



MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 14, 2023 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

Recording Notice: This meeting is being voice and video recorded and the video recording of the meeting will be posted online when the meeting minutes are posted

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Pallin called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Board members attending were: Carol Burgess, Bob Mitchell, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Bonnie Bacon, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk, and Lisa Terry.

Also participating were: Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Rob Alves, Ken Daniewicz, Amanda Brown, Tim Dilwig, Greg Gwudz, Jessica Lilienthal, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, and Liz Dumond.

Superintendent Pallin requested nominations for Board Chair.

Nomination: Wills Pike

Moved by: Lisa Terry

Seconded by: Tina Grove

Motion: For nominations to be closed and a vote taken.

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Tina Grove

Record of Votes:

For Wills Pike: Carol Burgess, Bob Mitchell, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Bonnie Bacon, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk, Wills Pike, and Lisa Terry

Newly elected Board Chair Wills Pike requested nominations for Board Secretary.

Nomination: Bob Mitchell

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Tina Grove

Motion: For nominations to be closed and a vote taken.

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Tina Grove

Record of votes:

For Bob Mitchell: Carol Burgess, Bob Mitchell, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Bonnie Bacon, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk, Wills Pike, and Lisa Terry

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Add executive session after agenda item 14 to discuss contract negotiations
- b. Move item 7c. Consideration and action to approve the Montville Educators' Association contract for September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027 as recommended by the negotiating committee to the end of the agenda after the executive session, making it agenda item 16

Motion: To add execution session item 15 and move item 7c to item 16

Moved by: Tim Shanahan
Second by: Lisa Terry
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Item 3. Presentations

- a. Montville Marvels: Principals Rob Alves, Greg Gwudz, and David Gollsneider presenting

It is recommended that the Board of Education acknowledge the following students, teachers, and community members in the areas noted:

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School - For her quick thinking and calm response to an emergency situation: Gabriella McLaughlin

For leading a transformation within the ELA department at Tyl, working to design and implement WIN Reading: Sharon Brown

For being a model of positivity and citizenship: Noah Schaffer

PBL Palmer Campus – For fostering the positive self-identity of both staff and students by providing social, emotional and mental health supports: Dawn Guntner

Montville High School – For his hard work and dedication to the students of Montville High School: Mike McGovern

For their hard work and extraordinary efforts in boosting school spirit, playing a vital role in improving the culture and climate within our community: Taryn Feragne and Ava Gero

- b. Vision of a Graduate Implementation and Connection to School and District Next Generation Accountability Data

Presentation by MHS principal Rob Alves and assistant principal Ken Daniewicz. Slides can be viewed on the website with the meeting agenda.

Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback described indicators 4-12 on the district's Next Generation Accountability Report.

The Board welcomes public comments at Board meetings. When you speak, please clearly state your first and last name and your address so that we can reach out to you after the Board meeting. Please try to limit your comments to 3 minutes. The Board's protocol is that they do not respond to citizen's comments at the meeting. They do, however, listen carefully and follow up after the meeting as appropriate. Your comments may lead to further dialogue at a future Board or sub-committee meeting or a follow-up phone call from a district administrator for more information

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: Tim Shanahan

Seconded by: Lisa Terry

Vote: Carried (9-0)

Budget Update

2022-2023 Budget Audit

We continue to work with the accounting firm to complete the fiscal year-end audit. The auditors will be coming into the office in late November to complete on-site work.

2023-2024 Budget Projections

1. Salaries

As of 11/11/23 there have been 48 school days out of the 180 days for school year employees such as monitors, paraprofessional and tutors. Based on trending for the first 48-day period, the salary account as a whole is projected to end under budget. Additional trending will provide a more reliable projection for the salary account since overtime costs and changes in staff will continue to occur in the remainder of the year. The overage in the salary accounts is mainly due to late resignations and reduced costs of their replacements. Because several of our salaried positions are being filled by certified substitutes, the substitute salary object 120 may end in a shortfall if current trending continues. We will be able to be offset the sub shortfall with the overage in other salary objects. We continue to have staff movement in salary objects such as nursing, paraprofessionals, behaviorists and bus drivers.

