



**SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 27, 2024 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.

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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, Carol Burgess, Bonnie Bacon, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk; Lisa Terry was absent.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Administrators Paula LaChance, Willie Quinones, Greg Gwudz, Jessica Lilienthal, Rob Alves, Ken Daniewicz, Amanda Brown, Liz Dumond, Jill Mazzalupo, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, and Theresa Gouveia.

Item 2. Alterations to the agenda

None.

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 his resiliency, attitude and compassion for others:
Louis Otero-Massauro

PBL Palmer Campus – For improved attendance, grades and his work to pursue a college degree: Nicolas Houle

Montville High School – For demonstrating outstanding and dedicated support to our students’ academic needs: Rich Cirillo, Alex Clemons, and Nick Sabilia

- b. Presentation of the Superintendent’s Recommendations for the 2024-2025 Montville Public Schools Operating Budget.

The full presentation can be found on the district website under the Board of Education, 2023-2024 BOE Agendas and Minutes

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

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

None.

Item 5. Letters and Communications

None.

Item 6. Approval of the consent Calendar

Motion: To approve the consent calendar as presented.

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

Item 7. Old Business

- a. Consideration and action to approve the specifications and drawings submitted by Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC for the Tyl reroofing and related work

Motion: To approve specifications and drawings submitted by Jacunski Humes for Tyl reroofing and related work

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

Superintendent Pallin explained:

These are the final submissions to the state before our roof project can go out to bid and require Board approval. The specifications and drawings were loaded with your Board docs for your review prior to the meeting.

- b. Consideration and action to approve the Tyl reroofing and related budget cost estimate submitted by Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC in the amount of \$3,505,666.

Motion: To approve the Tyl reroofing and related budget cost estimate submitted by Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC in the amount of \$3,505,666.

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

Superintendent Pallin explained

This is a summary of the budget costs for the Tyl roof replacement project.

- c. Consideration and action to authorize the Superintendent, Laurie Pallin, and Board Chair, Wills Pike, to sign the Department of Administrative Services form SCG-042 to request a review of the final plans that have been submitted by Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC for the Tyl reroofing and related work.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent, Laurie Pallin, and Board Chair, Wills Pike, to sign the Department of Administrative Services form SCG-042 to request a review of the final plans that have been submitted by Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC for the Tyl reroofing and related work.

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

Superintendent Pallin explained

This document requesting the state review our final plans will be signed by Wills and myself with your approval.

- d. Consideration and action to approve the proposed Educator Diversity Plan as presented to the E&E committee

Motion: To approve the proposed Educator Diversity Plan as presented to the E&E committee

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

Assistant Superintendent Vumback explained that this plan will be submitted to the state and the goal is to improve recruitment, hiring, and retention of teachers of color.

- e. Consideration and action to transfer \$56,100 from Objects 111-130 Salary object to Object 423/2130 Nursing Sub Contracted Services to account for a contract for nursing because we were unable to hire for vacant position.

Motion: To authorize the transfer \$56,100 from Objects 111-130 Salary object to Object 423/2130 Nursing Sub Contracted Services to account for a contract for nursing because we were unable to hire for vacant position.

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

Item 8. New Business

- a. Establishment of dates for BOE Budget Workshops - March 5 and March 12 at 5:00

Motion: To establish dates for BOE Budget Workshops March 5 and March 12

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

Item 9. Information Items

None.

Item 10. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy – No meeting.
- b. Education Evaluation –*Bob Mitchell- At next meeting will bring information on Montville careers pathways.*
- c. Communications Committee -No meeting.
- d. Montville Education Foundation – *Laurie Pallin – Town Councilor Kevin Lathrop joined foundation and volunteered to do a trivia fundraiser event.*
- e. LEARN - *Bob Mitchell – Middle of the year and we are working on agendas and budget*

- f. CABE/NSBA – Carol Burgess- E-mail was sent out to BOE members that outline upcoming committee meetings that may impact education. If state legislators hear from us it will be helpful. March 13th CABE Day on the hill.
- g. Montville Youth Services Bureau- No meeting.
- h. Student Board Representatives

Junior Class Representative: Adam Gallagher

I'm very excited for the coming months, especially for it to get warmer. Even in the chillier recent weeks, me and others from the tennis team have been practicing for the season coming up, and I definitely think the finishing of the courts at the high school have inspired us and made us very eager to play this season. The drama department is having their musical, Addams Family, which is showing March 6th through the 9th, so I recommend you all mark your calendars! The student government has also been working hard to plan the winter pep rally and spirit week, which will be at the end of this month. Student government is also having a blood drive, which will be happening tomorrow throughout the day. Last week we had a meeting where a representative from the organization that plans the blood drives in the area talked to us. It feels really good to be part of something like this, which can really save a lot of lives.

