

**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**August 6, 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.**

**Electronic Meeting via Zoom**

**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 participating were: Bob Mitchell, James Wood, Carol Burgess, Joe Aquitante, and Monica Pomazon. Sheelagh Lapinski, Steven Loiler, James Wood and Dana Ladyga were absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Paula LaChance, Amanda Brown, Marc Romano, David Gollsneider, Jill Mazzalupo, Jason Daly, Rob Alves, Will Klinefelter, Laura Zurell, M.J. Dix, Amy Espinoza, and Heather Sangermano, student Board Representatives David Baukus and Gigi Johnson, Mayor Ron McDaniel and Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz.

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

*None.*

**Item 3. Open discussion of Montville's plan to reopen schools with Board members, representative parents and community members.**

*Board Chair Sandra Berardy opened the meeting and asked Superintendent Pallin to explain the recommended change to a Hybrid Learning model.*

*Superintendent Pallin reviewed the plan to begin the 2020-2021 school year using a hybrid model as a result of the change in guidance from the State which had previously required a plan to open schools with all students in-person daily. This recommendation comes after meetings with the steering committee and administrative team as well as area superintendents to develop the best plan to re-open schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The hybrid model would have 50% of students attending in-person Monday and Tuesday and distance learning Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The second group would distance learn Monday through Wednesday and attend in-person on Thursday and Friday. This plan will allow us to reduce the density of students in our classroom and common areas including hallways and bathrooms. Starting with the hybrid model will allow us to practice our new policies and phase into full in-person school days much like the state has done. At our September Board meeting we can discuss the first weeks of implementation of the hybrid model and plans and possible dates to move to phase two.*

*This model would also allow for safe social distancing on buses, thorough cleaning of the buildings on Wednesdays between the two cohorts, and five days between each cohort's in-person days. We believe that this will reduce potential incidents of contagious students entering the buildings.*

*We have a lot of mitigating strategies that we have put in place, vents have been cleaned, Plexiglas shields have been installed, and filters have been changed on all ac units.*

*Bob Mitchell- Will you be able to staff this hybrid model? Laurie: I believe that the staffing needs will be the same and I am hopeful that parents will feel more comfortable sending their students with this hybrid model which provides more safety measures.*

*Monica: How does this impact special education students? Laurie: Paula and the special education program leaders have a meeting with the state department team. We are discussing a four day preschool and possibly four days for some of our special education students.*

*Joy Valenti: How will cohorts be split? Laurie: Roughly by last name, A-K and L-Z, ensuring that siblings or students living at the same address are attending on the same days. Joy: I understand that things are changing daily and I am hopeful that whatever we decide we commit to so parents can plan. Laurie: I understand how difficult this is, I do believe in this plan and feel it is the best way to keep staff and students safe. As long as we are not told we have to go fully remote, we will use this plan and will give as much time as possible for changes.*

*Shannon Moreau: We have a less than 1% positivity rate currently, why wouldn't we want all students to be in school right now? Laurie: I do not believe that we can maintain the six recommended mitigating strategies fully with all students in the buildings, and we need time to practice everything we have put in place.*

*Joe Aquitante: How are you going to handle end-of-the-day dismissals to ensure social distancing? Heather Sangermano; We are dividing our bus loading locations and staggering our dismissal times.*

*Aimee Estelle: It appears based on the school calendar that there are many weeks that cohort 1 would have less in-person days, have you considered this? Laurie: Yes we have and we have plans in place to ensure that the number of in-person days are equal including possibly changing the calendar to hold school on election day if we are still in the hybrid model in November.*

*Parent: On distance learning days will students have access to their teachers to ask questions? Laurie: That is tricky, but likely no. We are still working out the details of that piece of this plan. Will there be paras available on the distance learning days as they were in the spring? Laurie: Yes, we hope to use paras in much the same way we did in the spring on distance learning days.*

*Parent: If fall sports happen at the HS level happen, would distance learning students be allowed to participate? Laurie: Yes, they would and we are working to see if we can plan for transportation to sports for the cohort which is distance learning. Students who choose 100% remote learning would not be allowed to come in and join teams after school.*

*Tara Jones: Have teachers considered how they will accommodate their own children if we use the hybrid model, have you given consideration on how to help the teachers with childcare needs? Laurie: We have given this a great deal of consideration, our first step after this meeting is to communicate the plan to staff members and to determine how many staff members this hybrid plan will impact. Why aren't we not considering a September 8<sup>th</sup> start date rather than having early dismissals? Laurie: I want to start as early as possible to ensure we get as many days with our*

*students as possible, and allowing time for teachers in the first six days of PD for teachers to get together and plan. On Wednesdays they will be able to plan their days as needed.*

*Parent: Would the distance learning lessons be available in the evening or on the weekends?  
Laurie: Yes, you would advise your teacher that you will need additional flexibility.*

*Sandra: Asked each Board member if they agree with the plan, each board member responded that they do. Sandra: This decision does not require a vote but we have all agreed that this is the plan we will move forward with as a district.*

**Item 4. Community Comments**

*None*

**Item 5. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon  
Vote: Carried (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:47P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair  
Montville Board of Education  
Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Monica Pomazon, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

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