2. Benefits

We will provide a projection of the employee benefits account for the next Board meeting including items that are not encumbered for such as retiree insurance, teamster's health, life and disability insurance.

3. Tuitions

To date, we have not received all of the Magnet School or Vo-Ag tuition bills. However, based on actual bills and projections, there may be a small overage which can be used to help offset outplaced tuition accounts if needed.

At this time, we are within the budgeted amount for outplacements, though placements continue to change. We are projecting a shortage in outsourced transportation costs for outplaced students. The excess cost grant for these students will be submitted in December so we can determine if additional funds will be received by the Town to cover excess costs. The Excess Cost grant is provided by the State to assist districts in paying for special education expenses for students with extraordinary needs. We are eligible for partial reimbursement from the State for students who require services that cumulatively exceed the school district's "basic contribution," or the portion of a student's education that the school district is responsible for. The basic contribution is all costs up to 4.5 times the district's previous year's average expenditure per student.

2023-2024 Expenses

In October we purchased heating oil at \$3.3050, diesel at \$3.2713 and unleaded gas at \$2.784 excluding taxes. This purchase may have to be supplemented however this should cover a majority of the fiscal year. East River provided us information on Mobile Diesel Efficient (a premium pre-treated diesel fuel which does not require winter additive or kerosene). The transportation department recommended that we make this change.

2024-2025 Budget Development

We have reached out to both the health and property insurance brokers for information to assist in the development of the 2024-25 budget.

Capital Projects

The School Construction grant application for the Roof Replacement for Tyl Middle School was submitted in the October round of grant applications, and we are for the State to respond. The HVAC grant for Tyl Middle School should be submitted by the end of the week.

Item 7. New Business

- a. Consideration and action to review the Board liaison vacancies (Vacancies: MEF, Montville Youth Services Bureau)

Motion: To nominate and appoint Tim Shanahan as Board liaison for Montville Youth Services Bureau

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Motion: To nominate and appoint Carol Burgess as Board liaison for MEF

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan

Vote: Carried (9-0)

- b. Consideration and action to review committee vacancies and assignments for Board Members (Current Vacancies: 2- E&E, 0-Communications, 1-Policy)

Motion: To nominate and appoint Bonnie Bacon as Board liaison for Policy.

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Motion: To nominate and appoint Donna Funk and Erika Striebel as Board liaisons for E & E.

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Wills Pike
Vote: Carried (9-0)

- c. Consideration and action to approve and submit the 2022-2023 Annual Report to The Mayor

Motion: To approve and submit the 2022-2023 Annual Report to The Mayor

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained - The report describes the work done last year by the administrative team and the Board of Education which is directly aligned with the district's vision, goals, and strategies.

- d. Review and possible approval of revisions to Policy 5142.4, Safety and Security as recommended by the policy committee

Motion: To approve the revisions to Policy 5142.4, Safety and Security as recommended by the policy committee

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained - Includes the MOU with the Montville Police Department which has also been reviewed and revised in collaboration with the PD and SROs. Legislative changes required that the policy and MOU include

provisions regarding the SROs' restraint of students, use of fire arms, school-based arrests and reporting of investigations or behavior interventions of challenging behaviors that escalate to violence or constitute a crime. Changes were made to the MOU to meet these provisions and to update our use of SROs in the district and the form for the required reports to the PD.

- e. Consideration and action to assign Board members to the CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraprofessionals Chapter negotiating committees

Motion: To assign Board members Lisa Terry and Tina Grove to the CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraprofessionals Chapter negotiating committees

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained - Contract runs through August 2024 and I am hopeful negotiations will begin in January. These are usually conducted during the business day and do not involved legal representation. I lead the negotiations on behalf of the Board and Diana Busch on behalf of the CSEA paraprofessionals chapter

- f. Consideration and action to assign Board members to the CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter negotiating committee

Motion: To assign Board members Lisa Terry and Tina Grove to the CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter negotiating committee

Moved by: Wills Pike
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained - Contract runs through June 2024. Negotiations process and timeline is the same as that for the paraprofessionals.

