



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
MINUTES**

**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(Zoom), Joe Aquitante, Wills Pike, Sheelagh Lapinski, and Dana Ladyga.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, and Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux (Zoom), and Administrator Paula LaChance.

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

**Board Chair Sandra Berardy reminded participants that the limit to speak will be three minutes per person, comments are listened to but not responded to until the Board addresses them through an agenda item..**

*Amanda, 12 Adamo Ave.; Spoke to concerns regarding masks. Shared a list of the adverse effects of children wearing a mask.*

*Dana Ladyga, Board Member, speaking as a parent, Not in favor of masks, feels parents should be given the choice whether to mask their children.*

**Item 3. Letters and Communications**

*Board Secretary Monica Pomazon shared letters received with the Board, these included:*

- *A letter from Hailey and Jillian Kerwin, thanking Rob Alves for his support of their granddaughters who just graduated.*
- *A letter from Robert Manfredi regarding masks and his concerns surrounding children wearing them for long periods of time.*
- *An e-mail from Julie Chapman expressing her wish that mask-wearing be optional*
- *An e-mail from Mary Calhoun expressing her desire that all students wear masks in schools.*
- *A letter from CAFE thanking the Board for their continued membership.*

**Item 4. New Business**

- a. Consideration and action to approve the agreement between General Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, Local No. 493 and Montville Board of Education.

**Motion: To approve the agreement between General Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, Local No. 493 and Montville Board of Education.**

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

- b. Consideration and action to continue to follow the district mask policy through Sept. 30, 2021

**Motion: To approve the continuation of the district mask policy through September 30, 2021.**

Moved by: Jim Wood  
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon  
Opposed: Dana Ladyga  
Vote: Carried (8-1-0)

*Superintendent Pallin provided updates from both Dr. Walia and the Uncas Health District supporting the continued use of masks and vaccinations. The Directors of all of the Connecticut Health Districts expressed the importance of reinstating a mask requirement for all K-12 schools for the fall.*

*She also explained that Shipman and Goodwin have stated that wearing a mask in school buildings is a legal requirement. We have an obligation to comply with the mask requirements, not doing so exposes the district and Board members personally to liability.*

*Dana: How does this compare to HIPPA Laws? Laurie: HIPPA laws do not apply to contact tracing. Dana: Can we consider ages 12 and up who are vaccinated not require masks? Laurie: No, there is an Executive Order requiring universal masking inside school buildings.*

*Wills Pike: To wear masks, we are in school five days a week? Supt. Pallin: That is correct. Wills: So there is no option for remote learning? Supt. Pallin: That is correct, this year even snow days cannot be made remote learning days.*

*Joe A.: Will they be eating at their desks again? Supt. Pallin: Our students ate in the cafeterias last year and will do so again this year. We will use the gym at Tyl as well to ensure that when they remove their masks to eat they will be about six feet apart.*

c. Implementation of other COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the start of school

*Superintendent Pallin: Masks are required on buses, we have asked parents who are able to do so to transport their students. We will not provide transportation to friends' houses etc.*

*Quarantining: There are several options, our medical advisor has recommended a seven day quarantine with a negative PCR test taken day five or after. Sports will be a ten day quarantine with a test on day 7 or later. We will still require a self-check for staff and students.*

d. Status of summer maintenance projects

*Steve Carroll: Oakdale Parking lot has been completed, and lights were installed. The traffic pattern has been redirected according to plan. Met with Jill and Kerry to review the bus routes and drop-offs and will revisit any issues. Tyl Clocks are up and synced to the internet. The Tyl entrance was completed earlier in the summer. Side of HS parking was completed. MHS and Murphy gym floors are complete. Tyl is being done now. Regarding the lighting project which was proposed, we have received an LOA from Eversource. The rebate came in at \$293K; we have signed the contract and are moving forward to replace the lights at the elementary schools. Steve is looking at feasibility of changing them at Tyl as well. Phones: We are currently negotiating a contract with the lawyers and a vendor. Hoping to get the contractors in to re-cable before the start of the school. Steve's staff went through kitchens and changed out two freezer compressors.*

*Custodians have done a great job, the schools are looking good.*

*Wills: Asked for an update on the technology project and Tyl Roof. Suggested an update for the Town Council as a courtesy to them.*

**Item 5. Old Business**

a. Discussion of ARP ESSER Grant application

*Supt. Pallin: this is the third of the grants that we have received. The results of the student/parent/staff surveys were reviewed, areas of interests were highlighted. There was a great amount of commonality in the priorities outlined. Survey responses were provided to the Board.*

*The grant allocations were outlined and included interventionists, tutors, an additional social worker, items for safety, and some Smartboard replacements. A lot of time, thought and consideration were put into the building of this grant. Everything was based upon a quantifiable need. This grant can be modified, we continue to look at our data and will adjust as needed.*

b. Reminder of Board Goal-Setting Retreat, Aug. 19 at 5:00 in MHS Library

*Jonathon Costa from Ed Advance will be joining us from 5-6, he has been working with us on our Vision of a Graduate and the building goals and then we discuss the Boards Goals.*

**Item 6. Citizen's Comments**

*None*

**Item 7. Future Agenda Items**

*IT Plan*

*Update on data showing the academic growth of students in 21-22*

*CABE Delegate Assembly*

**Item 8. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Joe Aquitante

Seconded by: Monica Pomazon

Vote: Carried (9-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:13P.M.

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

Monica Pomazon, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education