



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

**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 Carol Burgess . Board Member Tara Crossley was absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Rob Alves, M.J. Dix, Jill Mazzalupo, William Klinefelter, Amy Espinoza, and David Gollsneider, and Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers.

**Item 2. Presentations**

Presentation: Montville Marvels - Presented by Principal William Klinefelter, Principal Amy Espinoza, and Principal Jill Mazzalupo.

**Mohegan** – For her quick thinking and decision-making when a student suffered a medical emergency: Peggy Kelley

**Murphy** – For her artistic talent having been chosen in both the Fire Prevention and Long Island Sound poster contests: Katniss Li

**Oakdale** – For the creativity and collaborative spirit shown while working on a mural at Oakdale School: Emma Voight and Alyvia Chiasson. Khloe Scoot and Jadalyn Ryan will be recognized at a later date.

**Item 3 Alterations to the agenda**

*Motion to add an agenda item 7 L. –*

*Consideration and possible action to write a letter to the town in response to their request explaining the items in the 5-year capital project which the Town Council might consider bonding due to the significant funding required.*

Motion: To add an agenda item 7 L.

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

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

*None*

**Item 5. Letters and Communications**

*None*

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

**a. Budget update: Kathy Lamoureux**

Motion: To approve the consent calendar as presented.

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

*As the fiscal year winds down, we are analyzing the budget in the following categories: Salaries; Employee Benefits; Purchased Services; Tuitions; Supplies; Property and Other to review for transfers that are needed in order to close out the budget.*

*The projections for the salary accounts appear to be in line with the budget when taken as a whole. As we near the year end, we used fifty-nine days remaining to trend pay for hourly employees, adjusting for the payroll accrual and accounting for staffing changes that occur prior to the end of the fiscal year to make projections. Some of the salary objects are projecting shortages, such as substitutes and custodial helpers, while the paraprofessional account is projecting a surplus because of turnovers and vacancies that were experienced during the fiscal year. At this time, no transfers are recommended to the salary category.*

*Employee Benefits are projected to have approximately \$225,000 to \$240,000 in surplus at this time. This surplus was originally reported at the November meeting and has increased since that time as a result of a number of factors such as less trending needed for the Teamsters health plan, life insurance, and retiree costs, vacancies not filled, and employees making*

*changes to their coverage under a qualifying event. The original surplus described in November was a result of the custodians moving their health insurance to a high deductible plan during negotiations, employees changing coverage, new employees electing a different plan than the previous employee and an unemployment credit that was created during the pandemic to pay for current fiscal year's claims. At this time, it is recommended that the board consider transferring \$206,000 from employee benefits to the purchased services category and \$14,000 to the property account. This still leaves a small surplus remaining in the employee benefits category in case of any changes in health insurance plans as a result of a qualifying event in the next two months.*

*Purchased Services has some objects that are projecting a shortage such as:*

- *Purchased Services - Object 321 is projecting a shortage in special education services for students attending Magnet schools along with costs for BCBA services required by students' individual educational plans of approximately \$50,000.*
- *Police Services – Object 446 is projecting a shortage of approximately \$8,000 as a result of increased police presence required during school and sporting events for safety reasons.*
- *Contracted Services – Object 423 is projecting a shortage in the Plant Equipment account. Currently the account is projecting a shortage of approximately \$40,000 and there are another \$45,000 in requisitions for repairs that have not been released and an additional two months for unanticipated repairs. It is recommended that \$100,000 be transferred to this account.*

*The account experienced extraordinary costs this year resulting from additional costs for the parking area at Oakdale Elementary, storm damage, boiler repairs, roof repairs, mold in the media center at the high school and the failure of the gym exterior awning at the Tyl Middle School.*

- *Officials – Object 447 is projecting a shortage of approximately \$12,000 because of the reduction in gate receipts which usually help offset the cost of the officials.*
- *Telephone Object – 540 is projecting a shortage of approximately \$17,000 which resulted from the VOIP project starting later than anticipated and having to run both phone systems to ensure a smooth transition.*
- *Transportation Contracted Services – Object 510 is anticipated to have a shortage of \$64,000 which is projected using the current daily rate for contracted transportation. At this time the remainder of the transfer of \$18,000 would be to this object to help offset the shortage. At year end the remaining shortage in this category would be funded out of the 2% account.*

*The tuitions category is projected to have a shortage of approximately \$560,000. It has been anticipated that this shortage will have to be funded out of the 2% account because the budget did not have any contingency placements and the shortage is a result of new placements after the budget development. These accounts can still change based on changes in student placements.*

*Supplies – Currently the supplies orders are being prepared for the start of next school year. It is anticipated that expenditures will be within the budget allocation.*

*Property – Currently these accounts have approximately \$1,000 remaining in them. There are*

*requisitions is the system that have not been approved for replacement of projectors for approximately \$14,000 districtwide. Therefore, it is recommended the Board consider a transfer from Employee Benefits of \$14,000 to allow for this purchase.*

*Other Dues -Currently the dues are being renewed and it is anticipated that expenditures will be within budget.*

*Board member Robert Mitchell thanked Kathy for her hard work as we approach the end of the fiscal year.*

**Item 7. New Business**

- a. Consideration and action to appoint the Principal of Leonard J. Tyl Middle School

Motion: To appoint Gregory Gwudz to the position of Principal of Leonard J. Tyl Middle School effective July 1, 2022.

