



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. MINUTES**

**Board of Education Goal:**

**Montville graduates will possess the skills and dispositions to navigate complex tasks. Our graduates are communicators, information consumers, problem solvers, and independent learners. They exhibit empathy, perseverance, inclusivity and self-awareness.**

**Library Media Center**

**Item 1. Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence – 6:00 P.M.**

Board Chair Wills Pike called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Board members attending were: Bob Mitchell, James Wood, Sheelagh Lapinski, Timothy Shanahan, Florence Turner, Tina Grove and Tara Crossley. Board Member Carol Burgess was absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Rob Alves, M.J. Dix, Jill Mazzalupo, and David Gollsneider, Director of Facilities Steve Carroll, Director of Technology Nicholas Savoie, and Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers,.

**Item 2. Presentations**

**Recognition of Board Members**

*Laurie: March is Board of Education Appreciation Month, and on behalf of our school district, I want to thank you all for the time and effort which you put into supporting our schools through thoughtful decision-making, communication regarding the schools with the larger town community, attendance at multiple meetings every month, and a true dedication to Montville's students and their families.*

*It is also fitting to announce tonight that our Board has been recognized as a CAFE Board of Distinction for your high standards, dedication, and team work.*

### **Montville Marvels Presentation**

**Districtwide** – For their tireless work during the pandemic, district nurses: Marcia Wilcox, Wendy Smith, Lisa Baldwin, Deborah Piacenza, and Kristin O’Shaughnessy. Karen Mea was unable to attend tonight’s meeting and will be recognized at a later date.

*Laurie presented the certificates, stating: On behalf of all our building administrators, staff, and families, we have named you as Montville Marvels for your dedication and extraordinary work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as you dealt with ever-changing protocols, ensured sick students were properly isolated, quarantined, and cared for, provided guidance to parents and staff, managed paperwork regarding documentation of cases and close contacts, collected and maintained student and staff vaccination records, to name just a few of your added expectations...all while continuing to skillfully meet the regular responsibilities of a school nurse.*

### **Item 3 Alterations to the agenda**

*None*

### **Item 4. Citizens’ Comments, (regarding agenda items only)**

*Eleonor Abutin, Chesterfield Heights, stated that this decision is about respect. If we can’t find it in our hearts to show Native Americans that we understand and respect them, how will we teach students understanding and respect?*

### **Item 5. Letters and Communications**

*Board Secretary Bob Mitchell shared letter from Lauren Terni. Lauren expressed a thank you to the BOE members for allowing a window of time to further discuss with the tribe the removal of the Indian name from everything affiliated with Montville Public Schools.*

### **Item 6. Approval of the Consent Calendar**

Motion: To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

### **Item 7. Old Business**

a. Discussion and possible action to discontinue the use of the honorific “Indians” nickname at Leonard J. Tyl Middle School and Montville High School and to replace any logos which include Native American symbols with the logos displaying only a large orange T and M

*Laurie: As you are aware, Mayor Ron McDaniel and I have been in communication with the Mohegan Tribe regarding the use of the honorific nickname "Indians" at Tyl and MHS for several years. We are all in agreement that the value of the relationship between the town, the schools, and the tribe is much more important than the use of a nickname, and we don't want the use of the Indian nickname to be a polarizing issue for the town and the tribe. We also recognize that the use of the Indian nickname is not a Montville-specific decision, but has larger, national impact. We do not have a letter of consent from the tribe to continue to use the nickname, but I believe what we do have from the tribe is more important...we have their commitment to stand together as a partner with us as they have for generations. One illustration of this partnership is the tribe's offer to provide financial support for costs associated with the change.*

*It is my recommendation that we discontinue use of the Indian nickname and simply refer to ourselves with great pride as "Montville." There may be a time in the future when we explore another nickname, but for the present, we think it is wise to pause and reflect on our identity as the Montville school community.*

*I am pleased to have been part of the collaborative dialogue with the Mayor, Chief of the Mohegan Tribe Lynn Malerba, and Chair of the Mohegan Tribal Council James Gessner. I am very hopeful our community will unite and stand together with the tribe as we make this change.*

