



**SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 22, 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/Zoom

Item 1. Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Sandra Berardy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Facilities Steve Carroll, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, and Administrator Paula LaChance.

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

None

Item 3. Letters and Communications

None

Item 4. Presentations

- a. Presentation of version 1.0 of Montville's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services and Feedback from the Board of Education Stakeholder Group**

Superintendent Pallin presented the In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan – Reimagining Schools to Transform Students’ Lives, the initial plan can be found on the district website.

Wills Pike: (Speaking to parent comments about lack of AC in Schools) AC is a bond issue and falls outside of the realm of this conversation. Laurie: Agreed – Steve is exploring options for the areas which are the most uncomfortable. Wills Pike: I feel this is a conversation for the Town. Steve: At this point we are just researching some options.

Dana: I think it is important that we do a better job this year on being objective. I think there were some issues this year and hope we can dig a little deeper on bullets 3 and 5 under SEL. Monica: I think it’s important that we use the opinions which the parents provided as they are the stakeholders.

Item 5. Approval of the Consent Calendar

Motion: To approve the consent calendar.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Wills Pike

Vote: Carried (9-0)

a. Budget Update; Kathy Lamoureux

MERS Audit - We have been selected by their auditors for testing payroll and personnel records for a sample of our employees for the fiscal year 2020. They indicated this work is necessary for the auditors to provide an audit opinion on the pension for the Town’s annual financial statement as required by GASB 68. We are currently working with our software vendor to create the most appropriate reports to meet their needs.

Budget Projections – We are projecting approximately \$525,000 in surplus after transferring \$50,000 to the Oakdale Site improvement plan based on the bids that were received. The surplus has increased because of less trending needed for projecting staffing costs and the tuitions accounts have a higher surplus than originally reported. The tuitions accounts are an area that is very volatile and can have significant changes based on the student population. As noted previously, since the budget was developed we have had three students enroll who were previously out of district placements. The current increase in surplus is a result of the purchase orders modified based on student services and movement that occurred during the fiscal year.

Bids for Oakdale site improvement - There were four bids ranging from \$311,700 to \$393,991. Currently CLA Engineers, Inc. is reviewing the bids to make a recommendation. The transfer proposed assumes the bid will be awarded to the low bidder.

*Wills – We are requesting that the \$525,000 be put in the 2% account? Kathy- Correct.
Wills – I have spoken with the Town Councilors they are good with this.*

Item 6. New Business

- a. Status of discussion with Mohegan Tribal Council regarding the use of the “Indian” name and images honoring the schools’ relationship with the Mohegan Tribe.**

Superintendent Pallin – I want to clarify that we do not have an Indian Mascot, we use an honorific image and name. We have been in discussions with The Tribe for some time and will continue to work with them to honor and respect their wishes.

- b. Consideration and action to approve Montville High School new course, Mathematical Problem Solving, as recommended by the E&E Committee.**

Motion: The Board moved to approve Montville High School new course, Mathematical Problem Solving, as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (9-0)

E&E Chair Bob Mitchell reviewed the course which aids students in gaining skills for Algebra 2 and is a 1.0 credit course.

- c. Consideration and action to approve new Montville High School Course, Finance Foundations, as recommended by the E&E Committee.**

Motion: The Board moved to approve new Montville High School Course, Finance Foundations, as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Sheelagh Lapinski
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Designed for Special Education students at MHS, a .50 credit course in Personal Finance. Monica: Does this mirror a course for regular education students? Bob: Yes

Palmer students could elect to take any High School Course and would be provided with transportation to the High School.

- d. Consideration and action to approve new Montville High School Course, Adaptive Music, as recommended by the E&E Committee.**

Motion: The Board moved to approve new Montville High School Course, Adaptive Music, as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (9-0)

This is a .50 credit course to supplement existing music courses for Special Education classes.

e. Consideration and action to assign Board Member(s) to a committee to write a districtwide technology plan.

Motion: The Board moved to assign Board Member(s) Bob Mitchell to a committee to write a districtwide technology plan.

Moved by: Joe Aquitante
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (9-0)

f. Consideration and action to set August 18 or 19 for The Board Retreat.

