipated number of drivers. This overage will be transferred to purchased services for contracted transportation for outplaced students. This department will need additional trending to determine the appropriate funding but we currently have reduced the salary, insurance and employee benefit accounts to reflect the current trending.

k. Letter; Legislative Assembly regarding FASFA

Moved: Bob Mitchell
Second: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried 6-0

Raised Bill No.17 is an act requiring the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as a condition for high school graduation or receiving a diploma. Students will not receive a diploma if they do not either: complete the FAFSA, complete another higher education financial aid application, or submit a state waiver signed by their parents to this requirement. Submission of data regarding the number of students taking each of these options would be mandated. In talking with area superintendents, I believe this bill is counter to our graduation requirements which hold students accountable for completion of a set of criteria. Because a student cannot complete the FAFSA without his parent’s support and access to the parent’s financial information, I do not believe this is a reasonable graduation requirement. Further I believe it is discriminatory against students whose families do not have the means to complete the FAFSA and this is more likely to affect the ability of our high needs population to earn a diploma. With the board’s permission, I would like to submit a letter on your behalf opposing the legislation.

l. Confidential hearing of student matter – Will be heard following Citizens’ comments

Note: It is anticipated that the student matter will be considered in executive session.

Motion: That the Board enters executive session at 8:25 PM to discuss a confidential student matter.

Moved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

Motion: That The Board exits executive session at 8:36 PM with no votes taken.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

The Montville Board of Education concludes that the student who is the subject of this hearing did commit an expellable offense and is expelled from the Montville Public Schools for one calendar year, from February 26, 2020 until February 25,

2021 as per the student expulsion stipulation which the Board has accepted with regret.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (Vote 6-0)

Item 6. Unfinished Business

a. Reschedule CABE Lighthouse Workshop

Will look at scheduling on a Tuesday when the majority of the Board is available.

Item 7. Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. **Policy** – *No Meeting – 3000 series has been completed; next meeting will be to tackle 5000 series. Need to set a two hour meeting for that purpose*
- b. **Educational Evaluation** – *Committee Chair Bob Mitchell - LMS presentation on transition to Robotics, coding and Makers Space activities for grades K-5*
- c. **Communications Committee** – *Monica: Met to discuss communications regarding the budget*
- d. **Montville Education Foundation** – *Laurie: They held a meeting on Feb. 3. Bingo night is Feb. 28, Chili's night was postponed and will be rescheduled. The golf tournament needed to be moved from Fox Hopyard and will be in Norwich this year on August 17th. I asked MEF if they would consider purchasing Chromebook bags for secondary students if our 1:1 initiative is supported as we did not include bags in the budget. They asked me to provide quotes and samples for their next meeting. The committee asked if schools would hold a dress down for MEF day, and also if we would be interested / able to offer staff a payroll deduction to contribute to MEF with the suggestion that all staff might donate \$.25 per pay period*
- e. **LEARN** – *Bob: Nothing to report.*
- f. **CABE/NSBA** – *Bob-. Will attend the April 4-6 NSBA conference, March 11th is the Day on the hill if anyone is interested in attending.*
- g. **Montville Youth Services Bureau** – *No Meeting was held*
- h. **Student Board Representatives** –

Ashley Seldon:

Update: This month, Montville Athletics has taken the ECCs by storm. The boys' basketball team won their first ECC divisional championship title since the 1970s. This past weekend, the cheer team won yet another ECC championship title to add to the gym walls. Student government just hosted another five-day spirit week and a winter pep rally that featured a student vs. faculty basketball game. They're now focused on the color run for clean water on March 15th at noon at the high school, I encourage you all to register for \$15 or \$25 if you would like a color run t-shirt added in. I can email you the forms if interested. The race can be walked or ran. There is also a blood drive at the beginning of next month.

Report: Last month, we heard the news of a potential decision from the Mohegan Tribe to consider not giving us permission to use their logo anymore. Mrs. Pallin asked student government to gather a consensus of how the student body felt regarding any decision the tribe might make (if they haven't already). If I were to put it into percentages, we came to the conclusion that about 80% of the students just wanted to respect whatever the tribe wants to do. And 20% (a small but significant portion) are proud of the Montville Indians logo and don't wish to change it. No one really felt strongly about changing the logo or felt that we were disrespecting Native American culture by using it, or so we found in our samples.

David Baukus:

Summary: A lot has gone on the last couple months at Montville High. Winter sports are coming to a close, as the girls basketball team finishes in the semifinals and Cheer won ECC's in their division. For boys' wrestling, the team placed at the State Class S state championship, and boys' basketball will play in the Quarter Finals against Plainfield on the 27th. In early February, the AMC 10 and 12 math tests were held after school, and there was a strong turnout for them. Many students across grade levels challenged themselves with it to see if they could improve upon their old scores from last year or if they could qualify for the next round. The AMC is a 25 question test that progressively gets harder as you go on. Each question is worth 6 points, and you get all 6 for answering it properly. You are awarded none if you get it wrong and 1.5 if you leave it blank. If you score in the top 2.5% for 9th and 10th graders and the top 5% for 11th and 12th graders you get invited to go to your respective AIME test. The results will be posted within the coming weeks in early March.