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

*Superintendent Pallin - I'd like to introduce you to Greg Gwudz who was selected by the Tyl Leadership Search Committee as our candidate for the position of Principal at Leonard J. Tyl Middle School. Bob and Tina represented the Board on the search committee which also included teachers Robin Greenwald, Megan Coiro, Phil Mazerolle, Cindy Carvahlo, Jenna Crincoli, and Joel Farrior and administrators Amanda Brown, David Gollsneider, Dianne and myself.*

*A Montville High graduate, Greg has been an assistant principal in North Branford since 2015 and an educator for 17 years. He led revision of North Branford's discipline policies, implemented Intervention labs and flex time to promote student success, launched a secondary PBIS program, and was especially focused on building a positive school culture. His references describe him as someone who is exceptional with interpersonal relationships, has great rapport with students, staff and parents, can handle any challenge, and is extremely conscientious. His superintendent told us, "As an administrator, I have witnessed on numerous occasions Mr. Gwudz's ability to make very difficult decisions. He is balanced in his approach and always solicits and values the input of others. Mr. Gwudz is intuitive in nature and always acts with the best interest of the North Branford School district in mind. He will lead your school with a clear vision and a commitment to excellence. I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Greg Gwudz knowing that he is a proven leader in the North Branford Public Schools and would excel as a principal in your school."*

*We were fortunate to have several excellent candidates for this position and are very excited to recommend Greg as the next principal at Tyl.*

- b. Consideration and action to appoint the Assistant Principal of Montville High School

Motion: To appoint Kenneth Daniewicz to the position of Assistant Principal of Montville High School effective July 1, 2022.

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

*Superintendent Pallin - I'd like to introduce Ken Daniewicz as the unanimous recommendation of the MHS leadership search team for Assistant Principal at Montville High School. The Board was again represented by Bob and Tina and the search team included teachers Kelly Brooks, Jillian Porter, Addy Robarge, Joan Smith, and Susan Walsh along with administrators Amanda Brown and David Gollsneider, Dianne and myself.*

*Ken is another Montville alumni who started his teaching career at Mohegan Elementary School in 1997 and has most recently served as an assistant principal in Killingly since 2016. He is skilled in restorative practices and recently has focused on creating a social and emotional learning committee. His references describe as an exceptional leader who is the heart of the school. He truly cares about people and is real and down-to-earth in his communications with students and parents. He can think through any problem and handle any crisis and has an outstanding work ethic. His principal told us, "Mr. Daniewicz embodies the meaning of teamwork. Whether facilitating a collaborative conversation among colleagues to determine the best interventions for struggling learners or leading a restorative conference among students and parents, Mr. Daniewicz understands the power of working together. He is a patient listener, incredibly resourceful, and has remarkable attention to detail. These skills, along with his ability to bring people together, allow Mr. Daniewicz to efficiently identify an issue, determine the appropriate course of action, and remain solution-focused."*

*The committee highly recommends Ken as the next assistant principal at Montville High School.*

- c. Shipman & Goodwin, introduction of the Board's new attorneys

*Superintendent Pallin - Kevin Roy, the Board's attorney for a number of years has retired from his position at Shipman and Goodwin and I have worked with them to obtain new representation. As some of you know Anne Littlefield worked with the Board this fall and served as our Board attorney for many years and Natalia Sieira-Millan worked closely with us this fall as an expert liaison with DCF. Based on my experience in working with both of them through a very difficult fall, I am pleased to introduce them to you this evening.*

- d. Consideration and action to transfer \$220,000 from Employee Benefits, objects 204-222 to Purchased Services in the amount of \$206,000 to objects outlined in the Budget Update Report, and \$14,000 to Property Account Object 730 for the purchase of projectors throughout the district

Motion: To approve the transfer \$220,000 from Employee Benefits, objects 204-222 to Purchased Services in the amount of \$206,000 to objects outlined in the Budget Update Report, and \$14,000 to Property Account Object 730 for the purchase of projectors throughout the district

Moved by: Sheelagh Lapinski  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

- e. Consideration and action to authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative and state and federal grants for educational programs

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter-district cooperative and state and federal grants for educational programs

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

*Superintendent Pallin - This is a standard annual motion which enables me to submit grant applications on behalf of the district.*

*Board member Carol Burgess asked is we should consider hiring a grant writer with the thought that the person's salary would be paid through the grants awarded.*

- f. Consideration and action to approve the textbook *World History Interactive* and related digital courseware support as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Motion: To approve the textbook *World History Interactive* and related digital courseware support as recommended by the E&E Committee.