Motion: To discontinue the use of the honorific nickname and logos Indians and Montville High School and Leonard J Tyl Middle School.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tina Grove  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

**Item 8. New Business**

- a. Consideration and action to approve Capital Requests and submit to Town  
*Wills Pike recommended that the tennis courts be moved left in to plan to this year based on the town's ability to pay for new tennis courts at Camp Oakdale.*

Motion: Move Tennis Courts to fiscal year 2022-2023 and Submit Capital Plan to town

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- b. Consideration and action to review and approve the 2022-2023 Board of Education Budget to submit to the Town

*Wills Pike asked for clarification on objects 113, 114, 120, 222, 510, 613, and 628. Laurie and Kathy responded to his questions.*

Motion: To approve the 2022-2023 Board of Education budget as presented and submit to the Town

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Timothy Shannon  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- c. Tech Plan update and presentation – Nic Savoie  
*Mr. Savoie presented a Technology Plan for 2022-2027. The plan documents the district's ongoing efforts to meet, and stay ahead of, the challenges of major emerging technology needs and trends anticipated for the next five years.*
- d. Consideration and action to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-215F. The Montville Board of Education 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 Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. 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 Montville Board of Education 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 Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. 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.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Wills Pike  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- e. Consideration and action to allow exemptions for 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 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.

Motion: The Board of Education moves to allow exemptions for 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 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: Tim Shanahan  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- f. Consideration and action to 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 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.

Motion: The Board of Education moves to 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 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: Timothy Shanahan  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- g. Consideration and action to set the week of May 2nd as Teacher Appreciation Week

Motion: To set the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> as Teacher Appreciation Week

Moved by: Sheelagh Lapinski  
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- h. Consideration and action to approve the high school course Rock Performance as recommended by the E&E Committee

Motion: To approve the high school course Rock Performance as recommended by the E&E Committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Timothy Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- i. Consideration and action to approve the required high school Social Studies Course African American and Latino Studies as recommended by the E&E Committee

Motion: To approve the required high school Social Studies Course African American and Latino Studies as recommended by the E&E Committee

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Wills Pike  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- j. Discussion regarding Nonbinding Letter of Intent with N. Silver Brook Holdings, LLC

Motion made by Wills Pike not to enter into a letter of intent with N. Silver Brook Holdings, LLC

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Wills Pike  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

*Laurie: In 2019 Steve, Kathy and I met with Mayor McDaniel to discuss the town council's exploration into a Municipal Net Metering Project for solar energy. The town asked that the Board join them in authorizing execution of a non-binding letter of intent to study a solar power project. Solar panels would be installed on private property in town that would generate energy that would go to the general power grid. The town and school system would receive credits for hosting the panels that would provide a discount to our Eversource transmission and distribution charges. By signing at that time we were not agreeing to participate, but to engage in the*

*exploration. However, we were committing not to explore other options for solar power.*

*In Jan. 2020, the Board agreed to sign this agreement. After one year, we renewed for another 6 months and then the agreement was allowed to lapse because no progress had been made. The town has re-entered an agreement and Wills was asked to sign a similar agreement on behalf of the Board. At this time, we do not believe it is in the Board's best interest to sign the agreement. Steve has been actively pursuing other ways to increase our use of solar power including the addition of solar panels of property on Murphy's grounds.*

*Steve Carroll, Facilities Director further clarified the use of solar in Montville Public Schools.*

**Item 9. Committee and Liaison Reports:**

- a. Policy – *Jim Wood; no meeting was held, weekly meetings will resume on March 22*
- b. Education Evaluation – *Bob Mitchell discussed (2) new ECE Courses and need for new world history textbooks*
- c. Communications Committee – *Laurie explained that at the last meeting the committee reviewed our community survey results*
- d. Montville Education Foundation – *James Wood discussed upcoming funding raiser the golf tournament and the opening of the next round of grant applications*
- e. LEARN – *Bob Mitchell stated that there was nothing new.*
- f. CABE – *Bob Mitchell is attending NSBA April 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> in San Diego.*
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Shelagh Lapinski distributed the Mental Health Survey results and discussed any many other ongoing projects.*
- h. Student Board Representatives