Report: Just before President's Day Weekend, the winter pep rally kicked off after a vibrant spirit week. The different days starting from Groutfit Day on Monday to Orange and Black on Friday were all well received and there was a high percentage of participation, like always. I know students and especially teachers loved the ability to wear sweats all day on Monday. Spirit Week always fosters a culture of school pride and a sense of fun or goofiness from the students and faculty, but it was especially prevalent in this one. Overall, the Junior class won the week, but it was a close battle up through till Friday.

i. Principal Reports – Secondary

MJ Dix for Tyl Middle School - 1. Ruler Training: Social worker, Sasha DiScuillo, School Psychologist, Amy Richter, School Counselor, Meghan Coiro and I facilitated RULER training on the two January PD days. Overall the training was really well received. At one point teachers were asked to develop an action list of steps they could take to help emotionally support each other. The majority of teachers came up with very concrete and simple steps they could take.

2. At the beginning of the year we had an influx of new students to the district who had complex behavioral needs. Over the course of the first four months, we have instituted a creative and varied list of supports for these students. As a result we have seen a dramatic

reduction of inappropriate behaviors and a considerable increase in their productive classroom time.

3. We formed a new student group, called Tyl Ambassadors. Students from each grade level applied and were chosen to meet monthly with the administration. They were charged with two tasks; 1. To develop a community service project 2. To promote a school wide fun activity. 6th grade ambassadors sponsored pajama day and an after school movie event and sold snacks at basketball games to raise money for childhood cancer patients. 7th grade sponsored a dance, is preparing on raising herbs for the school cafeteria and wants to hold an e-sporting tournament in conjunction with the 8th grade to raise money for a charity of their choice. The 8th grade also sponsored a “Snowball” dance and is working with the 7th grade on the tournament.

David Gollsneider for PBL & Pathways – Three things PBL and Pathways are proud of: Restorative Justice- RJ is based students having a chance to learn from their mistakes and to restore any damaged relationships with others. Building trusting relationships are at the heart of the success of RJ.

Generally, students participate in a Conflict Cycle which allows them to reflect on and develop coping strategies that they can use manage negative feelings.

Quarterly Projects - The quarterly projects allow students to connect learning from English, Social Studies, and Science.

Here are the driving questions for each quarter:

Q1: How do social movements continue to change America?

Q2: How have “hard times” impacted various social groups throughout history?

Q3: How does war shape those who live through it?

Q4: How have Americans been impacted by terrorism and other contemporary issues?

Support Center - The center was opened to start Semester 2 as a way for students to have a safe place when needed for academic, social, or emotional reasons. Goal is for students to spend no more than 10-15 minutes in room and then be able to return to class. Support center has rugs, comfortable chairs, puzzles, salt lamp, an aroma diffuser, and plants. Plan is to continue to add items over the course of the year.

Heather Sangermano for Montville High School – What we are proud of: The work that our special education teachers are doing in developing and implementing curriculum around transition skills. Hard work and dedication of our science teachers in their continued implementation of NGSS into the curriculum. This type of teaching improves students learning and their ability to solve real life problems using science. The connections and impact that our social worker has had on our students and their families. The English department is proud of our colleague Wendy Halsey for being the first Teacher of the Month recipient as named by the student council.

Our Concerns - The social-emotional well-being of our students, as I mentioned, and how to build capacity to serve them.

j. Board Chair Remarks – Sandra encouraged the principals to meet with the staff to discuss

making connections with students as they struggle day to day.

Item 8. Superintendent's Report

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

Aside from working on budgetary items I have met with all disciplinary groups to review current caseloads and movement throughout the district for next year, along with the preschool and transition staff.

We continue to have new Preschool students move in on a regular basis. The preschool teachers have been busy conducting screenings and evaluations for potential qualifying three year olds. We currently have 61 students enrolled with 7 more to transition from birth to three before the school year ends.

The special needs program at Tyl currently has 10 students of which four will be moving on to the high school with two new students coming in. Tyl Pathways had 9 students of which we just had to outplace one so she currently has 8 with no incoming slotted yet for next year. We had a student move from Mohegan to the behavioral program at Murphy this month bringing her roster to a total of 9. Tracy is also supporting a handful of other students in kindergarten. Mohegan Special needs has 11 students with two moving on to Tyl and four coming in bringing her total to 13 which is significant.

So has you can see these teachers plates are quite full managing both students and many paras. The TA is currently servicing 6 students with one graduating. There is a potential for 7 new students next year. Totaling 12 student's enrolled next year. I have been working with them to develop an online data system that will enable the teacher to hold staff accountable while in the field as well as to monitor the student's intern progress remotely.

