



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
Electronic Meeting  
April 7, 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, Dana Ladyga, and Monica Pomazon. Absent were Steven Loiler, Carol Burgess, Sheelagh Lapinski, and Joe Aquitante.

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

**Item 2. New Business**

**a. Discussion regarding plans in response to COVID-19**

*Sandra Berardy asked Laurie to explain progress over the past week.*

*Superintendent Pallin addressed the changes in employment due to Executive Order 7R, which requires staff work where practicable or receive a furlough notice if they are not able to work. This means staff who elect not to work would be ineligible for unemployment. This impacted para's, part-time secretaries, behaviorists, job coaches and tutors who are able to work from home. If they do not accept the employment which was offered they can resign or apply for up to twelve weeks of expanded FMLA under FFCRA to care for children at home at 2/3 their regular pay. If they choose to work we are very flexible around that work and the hours.*

*The second group of employees are those who are unable to perform work remotely including bus drivers, crossing guards and monitors. This group has been furloughed which means they are still employees of the Board of Education, will maintain their seniority and contractual rights and are eligible for unemployment.*

*Monica – When do they have to advise you by and when does this need to be implemented?  
Laurie: Job coaches and Para’s were advised on Friday and asked to respond by April 6<sup>th</sup>  
and those that we have not heard from were contacted today. Para’s will receive their  
assignments tomorrow.*

*We received information about a meeting on Friday regarding FEMA relief, hopefully we  
will learn what we are eligible for and the process for applying. It is very difficult to  
determine where this year’s budget will end with all of the uncertainty. We have used  
savings in some areas (like spring sports) to offset costs in other areas (like technology). I  
have spoken with the Mayor regarding planning for our budget for next year and at this  
time the plans are to hold the public hearings as scheduled. My suggestion is that, prior  
to the public hearing, the Board reviews the budget they approved for 2020-2021. We can  
use our regularly scheduled meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> to review our 2020-2021 budget as there  
are several areas where we might make reductions.*

*The device distribution continues and we are awaiting the delivery date of the iPads. We  
will set one more distribution date for those and will do so following all safety guidelines.*

*While we are considered essential staff and therefore are able to come to work, we are  
working a skeleton staff in each building with most employees working remotely.  
Custodians are working alone in separate areas of each building to ensure social  
separation.*

*I suggest we cancel the communications meeting scheduled for this week, I feel our parents  
are saturated with communications as they are receiving many School Messenger calls and  
emails from me and their principals.*

*Before closing, I cannot say enough about how fortunate we are to have the staff that we  
have from secretaries, IT, administrators, food services, and custodians, the work has been  
fast and furious and our staff has risen to the occasion. While we have fielded a few  
complaints and concerns, we have also received many messages of gratitude for the work  
that has been done to support our students. I know the staff and students are all looking  
forward to April break and will need the rest!*

*Mayor McDaniel- Madam Chairwoman I cannot say enough about the job Laurie has done  
to lead the district during this difficult time. She has been in constant contact with me, and  
has gone above and beyond to educate our children, you are lucky to have her!*

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by: Jim Wood  
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon  
Vote: Carried (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Monica Pomazon, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

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