



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 16, 2021 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.

**Library Media Center
Electronic Zoom Meeting**

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 attending were: Bob Mitchell, James Wood, Monica Pomazon, Sheelagh Lapinski, and Wills Pike. Board Members Joe Aquitante, Carol Burgess, and Dana Ladyga, were absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Paula LaChance, M.J. Dix, Amy Espinoza, Jill Mazzalupo, Theresa Gouveia, Amanda Brown, Jason Daly, Rob Alves, Will, Klinefelter, David Gollsneider, Marc Romano, and Heather Sangermano; Student Board Representatives David Baukus and Gigi Johnston.

Board Chair Sandra Berardy proposed the following alterations to the agenda:

Add item 6e. Discussion and possible action to transfer \$73,270 from salary (objects 111-130) to equipment (objects 730-739) to fund the purchase of equipment for technology and transportation (laptop lease for secretaries, nurses and substitutes- \$15,120; iMac lab replacement - \$39,560; iPads - \$12,090, used bus purchase - \$6,500)

Add item 6f. Discussion and possible action to reduce the total to the Board's Budget for 2021-2022 from \$39,952,910 (a 1.73% increase) to \$39,886,140 (a 1.56% increase) if transfers in agenda item 6e are approved.

Item 2. Presentations

Recognition of Board Members

The Board Members and Student Board Representatives were presented with a small gift and Superintendent Pallin thanked them for their support and contributions to the district.

Montville Marvels Virtual Presentations

Elementary Principals shared the March Montville Marvels presentations as follows:

Mohegan Elementary School - For making an immediate impact on the social/emotional health of Montville students and going above and beyond to ensure the needs of her students and their families are met - Tara Alosky.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary School - For using their talents to assist teachers and administrators during COVID-19 instruction in immeasurable and invaluable ways- Liz Dumond and Michele Lathrop.

Oakdale Elementary School - For going above and beyond in her role as the full-time secretary at Oakdale School, working with PowerSchool to create online registration for the district, training other secretaries, and serving on the attendance committee- Allie Forte.

Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only)

None

Item 4. Letters and Communications

None

Item 5. Approval of the Consent Calendar

a. Budget update; Kathy Lamoureux

Motion: To approve the consent calendar.

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

Budget Update from Kathy Lamoureux:

Since the last meeting we have continued reviewing and projecting out the salary accounts. The salary accounts comprise objects 111 through 130. As we have stated previously, the 20-21 and the 21-22 budgets have been developed assuming a normal school year of 181 student days and all students attending in-school 5 days a week. However, for most of the 20-21 school year this has not occurred, and therefore many of the salary accounts are projecting a surplus. Since payroll taxes and pension costs are tied to salary, it is anticipated that these objects will also have surpluses at year-end.

The surplus in certified staff (object 111) is a result of late retirements, positions which were unfilled at the start of the year, a position not filled because of the number of fully remote learners this year, staff using the FFCRA leave at reduced pay to care for children out of school, and long-

term leaves that are occurring during the school year. Additionally, there several certified staff who have resigned or taken leave prior to the end of the school year and are currently being covered by substitutes. The overage reflected in 111 is tied to a projected shortage in object 130: substitute teachers. As you are aware, the district utilized some of the CRF funding to pay for substitutes through Dec. 30 but since then all substitute costs are being paid through the operating budget.

Object 112 non-certified staff, is also projected to have an overage. This is a result of several vacancies we have left unfilled, having in-school instruction for four out of five days and driver shortages that we experienced throughout the school year. The majority of the surplus in this object is attributed to the different transportation functions. In addition to the reduced number of days for transportation, there has not been transportation for field trips, late buses, and internships since the start of the school year and we have run very minimal out-of-school activities this year.

Monitors, object 113, is projected to have an overage for the same reasons. The account after the 3/18 payroll will have \$134,088 remaining of \$241,375 which represents 55.55% of the budgeted amount though we have only 38% of the school year remaining. With students returning to school, it is anticipated the daily costs for monitors may increase to manage the larger school population.