Item 8. Old Business

None

Item 9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

- a. Policy – *No meeting held*
- b. Education Evaluation – *No meeting held*
- c. Communications Committee- *No meeting held*

- d. Montville Education Foundation – *Laurie- Grant reading meeting was held Monday and they are currently determining who will be awarded grants*
- e. LEARN - *Bob Mitchell - Ocean Ave Academy is Special Education for high needs student. Current student population 68 authorized 80 but they are seeking staff before they can take in additional students. In the early planning stage for Magnet school at 51 Daniel's Ave in Waterford.*
- f. CABA/NSBA -*Carol Burgess – CABA Convention Nov. 17-18, Mystic Marriot. Upcoming meeting on Dec 5th to discuss CABA legislation with the state.*
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Tim Shanahan – Sent cards to veterans, basket raffle, Youth Action Council sending out student survey on social media and bullying.*
- h. Student Board Representatives-

Senior Class Representative: Alexa Beams –

Montville Athletics have been excelling this fall season. Both the boys' soccer team and volleyball team won the ECC tournament championship. The volleyball team also made history winning the ECC Division Title for the first time, as did the boys soccer and boys cross country team.

The National Honor Society has focused their fall projects on helping our community outside of school. In October, a successful food drive donated 217 items to the Montville Food Pantry. Currently, a project is in place to donate hygiene items to the Madonna Place in Norwich.

Last week, the National Art Honor Society submitted their contributions to the memory project. The memory project is a program that pairs students with a child for whom they create a portrait or inspiration art of their interests. The art is then sent to communities around the world that may otherwise not have methods of capturing childhood memories; last year, submissions went to India and this year, they were sent to Columbia.

Mohegan Elementary and Tyl Middle School recently celebrated Veterans Day. Students thanked veterans in their lives with a dessert night and cards at Mohegan, while at Tyl, a breakfast was hosted with student-led discussions and an appearance from the chamber choir. Both events were well attended and a thoughtful way to thank our local veterans.

Now that the first quarter has ended, the senior class is one step closer to graduation. As both a fundraiser and fun event for all of MHS, the Class of 2024 will be holding their 2nd annual volleyball tournament this Friday, November 17th at 6pm. Students of all grade levels are invited to participate and spectate, and Tyl students have been invited to watch as well.

Junior Class Representative: Adam Gallagher

The latter half of October was a very spirited time for the High School. We had our spirit days from the 23 to the 27, all of which I participated in. We ended the week with a pep rally, and it came down to the juniors and seniors. There was a second tie breaker, which student government hadn't even planned for. A foot race decided the winner, and unfortunately the seniors narrowly snatched the victory. Homecoming was the next day, and, if I do say so myself, we did a very good job decorating. There were complications, as there always will be, but it was a very fun night. I couldn't forget the preschoolers that came into one of my classes and trick or treated in their costumes. It was adorably unforgettable. The night of homecoming was trick or trunk. I wasn't able to go, but Mrs. Walsh told me the drama club got the award for the best non-profit there, so props to them. Throughout October, the soccer team had a fundraiser where they donated ten dollars for every goal they got to breast cancer awareness. They raised over 200 dollars, so congrats to them. I do want to address Taryn and Ava, as, for the longest time, I've wondered who has done the announcements at the end of the day because it always makes me happy to hear them say "good afternoon MHS!". I would honestly love to do it next year and may reach out to them.

i. Principals' Comments –

TYL Greg Gwudz – *Very successful Veteran's breakfast with over 20 veterans attending from the local community. Held a breakout session for 8th graders to ask questions to the veterans. A good learning experience for the students.*

MHS Rob Alves- *Bringing in presenters for student assemblies to discuss Internet Safety and Social Media Safety. Community and Parents will be invited to attend these student assemblies.*

Item 10. Information Items

Future Dates

- Nov. 17, 18 – CABA/CAPSS Convention, Mystic Marriot
- December 6 CABA New Board Member Orientation (Please email Jen LeMay if you would like to be registered)
- December 7 Communications Committee Meeting, 5:00 P.M.