*Senior Representative - GiGi Johnston*

*Since we last met, the winter sports season has come to an end. The girls' basketball team finished with a winning record, making it to the quarterfinals of the state's tournament, which hasn't been done since 2013. The boys' basketball team celebrated the end of their season with winning their last home game, where they also celebrated their seniors, wrapping up with a record of 8-12. A member of the wrestling team qualified for the New England Regional Tournament, which is an exceptional accomplishment. Many other wrestlers on the team finished with individual personal bests and significant wins.*

*The spring sports season begins this Saturday, March 19th. Many athletes are very excited to start playing outdoors again, especially with the warm weather approaching. Yesterday was the beginning of the annual baseball event, pitchers and catchers, a week-long preseason program which prepares the athletes for the upcoming season. On Sunday, March 13th, a senior here in the high school planned a "MHS Lacrosse Fun Sunday." He invited girls and boys of all ages to come to the Montville field outside and celebrate the upcoming Lacrosse Season. There was pizza and music supplied, and everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon together, practicing and playing lacrosse.*

*In addition to athletic teams celebrating wins and coming together again, other clubs in the school have been making progress. The National Art Honors Society put together all their artwork to finish the Memory Project that they have been working on. The Memory Project was an event in which members created a portrait of a child from Africa that can't afford to obtain one of themselves. A picture of the artist from Montville was mailed to the children with the finished portrait, making it a more personal experience between all participants. This club, as well as NHS, has been discussing joining other clubs, such as the Montville Leos and the Culinary club to put together multiple collaboration events in the upcoming spring.*

*Junior Representative – Matthew Malbourn*

*Last week the high school drama department worked long and hard during their dress rehearsals to put on a spectacular 4 shows on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Our seniors were honored for all their hard work and dedication to the program and will be greatly missed.*

*The junior class is hosting a bingo night tomorrow, the 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm-9pm. The proceeds will go to the junior class to support their proms and senior outing! The pandemic has put a huge damper on fundraising for all classes, and we hope that tomorrow night will bring in some funds.*

*Spirit week has begun! Yesterday was Country vs. Country Club, and the participation numbers were great! Today was movie character day, and the moral throughout the school was high than ever. Tomorrow will be “dress as a senior citizen” day, and I am excited to see what students will pull out of their sleeves. Thursday will be class colors day and Friday will be MHS colors day. The senior class is leading, with juniors in second, freshman in first, and sophomores in last.*

- i. Board Chair remarks – *Wills Pike- I have two points to share. First, great job to the drama department on the play! And second, the tribe should not pay for the cost to remove nicknames and logos.*

**Item 10. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Report from the Director of Special Services – Paula LaChance – *not in attendance, no report.*
- b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback - *Montville Public Schools will be on Facebook official soon. This will be a platform to list current events at the schools.*
- c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin  
*Addressing substance abuse – As the Board is aware, we have had several instances of use of a controlled substance on school grounds and buses, and of distribution of controlled substances. These instances have resulted by policy in out-of-school suspension for use and expulsion for distribution and for habitual*



*use of controlled substances. M.J. is putting several measures in place to address issues at Tyl and I've asked her to review her plans with you. M.J. shared classroom visits are being made by her, Officer Aleshire, and Counselor Megan Coiro and they are having a speaker on addiction next week. Rob Alves indicated that the high school is also working to address this issue through adjustments to the health curriculum and possible assemblies.*

*Administrative Searches – We have begun the search process for Principals at Tyl and MHS by posting positions, setting dates for each process and meeting with search committees to discuss the process and review interview questions.*

**Item 11. Information Items**

- a. Public Hearing on General Government Budget, April 27, 2022, 6:00 P.M.
- b. Public Hearing on Board of Education Budget, April 28, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

**Item 12. Citizens' comments**

*None*

**Item 13. Future Agenda Items**

*James Wood asked that the topic of not accepting funding from Mohegan Tribe for removing logos and replacing uniforms be placed on the next meeting agenda.*

14. Superintendent's mid-year evaluation

Motion: To enter executive session at 7:30, inviting Superintendent Pallin for the purpose of the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

The Board exited executive session at 8:10 with no votes taken.

**Item 9. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair  
Montville Board of Education  
Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Mitchell, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education