



**MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MHS LIBRARY
December 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Chair Monica Pomazon called the meeting to order at **5:00 p.m.** All stood for the pledge. Committee members present were Sandra Berardy and Robert Mitchell. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, MHS Principal Heather Sangermano, Athletic Director Marc Romano, and Student Representatives David Baukus and Gigi Johnston.

Item 2. Discussion of actions based on community survey results

Superintendent Pallin discussed the district's response to the results of the community survey which was administered to students, teachers and community in November. The results were discussed by the School Community Voice team consisting of administrators, staff, parents, and students. The administrative team also reviewed both the quantitative and narrative responses. The Labor Management Committee (meeting as part of the MOU to address items unique to the Pandemic) also reviewed survey results. We have already taken a number of actions in response to the survey results including changes to the "specials" at the elementary level. They have been changed to optional activities during distance learning days, and in January they will only be offered on in-person days and through optional activities on Wednesdays. Special area teachers will support identified students as mentors on distance learning days. The high school implemented a Wednesday intervention for at-risk students. This past Wednesday they invited 20 students and 17 students came to build skills as independent learners so that they can become more successful on distance learning days. These students will come again next Wednesday. Different groups of students will be added to participate in this 2 week intervention. Student engagement was identified as an issue in the survey and as a result professional development was offered to teachers. The high school administration met individually with every teacher to build a bank of strategies to increase student engagement. There has also been an increased focus on the use of Zoom to provide synchronous live instruction to distance learners and our network study is underway. Additionally, students in the high needs population that met specified criteria have been encouraged to return to in-person learning all four days. Administration worked at rewording the questions on the surveys to ensure they provide actionable results and this survey will be out to families, students, and teachers for a second round next week.

Item 3. Public Relations at MHS

Marc Romano led a discussion on the Montville logo and image. An audit was conducted to assess the banners, art work, and signage that contain an image linked to the Indian nickname. This had been a previous discussion topic of the Board, and it was determined that Laurie and Marc will reach out to

Mayor Ron McDaniel and the Mohegan Tribe to discuss next steps in the use of Native American logos and the Indian nickname.

Item 4. Budget forums and budget communications

Discussion ensued over potential budget forum dates and the platform in which we will engage the community in the process.

Item 5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:14 pm

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Sandra Berardy

Vote: Carried (vote 3-0)

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica Pomazon
Communications Committee Chair