



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Electronic Meeting
March 31, 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 participated in the pledge. Board members participating in this electronic meeting were: Bob Mitchell, James Wood, Carol Burgess, Steven Loiler, Dana Ladyga and Monica Pomazon. Absent were Sheelagh Lapinski and Joe Aquitante.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Director of Special Education Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrator David Gollsneider, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, and Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz.

Board Chair reminded non Board attendees to wait until the end of the meeting for comments.

Item 2. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action to adopt CUBE proposed Policy no. 6114.8

Motion: The Board hereby suspends provisions of its policies and/or whole policies, as identified by the Superintendent or designee, if such suspension is necessary to implement the written guidance from CSDE relating to containing COVID-19 for the duration identified in the Governor's order of school closure. The Board grants to the Superintendent the following temporary powers to address the COVID-19 pandemic emergency:

Sandra asked Jim Wood to review the policy with the Board.

1. Authority to temporarily waive such Board policies or provisions of Board policies as the Superintendent shall deem necessary to comply with guidance from

- appropriate health or governmental authorities or necessary for other effective response.
2. Authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, to provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction from appropriate health and government authorities. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, adjustments to the curriculum and the provision of alternate educational program options; modifications to the school calendar; adjustments to the delivery of school-provided meals; limitations on access to District property; applying to any governmental body for financial or other aid as may be available; and applying to any governmental body for waiver of regulations or requirements, compliance with which is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.
 3. Authority to enter into contracts without Board approval for any dollar amount for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, or services for sanitation, cleaning, technology, or other needs directly related to the COVID-19 emergency situation, provided such action is consistent with all applicable State and Federal laws.
 4. Authority to close any school facility without further action by this Board. Such closure shall continue during the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic until such time as the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate health and government authorities, deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.
 5. Authority based upon the needs of the District and the guidance from health and government agencies disseminated by CSDE, to direct staff assignments during District closures, including but not limited to essential employees who must report to work, employees who may be reassigned, and employees whose services are not needed.
 6. Authority to limit access to public school grounds and District buildings during school closures.
 7. Authority to waive the requirements requiring advertising for bids and competitive bid procedures for purchases which may be necessary due to the emergency. The Superintendent will document the reasons for which prompt remedial action is necessary to prevent physical injury to persons or to property of the District.

Moved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

- b. It is recommended that the Board consider and approve a bid waiver for constructing a security vestibule, installation of cameras, and access control for the main entrance at Tyl Middle School under the State Security Grant. The vendors selected to complete this work are WR Allen Company and Integrated Security Solutions, LLC. which are existing vendors for the Montville Board of Education.**

Motion: The Board approves a bid waiver for constructing a security vestibule, installation of cameras, and access control for the main entrance at Tyl Middle School under the State Security Grant. The vendors selected to complete this work are WR Allen Company and Integrated Security Solutions, LLC. which are existing vendors for the Montville Board of Education.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Opposed: Steven Loiler
Vote: Carried (6-1-0)

Steven Loiler – I do not oppose the work but I do not understand why the bid waiver is necessary. Superintendent Pallin – We felt with the uncertainty surrounding the date for re-opening of school it would be wise to move this project along at this time.

- c. Consideration and action to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-215F, The Montville Board of Education certifying that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.**

Motion: Consideration and action to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-215F, The Montville Board of Education certifying that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Steven Loiler

Vote: Carried (7-0)

- d. That the district will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the CNS, provided 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items 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 to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.**

Motion: That the district will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the CNS, provided 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items 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 to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Carol Burgess

Vote: Carried (7-0)

- e. The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the 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. The “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, and must be the same place as the beverage sales

Motion: That the board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the 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. The “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, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

- f. Consideration and action to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Richard Ashley not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)

Motion: That the contract of employment of Richard Ashley not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources).

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Steven Loiler
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Laurie explained: Richard has done an excellent job in his first year at MPS, however he was hired under a one-year contract and was aware that the position would not be renewed as a result of reorganizing certified staff within the school.

Update from Superintendent Pallin: It was with great anticipation and some anxiety that we launched our formal distance learning program on Monday with SeeSaw for K-2 and Google Classroom for the older students. We have had some bumps with the technology which were expected. IT staff, Teachers and Principals have been working to respond to parents' concerns and issues.

Dianne Vumback – Since last week, teachers have reached out to all students in some form or fashion and are now ensuring that students are engaging in their learning. Students are leaving messages for their teachers expressing their excitement to be back and learning. We have two check points during the day to ensure students are signing on. The teachers are proving to be resilient in this new platform. Parents have been grateful, appreciative and a little overwhelmed. Many parents have to work and manage several students learning within their household. Yesterday was a really positive day.

Supt Pallin – We have our second distribution of devices tomorrow, and it has been organized to ensure limited involvement between parents and staff. We have 600-700 Chromebooks ready for pickup tomorrow. This second wave will ensure every student in grades 2-12 has a device at home. Our last wave will include students who require iPads; they have been ordered and we await their delivery. Chromebooks will be loaned out until the iPads are received. We have direction from the State Department on safe procedures for both meal and device handouts which we will follow.

Internet – We have collected contact information for all families who do not have internet. We called each family and provided them with the information to add internet in their homes. Some families will require additional assistance and we will work with them on that.

Dana – Regarding virtual learning, I am a parent and both my husband and I are essential workers, how strict will the grading be on this? Supt. Pallin: There will an incredible amount of leniency in the first couple of weeks, we all need to have patience and flexibility at every level. In terms of grading and attendance, we have set out standards for the district in the absence of guidance from the state. It is my belief that the state will not collect attendance from March 16th on, and we will be collecting data for our own purposes. This will allow us to monitor that our students are okay and to encourage students to participate. Checking in daily will allow students to interact with teachers and staff, and there is extreme value in that. Teachers are providing feedback on assignments more in an effort to continue student learning than to assign grades. We want to set something up that does kids no harm. We do not want these grades to hurt our students but will ensure that they act as feedback to incentivize their work. All distance learning grades will go into the fourth quarter at the high school level, which means the fourth quarter will be longer than

planned. We have paras who are working remotely to provide one to one assistance for special education students. They may have extra hours which we can use to help additional students. I offered this in my last letter to parents and we will continue to encourage parents to reach out when they need additional supports.

The Commissioner advised us today that he will make an announcement on April 10th about any extension of school closures. The state also provided information on grants saying the ECS and Excess Cost grants will be paid on time. They are looking at other grants and our ability to carry money forward into next year if it is not spent this year. We were advised to track our expenditures in response to COVID-19 in the event that there will be FEMA relief for education costs, Kathy is already working on this.

We have put out to all parents that they have the ability to opt out their students out of the group conference classes because parents would be able to see and hear the classes. We had five families opt out to date.

Joe Jaskiewicz- Regarding the security grant, between the capital budget and the security grant you have enough money to cover the items in the bid waiver? Supt. Pallin- Yes we have more than enough. There will still be money to fund other projects listed in that grant.

3. Adjournment

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Monica Pomazon, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____