Earlier in the month I attended a Professional Development presentation at LEARN. Topics reviewed included, School attendance and absenteeism, Section 504 grievances and related investigations, new School Safety legislation and the new guidance on evaluation timelines.

On January 23 the CSDE issued updated guidance on the timeline for sped evaluations. CT will no longer use the federal 60 calendar day timeline. They are requiring we comply with the 45 school day timeline, previously we could use either one depending on the time of year and vacations. This is a very tight timeframe which starts from the day of referral to Implementation of the IEP.

I met with Apex Solutions business manager for a midyear review of the services provided to us as well as our work and needs for next school year. We will again contract with him next year to provide BCBA services but in addition we will be utilizing his services to help build our capacity within district. He has offered to support our staff with training and consultative services while they develop conduct FBA's and BIPS. These reports and assessments must be done with the utmost fidelity as they drive interventions plans for our students which in turn drives their success. So I look forward to this collaborative approach.

- b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Dianne Vumback
Curriculum

Technology Integration

I continue to meet with teams of teachers at the elementary level to gather how they are integrated technology in the classroom. Teachers are reporting the desire to utilize the technology and the need for updated equipment. This has been an excellent way for me to be more visible in the district and to get to know more teachers.

Library Media Specialists

I have met with all three Library Media Specialists at the elementary level this week to see where they are in terms of transforming the way we educate our students in the areas of Makerspace, Robotics and Coding. There are some very exciting learning going on in the library! Our next steps will be to solidify a scope and sequence to ensure all students are exposed to the rigorous components of real world applications and critical problem solving.

Elementary Science Walkthroughs

I participated in eight elementary classroom (three at Mohegan and five at Oakdale) walk-throughs. A walk-through is typically 15-20 minutes in length and designed to collect patterns of data to guide improvement practices. I worked with our Math/Science Coaches (Liz Dumond and Michele Lathrop) to coordinate the walkthrough so that I could get a better understanding of what science looks like at the elementary level and to also focus on how the implementation of the CREC bundles were progressing. We established a “debriefing” protocol where we discussed the snapshot of instruction we witnessed in a non-judgmental, non-evaluative way with the Principal if they were available. My goal is to observe every elementary teacher this year as a way to be visible and to have instructional conversations to help improve teaching and learning.

Personnel

I had to conduct an employee investigation last week. I had to open up a student investigation this week.

UCFS Grant

I worked with UCFS on a grant that would support middle school students next year. It is an exciting opportunity to connect the resources that this grant could bring to our students, particularly those dealing with trauma. They will do a combination of art therapy and trauma informed support with a group of approximately ten students. The grant request will allow them to do a couple of complete sessions with students. Parental permission would be required for students to participate in the counseling. We additionally talked about potential transition support for students coming up to the high school that may experience anxiety with the level change from middle school to high school. While still in the early stages of conversation, supporting transitions, particularly at key times in the educational spectrum has proven to have many benefits and often sets the students up for success.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Midyear Goal Work: I have had the pleasure of attending department heads midyear goal meetings at MHS. As Heather described in her presentation, each department developed a goal which supported school goals and their reports of midyear progress showed a wide variety of approaches. I will now begin midyear goal meetings with principals.

Over the past several weeks, I have had a number of meetings regarding student and staff issues. Those conversations are never easy, but hopefully they have each ended with a shared understanding of expectations and a goal to work collaboratively to meet those expectations. I have also had conferences with our Shipman and Goodwin and Cirma attorneys regarding the progress of ongoing legal issues.

I attended a thought-provoking meeting with Ajit Gopalakrishnan at which he shared information about district's administration of purchased universal screening and benchmark assessments. It is his stand that districts are trying to use these assessments for too many purposes and that it is too difficult to draw inferences from the assessment sub scores. His recommendation is that we administer only one standardized assessment each year (and that is the state SBA or PSAT / SAT). In between he recommends that we use the SBA and NGSS Interim Assessment Blocks to measure student growth in small areas of content and use these to provide formative feedback, guide faculty PLC work, and inform future instruction. This was especially encouraging because we made the decision to follow this process in Montville last spring when we eliminated the STAR assessments. We allow teachers' evaluation goal work to be based upon progress on formative assessments rather than administering summative assessments three times a year. The state's research indicates that IAB's provide useful information and that students who take 4 or more IABs, regardless of their achievement level, show stronger growth on the Smarter Balanced summative tests in both ELA and math. Ajit also told us that reading is the hardest area to move in terms of improving scores which is certainly what we see in our district data as well.

Item 9. Information Items

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. March 3rd; 6:00 PM Special meeting of Board to finalize budget and Capital requests

Item 10. Citizens' comments

Parent Andrea Weber: I have students at Tyl and Oakdale, addressed safety concerns regarding a bus driver.

Sandra Berardy responded that this is a personnel issue and the Board will discuss it with Mrs. Pallin to determine the outcome of the complaint.

Item 11. Adjournment

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair
Montville Board of Education
Minutes Approved: _____

Monica Pomazon, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

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