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

*Superintendent Pallin - This book was approved by the E&E committee last month. Our current text is more than 18 years old and is outdated. The new text comes with a digital version and a wide variety of interactive software which can be maximized in our 1 to 1 environment. The textbook acquisition cost of about \$22,0000 is in our supply budget.*

- g. Consideration and action to approve the ECE Course *If You Love It, Teach It* and corresponding textbook as proposed by the E&E Committee.

Motion: To approve the ECE Course *If You Love It, Teach It* and corresponding textbook as proposed by the E&E Committee.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Sheelagh Lapinski  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

*Superintendent Pallin - This is a new course which was approved last month by E&E. It will expand ECE offerings and target a unique group of students which is aligned with the state's new requirement that we provide increased access for all student to college courses in high school. The course focuses on exposing students to the field of education by exploring teaching, learning, and schooling in the United States and imaging future education. It would serve about 30 students and they would earn 3 ECE credits. A related textbook, "Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies" would be purchased at a cost of about \$2000.*

- h. Consideration and action to approve the new ECE course and corresponding textbook; *Contemporary Issues in Sport* as recommended by the E&E Committee.

Motion: To approve the new ECE course and corresponding textbook; *Contemporary Issues in Sport* as recommended by the E&E Committee.

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

*This is a new course which was approved last month by E&E. It too will expand ECE offerings and target a unique group of students which is aligned with the state's new requirement that we provide increased access for all student to college courses in high school. The course focuses on cultural, economic and political issues related to sports as a social institution. It would serve about 30 students and they would earn 3 ECE credits. A related textbook, "Issue in Sports" would be purchased at a cost of about \$4000.*

- i. Discussion regarding acceptance of Mohegan Tribe funds if offered, for the purpose of removing logos and purchasing uniforms

Motion: To approve acceptance of Mohegan Tribe funds if offered.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Florence Turner  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

*Superintendent Pallin – Athletic Director Meagan Sears has completed an audit of the items at the middle school and high school which need to be replaced to remove*

*references to the nickname “Indians” and related Native American logos. These items include about \$82,000 in uniforms and an additional \$54,000 in signs, banners, wrestling mat, floor mat, certificates, chairs, etc. We do not have the required \$135,830 in our budget and as you know we will need to use the non-lapsing 2% account to meet this year’s operating budget. It is my recommendation that I approach the Mohegan Tribe about their offer to help us with the costs of making this change as a continuation of our partnership in this process. We do need to begin to order uniforms now to be prepared for the fall season. Steve Carroll and his workers spent time over vacation taking down a number of banners and signs and painting over logos.*

- j. Consideration and action to set the 2022-2023 tuition rates as follows:

Motion: To approve the following tuition rates as recommended by the Superintendent.

Moved by: Bob Mitchell  
Seconded by: Sheelagh Lapinski  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
Elementary	\$11,290	\$30,055*
Middle School	\$11,825	\$28,785*
High School	\$12,330	\$27,570*
Pre-School		\$28,920*
Other Service		Negotiable
<b>Palmer Building</b>		
PBL Program		\$39,795*
Pathways Program		\$56,200*
Other Services		Negotiable

\* Additional costs may be assessed based on the student’s Individual Educational Program (IEP)

***Superintendent Pallin** - This is an annual motion. We do not accept tuition from individual students’ families to attend MPS, but we do accept tuition students from other towns, most frequently special education students at Palmer. The original tuition rates were set years ago based upon market rates when we had Bozrah and Sprague students at MHS. Rates for individual students are adjusted based on the actual costs of students’ educational programs. If we were to initiate a marketing campaign to recruit regular education students from an area sending school, we would need to complete a study to determine current market rates.*

*Board chair Wills Pike asked how these rates compare to those in other districts and Laurie explained that we have not compared rates as we do not currently recruit regular education students to attend Montville Public Schools. We would need to review area rates and adjust ours if we wanted to pursue this in the future. Currently these rates are only used for special education students place in Montville by DCF or a district.*



- k. Discussion and possible action to set the last student day as June 16, 2022 with a professional development day on June 17, 2022

Motion: To set the last student day as June 16, 2022 with a professional development day on June 17, 2022

Moved by: Carol Burgess  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (8-0)

*Superintendent Pallin - This would reduce our student year from 181 to 180 days and add an additional professional development day for teachers at the end of the year. We would use that day for curriculum work, technology training, and policy-mandated PD.*

- l. Consideration and possible action to write a letter to the town at their request explaining the items in the 5-year capital project which the Town Council might consider bonding due to the significant funding required.