At this point in the year, custodial help and substitutes, object 115, is projected to have a shortage at year-end based on needing additional coverage to maintain the buildings. The shortage was reduced because the CRF grant was used to fund unbudgeted wages through 12/30.

The paraprofessional object 116 is projected to have a surplus. Again this is because of the number of unfilled vacancies (we currently have 10 unfilled positions), reduced hours, and remote learning requiring fewer positions during the school year. We continue to work to hire paras which may reduce the surplus.

Coaching, object 117, is also projected to have a surplus. The overage occurred as some of the after school activities did not run this school year.

In summary the salary accounts at this time, in aggregate, are projecting a surplus.

Therefore, I would like to discuss the idea that was proposed at the last budget meeting. If the Board elected to purchase the technology (ipads, imac lab and the lease for the secretaries, nurses and perm subs) that was requested in the proposed 21-22 budget for \$66,770, I feel the budget can support this transfer. If this transfer was approved, it would reduce the proposed 21-22 budget and the adjusted budget would reflect a 1.56% increase over the current appropriation.

Additionally we would like to request a transfer to purchase a used bus for \$6,500. The purchase is necessary to transport students since 6 buses were taken out of service and scrapped this year. These six buses had rotting frames or cannot be repaired and would not pass DMV inspections. The mechanic, Ernie Bogue, has carefully inspected the used bus available for purchase and believes it is well-maintained and in good condition and will augment our newer fleet.

Food Service:

As we have previously indicated, the food service program has generated a loss during the current fiscal year as a result of the reduced schedules, fewer students and serving the community. As of January 31, 2021 the program reflected a loss of approximately \$31,000. It is anticipated the

Board will have some saving in the employee benefit objects and I would like to advise the Board that we intend to fund a larger portion of the employees' health insurance this fiscal year. This would not require a Board transfer because it will be done under the employee benefit category. The 2021-22 food service budget requests a small increase and this would help if they have another difficult year.

Supplies/Textbooks

As you are aware, April is the beginning of the district's spending cycle for purchasing supplies and textbooks for next year school year. This spending cycle allows for delivery of items to ensure a smooth opening to the 21-22 school year.

Item 6. New Business

- a. 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, 2021 and June 30, 2022. 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: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies 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

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

- b. Consideration and action to allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the CNS, 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 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: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards 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 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 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 food sales

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

- c. 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 “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 and beverages are being sold.

Motion: 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.

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

- d. Consideration and action to set the week of May 3rd as Teacher Appreciation Week.

Motion: To set the week of May 3rd as Teacher Appreciation Week.

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

- e. Discussion and possible action to transfer \$73,270 from Salary (objects 111-130) to equipment (objects 730-739) to fund the purchase of equipment for technology and transportation.

Motion: The Board moves to transfer \$73,270 from salary objects (111-130) to equipment (objects 730-739) to fund technology (\$66,770) and the purchase of a bus (\$6,500).

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

Sandra – Could we fund this out of the grant? Laurie – We could, but we have a lot of needs for the grant which I will share with you later in the meeting.

- f. Discussion and possible action to reduce the total of the Board’s Budget request for 2021-2022 from \$39,952,910 (a 1.73% increase) to \$39,886,140 (a 1.56% increase)

Motion: The Board moves to reduce the 2021-2022 budget request from \$39,952,910 to \$39,886,140

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

Item. 7 Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. **Policy – Jim Wood** *No Meeting was held*
- b. **Education Evaluation – Bob Mitchell** *No Quorum, we had a conversation regarding a new Spanish class which will be presented to The Board as a whole for approval at our April meeting.*
- c. **Communications Committee – Monica Pomazon;** *Discussed the critical needs which were added to the 2021-2022 budget and how best to share this information with the Town Council and community members. At the committee’s suggestion, one page descriptions of each of these request have been created to better communicate the needs. Laurie shared the document created and it will be posted on the district website.*
- d. **Montville Education Foundation – Laurie,** *no information, as the previous meeting conflicted with a budget meeting.*
- e. **LEARN Bob-** *Laurie presented at our last meeting, she did a wonderful job and fielded many questions.*
- f. **CABE/NSBA – Bob,** *tomorrow is the Annual Day on the Hill which will be virtual. Sandra and I are both registered for this event.*

- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau** – Sheelagh- MYSB completed a survey of grades 7-10 students in which they indicated they have felt lonely or isolated during the pandemic. Youth Service Bureau paid for the streaming of the movie “Like” about social media and social pressures, on April 8th there will be a panel discussion about the movie. There will be a blood drive on April 13th.
- h. Student Board Representatives**

David Baukus; Senior Class - During February, much has happened throughout the school. First, student government has finalized the date for the blood drive and has begun registering students to take part. Students age 17 and older who fit the necessary criteria will be able to sign up either online or on the app. This is being promoted throughout the school with fliers, and at all lunch waves where a member of the government is outside of the cafeteria in case anybody has any questions on how to sign up. Those that do donate will receive a five dollar Dunkin gift card from student gov, and a ten dollar e-gift card from the Red Cross.

The seniors have also had a busy month, as Project Grad hosted the 100 days till graduation parade for the graduating class. In the parade, families and teachers lined up with the local fire and police department to honor the seniors and to celebrate with them that they are in their final stretch here at Montville High School. The organizers passed out drinks, ice cream, and goodie bags to all participating, and all the students who drove through were entered into a raffle for different gift cards or t-shirts as prizes. Furthermore, their class council has been hard at work trying to figure out different activities and celebrations that they can do in place of what would happen in a normal year. So far, they have made great progress in planning a formal dinner event, and a possible food-truck breakfast for the class. As of right now, nothing has been finalized, but the council is working very hard to get something concrete to announce to the rest of the class.

GiGi Johnston; Junior Class – Since the last meeting, nothing super exciting has happened because of the lack of after school clubs and activities because of the situation we are in, and because we are beginning to shift to spring sports and wrap up winter sports. To recap the winter sports’ season, we were very fortunate to have a basketball season at all, especially with the other sports not being able to take place. The coaches and athletes believed it to be successful, with following the guidelines to ensure everyone’s safety and monitoring symptoms as well as getting players their experience on the court, even with it being a little different. The girls’ and boys’ basketball teams have completed their regular season and have both qualified for the postseason experience, entering the ECC tournament tomorrow with their first games.

The new strength and conditioning program became successful and popular, with 36 students joining. Most of the athletes are training to get into shape for their upcoming spring sports, and participate in various circuits of exercises. It has been taken into consideration to do this again sometime next year because of the positive outcome. In addition, next week on March 22nd, the seniors on the wrestling team will be recognized to appreciate their hard work and dedication in the past years, and this will be livestreamed online.

Spring Sports officially start on March 27th, but the annual “pitchers and catchers” baseball preseason program begins next Monday. The final protocols for the season are

being finalized and should be completed shortly. It is also exciting to hear that Tyl Middle School is holding girls' and boys' track teams this year, so hopefully some more athletes will join the high school teams next year.

The new Student Athlete Advisory Council has put together a mask drive that started today, and plans on donating all masks that they receive. The council also promoted that all athletes wore white during the first week of March as a fun way to build spirit in the school, and this was a popular event as well.

- i. Principals' Report: Technology Use in a 1:1 Environment, Jill Mazzalupo and David Gollsneider** – *Oakdale Principal Jill Mazzalupo and Palmer Assistant Principal David Gollsneider overviewed the current status of the 1:1 program at all levels, including a description of how technology is used by both staff and students, increasing engagement and connecting both students and staff.*

Jim Wood: What do you think the biggest benefit to students has been over the past year? Jill: The teachers were tremendous becoming comfortable with this, they were nervous about synchronous learning. It was heartwarming seeing the connection between the students at home and the students in the classrooms. David: One positive has been the work that the teachers have done to embrace this process, and the connection with parents has increased through the use of Zoom.

- j. Board Chair Remarks** – *Chair Sandra Berardy, reminded everyone that this is a fluid year with many changes, particularly with the grant funding which is being made available.*

Item 8. Superintendent's Report

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

I have begun the process of planning for ESY. Postings have gone out, and I have met with various staff to discuss referral, needs and programming. At this point I have a limited amount of staff interested in working ESY so I have begun to network with area districts for outside support.

