



**SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 21, 2022 at 5:00 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.

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Item 1. Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence – 5:00 P.M.

Board Chair Wills Pike called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

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

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Administrators Paula LaChance, Rob Alves, M.J. Dix, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, Amy Espinoza, Amanda Brown, Theresa Gouveia, Shane Winters, Judy DeLeeuw, and Neal Curland.

Item 2. Citizens' Comments, (regarding agenda items only)

Item 3. Consideration and action to appoint the Montville High School Principal

Motion: To appoint Rob Alves as Principal of Montville High School effective immediately

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (7-0)

Superintendent Pallin - The MHS Leadership Search Committee (including teachers Kelly Brooks, Susan Laurencot, Jillian Porter, Addy Robarge, Joan Smith, and Susan Walsh; administrators Amanda Brown, David Gollsneider, Dianne Vumback and Laure Pallin; parent Marc LaFrance; and Board members Tina Grove and Bob Mitchell) voted unanimously to recommend Robert Alves for the position of Principal at Montville High School. Rob has had a 4 ½ -month interview for the principal position. During that time, he worked collaboratively with a principal-mentor and he has grown tremendously. Rob stepped in when MHS was in crisis – students were struggling to return to school from the pandemic and staff were working on fumes as they were surrounded by controversy.

Under Rob's leadership, the school has turned a corner.

- His focus on building relationships using his MHS United philosophy and his ever-present positive attitude has shown great benefits*
- He puts students first and seeks to interact with them throughout his day*
- He has created a collaborative culture among the staff by providing all staff with a voice and incorporating numerous team-building opportunities*
- He has re-shaped the department chair leadership group*
- Student behaviors are greatly improved as he focuses on instilling values, pride, and work ethic*
- He put an SRBI process in place to identify and program for students at risk*
- Working as a partner with parents, he has listened first, striving to truly understand before developing solutions*

I received a letter signed by 57 staff members dated Feb. 3rd which I would like to share with you.

Dear Superintendent Pallin:

Over the past few months the culture of Montville High School has changed immeasurably for the better. The staff has felt appreciation and respect while the students have felt safety, comfort, and structure. The town that boasts at all of its borders “Proud of its Schools” has had that faith restored at the secondary level under the guidance of Robert Alves.

Mr. Alves has been thrust into leadership positions time and again, and each time has been equal to the challenge. In this latest assignment, he took on the Principal position of a school in crisis. With student behaviors and staff enthusiasm at an all-time low, and stress at an all-time high, Mr. Alves orchestrated a school wide, “United, All In, All Together,” initiative and steadied the ship. Mr. Alves’ unwavering commitment to this task – and the town of Montville – was the driving force behind the success of this venture.

We, the undersigned, offer you our strongest support for the application of Robert Alves for the position of permanent Principal of Montville High School. We believe Mr. Alves possesses the necessary commitment, communication skills, empathy, leadership, passion, respect, and vision that our next permanent principal will need to continue the development of critical, analytical, creative, and collaborative graduates, ready for a global society.

Based upon the work Rob has completed, his incredible rapport with students, the support which he has received from the MHS staff and the administrators' union, and the input of the interview committee, we decided to start our search with internal candidates only. We planned to discuss a larger search if necessary after Rob's interview.

After listening to Rob's responses to our questions and hearing from the staff, the search committee rapidly reached the unanimous decision to recommend Rob for approval by the Board of Education as Montville High School's permanent principal.

We were all extremely impressed by the work which he has accomplished in a short time and excited for the future under his leadership.

Carol Burgess – I am very impressed by Rob's knowledge of students at expulsion hearings and the way he prioritizes success for all students.

Wills Pike – My neighbors have commented to me that they respect and appreciate all Rob does.

Motion: To enter executive session at 5:09 P.M. inviting Laurie Pallin and Dianne Vumback to join the session, to discuss a confidential student matter.

Moved by: Tim Shanahan

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried (7-0)

The Board exited executive session at 5:23 P.M. with no votes taken.

Item 7. Citizens' comments

Amanda Brown- I am thrilled to have Rob as a leader. We have cake in the lobby to celebrate his appointment and invite everyone to join us.

Item 9. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Tim Shanahan

Vote: Carried (7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education
Minutes Approved: _____

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education