Motion: The Board moved to set August 19 for The Board Retreat

Moved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (9-0)

g. Consideration and action to assign Board Member(s) to the Montville Administrators Association Negotiations committee

Motion: The Board moved to assign Board Member(s) Jim Wood and Bob Mitchell to the Montville Administrators Association Negotiations committee, Monica Pomazon will act as an alternate

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried (9-0)

h. Consideration and action to enter into an agreement with Environmental Systems Corporation, an Eversource approved vendor for energy efficiency projects (LED lighting upgrade) at Mohegan, Murphy and Oakdale Elementary Schools contingent upon receipt of the final engineering review from Eversource confirming the proposed savings. The proposal reflects an

estimated cost of \$551,000 with a utility incentive of approximately \$251,000 and a projected annual savings \$66,000 in electricity and maintenance costs. Eversource would finance the project over five years so it will be cost neutral to the budget.

Motion: The Board moved to enter into an agreement with Environmental Systems Corporation for energy efficiency projects

Moved by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Steven Carroll – the Project would include the changing out of around 2500 light bulbs which adds to efficiency and also the quality of the lighting in the classrooms, the current bulbs do not work well with the Smart Boards.

Wills – How is this cost neutral if the projected annual savings is 66K? Steve: The 66K finances the project.

i. Discussion and possible action to transfer \$50,000 from tuition accounts (objects 560-563) to Contracted Services for the paving at Oakdale School.

Motion: The Board moved to discuss the proposal

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Joe Aquitante
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Motion: The Board moved to transfer \$50,000 from tuition accounts (objects 560-563) to Contracted Services for the paving at Oakdale School.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Item 7. Information Items

- a. Pursuant to Policy 1110.1; Community Relations, Parent Involvement, The Parent Involvement Report for each school can be found in your OneNote Notebook under the June meeting.**

Item 9. Superintendent's Report

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

As fate would have it I had an ESY teacher that is no longer able to work the Tyl Social Skills program so am working on replacing that teacher. I am also still down a nurse for Tyl. I am holding nurse interviews tomorrow and Thursday. Hoping to close that chapter as well.

I met with my Supervisors today to work on case manager expectations for next year. We also began discussions for the move to CT SEDS. Although the system doesn't go live until next July there is a lot of preparing to be done. The first step will be to ensure all records are uploaded in frontline. This alone is a big task and we will need to look to all case managers to help with this in the fall. This summer Denise and I will address the out of district student files to the same regard. I would like to have all appropriate documents uploaded into frontline by mid-September in order to begin the download process in October. Trainings will also begin in October to begin implementation in January 2022.

Other than that I am just fine tuning the plans for all staff involved with ESY.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

The summer enrichment programs are staffed and ready to begin on July 6th. We completed our second round of Social Work interviews and we feel confident that we have a candidate who is going to be a great compliment to our existing team so that we can continue to provide student and family support so students can access their learning.

I am excited to say we were accepted into the first round of twenty-five districts who will receive universal screening and assessment of our students on SEL and well-being of our students. This will provide us with a great assessment tool that will give us access to benchmark data and allow us to monitor how we are improving over time.

Second meeting today with Mystic Seaport who are extremely interested in working with us on some really innovative programs for our students. This will give them some hands on learning and field trips. At this point the proposal targets 3, 5 8th and high school students. They have been very supportive and are eager to work with Montville.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

Most of the time over the past week has been spent working on the document that I provided you tonight and working to ensure that our summer is used productively.

Item 9. Citizen's Comments

Krista Smith, 46 Doyle Road, Oakdale. Mother of four children who attend Montville Schools. Here as a voice for my children, it is your elected duty to do what is best for the children of our town. The science does not support children wearing masks. I am asking you to be a leader of CT and not require masks for the reopening of their schools. The people that are making these decisions are far removed from the children. Requested making a plan for masking by choice to send to the State.

Chris Smith, 46 Doyle Road. Spoke to the number of children who have died from the vaccine versus from Covid.

Dana Ladyga, as a parent and Board Member, I am the only Board member with children in the system. I am disappointed that I have not felt my voice was heard in the last year and a half. I do not feel respected and heard and wanted to wait until the right moment. I feel my issues have been swept under the rug. I will not be renewing my Board Seat, I do not feel that my unique perspective is not respected.

Carol Howard, 23 Bayberry Lane, Uncasville – I encourage you to take the unmasking of our children seriously. I hear from both of my daughters how upsetting it is to see their children get off the bus sweaty, hot and out of breath.

Item 10. Future Agenda Items

None

Item 11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Joe Aquitante
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (9-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Monica Pomazon, Secretary
Montville Board of Education