Item 11. Report on District Operating Plan (Vision, Goals, and Strategies)

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

Laurie explained - Paula is home sick today and sent her regrets that she missed meeting our new Board members.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

We had a very busy day on November 7th for professional development. I want to give a brief overview of some the PD happening in the schools and district.

All teachers were involved in curriculum work across the district. The day allowed for teachers to engage in new learning and then spend time working with their grade level or content teams on curriculum work. We had a few teachers join regional PD as well. All teachers K-12 had smartboard training. It was a blend of instruction, guided practice and “on your own” small group work. The middle and high school had an advanced course as this was their second training and the elementary teachers had an intro-plus lesson as the installation of the smartboards recently finished. The feedback has been excellent and we are already planning for future trainings.

We had specific training called UPLIFT: A trauma informed care training program that included our special education supervisors, social workers, school psychologists and special education teachers who are working in one of our pathway’s classrooms. Our goal is to create a trauma-informed, resilience-focused environment to meet the unique needs for our neediest students in these classrooms. Long term plans would be that some of the staff in the initial phase become trainers to train all staff so that we can have a trauma-informed approach schoolwide to support the well-being of all our students and positively impact the school climate. Training will be continuous throughout the school year.

The Teacher Evaluation Committee met on this day to discuss the implementation of the new educator evaluation and support plan that will be implemented during the 2024-2025 school year. The state issued guidelines that focus on continuous improvement and professional learning leading to high quality professional practice and improved outcomes for students. Our committee represents different grade levels, content areas and includes service providers and we spent time in our first meeting discussing a possible observation protocol and a potential rubric aligned to professional standards. We will continue to meet throughout the year.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

***District Parent Advisory Committee** – A group of parent representatives will meet to help establish priorities for our capital plan and operating budget and provide input into our facilities’ needs. Our first meeting will be held by Zoom tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m.*

***Security Grant** – As you are aware, the security grant which was submitted to the state last spring was not funded. That grant included indoor cameras at Oakdale and Mohegan, additional cameras at the remaining schools, penetration resistant window film at Tyl, MHS, and Oakdale, and replacement of the door access system*

district-wide. You can see the items which were in the grant request in the board materials for this evening. We will review these items as we discuss our capital expenses, operating budget, and potential use of the 2% account in upcoming months. At our recent meeting of the district-wide security committee, it was the consensus of the entire group that our first budget priority before we look at equipment purchases is to move SSO's salaries from the ARP ESSER grant to the budget as we currently have 4 grant-funded SSOs.

District Master Plan – *As part of our HVAC grant applications, we need to submit a district master plan. I have been working with Dianne, Nic, and Steve to review each of our school buildings to evaluate their current condition and capacity to support our programs. Dianne and I have begun meetings with teachers to gather their input regarding the ability of the facilities to meet programmatic and instructional needs. I will share this plan with the Board at our next meeting.*

Upcoming HVAC Bond Referendum – *At your seats is the explanatory text which is posted on our website for the upcoming HVAC bond referendum. I developed this text working with the town's attorney.*

Item 12. Citizen's Comments

None.

Item 13. Board Chair Remarks -Wills Pike

Welcome to our new Board members. We are a team of 9. I'm big proponent of Paraprofessionals. I'm a big fan of school security. When posting on social media, speak for yourself and not behalf of the Board. All Board social media posts should be cleared by our team and approved by the Superintendent.

Item 14. Future Agenda Items

Long Term Capital Plan (Lisa Terry)

Cameras at Mohegan Elementary and Oakdale Elementary Schools (Wills Pike)

Item 15. Enter into Executive Session

Executive Session to discuss contract negotiation, inviting Laurie Pallin and Dianne Vumback into executive session at 8:04 P.M.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tim Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Item 16. Consideration and action to approve the Montville Educators' Association contract for September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027 as recommended by the negotiating committee

Motion: To approve the Montville Educators' Association contract for September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027 as recommended by the negotiating committee

Moved by: Tim Shanahan
Second by: Lisa Terry
Vote: Carried (7-0)
Abstained: Tina Grove (conflict of interest)
Bonnie Bacon (conflict of interest)

Item 17. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Tim Shanahan
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (9-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____