Motion: To approve the writing of a letter to the town explaining the items in the 5-year capital project which the Town Council might consider bonding due to the significant funding required.

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

*Superintendent Pallin distributed a worksheet showing capital items and recommendations for funding sources. She stated that, based upon the significant funding required for items in our capital plan, it has been suggested that we separate the capital plan by possible funding source. The document distributed shows items we suggest be funded through the town's capital projects for 2023, those which the town ARPA grant committee voted to send to the Town Council for funding through the grant, and more costly items which might be bonded.*

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

- a. Policy – Jim Wood; no meeting was held
- b. Education Evaluation – Robert Mitchell; Meagan Sears reviewed athletic participation numbers for 2021-2022 and compared participation to prior years, noting the effects of the pandemic. The E&E committee asked that she share this presentation with the entire Board next month
- c. Communications Committee – Carol Burgess; no meeting was held
- d. Principal Reports – William Klinefelter and David Gollsneider: Showcasing our Definition of Learning and Vision of a Graduate.
- e. Montville Education Foundation – James Wood; the committee is working on

- grant review and the upcoming golf tournament*
- f. LEARN – *Bob Mitchell; nothing new*
  - g. CABE – *Bob Mitchell; I attended the NSBA Conference April 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> in San Diego and encourage Board members to attend next year’s conference*
  - h. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Shelagh Lapinski; they elected a chairman at the last meeting*
  - i. Student Board Representatives not present

*Senior Representative - GiGi Johnston; not present*

*Junior Representative - Matthew Malbaurn; not present.*

- j. Board Chair remarks - *Provide excellent education every day, fairly optimistic concerning this year’s budget. Congratulations to the new TYL principal and the new Assistant Principal of Montville High School!*

Item 10. Superintendent’s Report

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

*Last month I met with preschool team to review programming and B-3 referrals. We currently have a roster of 25 special education students to begin the 2022/23 school year with. Based on IDEA we are required to have a 50-50 ratio of Spec Ed and typical peers thereby bringing our Preschool population to 50 students to start the year.*

*Every year we hold a spring screening to recruit typical peers. At the same time, we are fulfilling our obligations for child find. This process can bring in anywhere between 2 and 6 additional qualifying students. We held this screening last month and the team are currently conducting several (6) evaluations from that screening which could potentially add to the numbers.*

*I have met with my individual support services groups this month to discuss caseloads, and the evaluation loads. This is a busy time of year for evaluations and we are lucky to have a team that all support each other. Additionally, time has been spent reviewing those students transitioning to a new school. Each spring my supervisors meet with both the sending and receiving team of professionals to review the status and needs of each student. This ensures a smooth transition for our students.*

*The Transition Academy continues to expand their connections throughout several town communities. Some of the students are now working at the Salem Ice Cream Store while others are working at Salem Gardens. This coming month the Transition program is holding an alumni session where those students that have graduated will come back to share their experiences since leaving the academy.*

*We have trainings this coming month on the new CT SEDS System that will encompass quality IEP writing. Each Monday I attend an hour session that reviews each piece of the new IEP document and expectations for completing it and that has been helpful.*

*Preparation for ESY is well underway. Letters have gone out to all recommended students and interested staff. I am still looking to fill a few more opening which I hope to complete within the next week or so.*

- b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

*Lunch and learn on Safe Futures conducted with a group of Montville High School students. Topics included empowerment and healthy relationships. Students were highly engaged and it was very successful. The meeting was run by a reps. from the Montville Police Department and Safe Futures and sponsored by the Montville Youth Service Bureau who provided pizza for students' lunch.*

*SBAC Testing is currently in progress.*

*I am working at TYL fulltime this spring to ensure a smooth transition into the next school year with a new administrative team.*

- c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

*Vacancies: We are currently in the process of filling vacant teaching positions for next year. Murphy is actively interviewing for a special education teacher, MHS just completed interviews today for an English teacher, and Palmer has selected a candidate for a math teacher.*

*Leadership Search Process: We still have one administrator vacancy to fill. The application window for the AP at Tyl has closed and we are currently selecting candidates to interview next week. We anticipate that we will have a candidate to bring to the Board at its May meeting. There will be a reception to introduce Greg to Tyl staff this Thursday after school and we will set a date for a similar reception for Ken at MHS.*

*Negotiations – Teamsters negotiations has had one meeting with Carol as the Board rep. and we have a second meeting set for May 10th.*

**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**

*None*

**Item 9. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Bob Mitchell, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education