I have held monthly meetings with my support staff and begun discussions around transitions for students between buildings and grade levels. Theresa and Amanda will be conducting transition meetings beginning next month. Additionally the three of us have been solidifying plans for students' increased in-person participation.

Yesterday we had a full day of training for special education teachers, school psychologists and social workers on the development and implementation of Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans. This was conducted by Andrew Moyer, our contracted BCBA and owner of APEX Education Solutions. On March 26th we will be holding a HWC Training as well as hosting a workshop for secondary level staff on Transition Planning. Transition Planning is a big piece of the IEP for secondary students and begins at age 14 for those on the spectrum. There

is new legislation coming out changing this law to include all students with an IEP starting at age 14. So the timing for this training will be helpful.

Sandra: Have you seen any of the students flourish with the use of technology? Paula: Some have with the one on one instruction that the technology allows for.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

Celebration – *It was “employee appreciation day” on March 5th and Laurie, Paula, and I delivered over 540 donuts to all schools and departments within our district. It was our way of showing our gratitude for their commitment and perseverance – particularly during such challenging times. It really takes all of us working together to be able to accomplish all that we have been able to do this year. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team!*

Assessments – *We are gearing up for the state mandated assessments. As a reminder, the state is requiring districts to administer these assessments to all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11; however, the student outcomes will not be tied to any form of accountability. With that said, we will be administering the Smarter Balanced Assessment and NGSS beginning mid-to-late April. SATs will be administered on March 24th. Preparations have been underway at the district and at the school level. AP exams begin early May.*

LAS links testing for our EL population is close to completion. We have a very few students left to assess, mostly our fully remote students. The state did extend the deadline to April 30th to ensure the time to get it all done.

UCFS – *I wanted to recognize our relationship with UCFS. Our partnership has really grown over the last two years and they have truly become a dedicated partner of ours. They have worked with us in many areas, particularly around COVID, whether it was performing rapid tests, supporting us with their knowledge and information around vaccinations, and agreeing to do physicals for students so they could return to school as soon as possible. They understand the challenges of getting students in school and are a great help in removing barriers. They also wrote a grant to do some collaborative work with us and we will use their counseling expertise over the summer working with some of our struggling and at-risk students.*

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

COVID-19 Data – *Rates continue to decline in Montville as shown in the most recent data which runs through March 6, 2021. In district in the last week, we have had only two cases; one of which had one close contact.*

ESSER II Grant Funds – *The district draft plan for the use of the ESSER II Grant was reviewed. It is due to the state on April 5th. Highlighted were a variety of supports to promote learning acceleration and recovery, school safety and social-emotional well-being of the “whole student” and school staff, and remote learning and staff development. A document was shared with the Board which provided the specific assessment and survey data used to identify areas of need across the district, the strategies proposed to address those needs, and the costs to implement those strategies over the next two years. The grant allocation for Montville is \$1,192,789 and these funds are to be spent to support recovery efforts through Sept. 2023. Laurie will continue to work with*

the administrative team and Kathy to fine-tune the plan over the next several weeks. Once submitted, the plan can be modified if necessary.

Future Planning - *The administrative team is beginning to look at where the district would like to be as we emerge from this pandemic. Our priority right now is rebuilding our community, reestablish our classrooms and recovering and accelerating learning. The administrative team is defining what they believe true learning is and will turn these ideas into a list of questions to return to in order to ensure we are approaching everything we do with these core questions. What do we do that supports learning? What are we doing that does not? How would we like to change?*

Elementary Thank You Cards – *Elementary principals, teachers and students are working to write letters of thanks to parents for their unparalleled support for student learning this year. Parents’ partnerships with teachers this year have been essential to support student learning and we wanted parents to know how much they are appreciated.*

Item 9. Information Items

- a. Public Hearing on General Government Budget, April 28, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Montville Town Hall
- b. Public Hearing on Board of Education Budget, April 29, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Montville Town Hall

Item 10. Future Agenda Items

None

Item 11. Citizen’s Comments

None

Item 12. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Sheelagh Lapinski
Vote: Carried (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Monica Pomazon, Secretary
Montville Board of Education