Senior Class Representative Alexa Beams:

Alexa was absent but Adam read input.

All students successfully made it through midterms and as we move into semester 2, seniors are finally starting to see the finish line and announce their post graduation plans.

Our winter athletes are working hard and reaching new achievements as they wrap up their seasons. Indoor Track recently competed at ECCs and in addition to four individual championships, the girls won the ECC Divisional Championship. While our other winter sports are still training for their state tournament, Indoor Track also sent nearly 30 athletes to the Class S State Championships, placing in several events. Taking a quick revisit back to the fall season, at halftime of a girls' basketball game, the Boosters Club announced the fall sports championship teams, including Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and Boys Cross Country, and presented athletes with t-shirts to commemorate their accomplishments.

Tyl also had an eventful month returning from winter break. Last Friday, the seventh-grade class enjoyed an evening of socializing at the Snowflake Dance put on by the PTO. The Pathways Program, led by teacher Mr. Tim Lineburgh, is continuing their weekly field trips to the Waterford Country School. Students find these trips valuable with the opportunities to interact with animals, complete team building activities, and work on personal growth. Advisor Ms. Cindy Carvalho and the teacher committee reviewed applications for the Tyl chapter of the National Junior Honor Society this past month, and are proud to announce that 13 students will be inducted into NJHS on March 4th. Also in March is the spring drama production, Mary Poppins. Students and staff are hard at work rehearsing after school for the showings on March 21 and

22. Finally, the Tyl PE and Health teachers are holding their annual student volleyball tournament on Friday, a great event for students to be active and enjoy showing off their talents in a team.

i. Principal's Comments

OAK – Jill Mazzalupo – For the (3) elementary schools, report card will be pushed out and Read to Ride program will be starting soon. Prizes include bikes and gift cards.

TYL – Greg Gwudz – Upcoming Musical – Mary Poppins. National Honors Society will be inducting 13 students on March 4th.

MHS – Rob Alves – Upcoming Musical will be March 6,7,8,9. Unified basketball team will be going to NFA.

10. Report on District Operating Plan

a. Report from Director of Special Services – Paula LaChance

Spring is a busy time for our preschool team. They are working on new B-3 referrals in preparation for the start of next school year. They are also preparing for our preschool screening which is scheduled for March 20th. All the slots are full. Now that Oakdale has a full-time social worker, she has begun social skills lessons with all the grades. She is utilizing the RULER Program, which is an evidenced based approach to social and emotional learning (SEL). There are preschool lessons focused on students understanding their feelings using colors (red – I feel angry; green I feel happy). These lessons are short and age appropriate. Teaching RULER is a districtwide program and it we are slowly teaching the preschool students so they will be familiar with the program when they enter Kindergarten.

My staff have begun the 5th to 6th grade transition PPTs. These PPT's will continue to happen until the end of the year so the IEP's reflect services students will receive in middle school. This is also an opportunity for parents to get acquainted with the 6th grade special education teachers at Tyl, get any questions answered and collaborate on best practices for the transition.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

We just completed our state mandated testing on our multi lingual learners. We feel very hopeful about the scores. In particular, the middle level is showing great promise! It is the middle level that is always a bit tricky to motivate the students – often feeling awkward and ashamed of their language deficits or they don't want to be singled out for language acquisition skills. Our district ML coordinator, Faith Emond, worked

with both Principal Gwudz and Assistant Principal Lilienthal to create a positive approach to testing, offering incentives and celebrating successes with the students.

The window for smarter balance testing opens March 25th and I will work with administration on preparing for this important assessment. Our 11th graders are taking the NGSS assessment on March 14th and the.

Next Thursday, March 7th Mohegan is hosting a Family SEL night! The set up involves families picking up a “passport” that will have a schedule and place for them to get a stamp after each session. We are so proud of Mohegan’s Social Worker Brianna Strycharz and First Grade Teacher Laurie Shugrue who are organizing this fun, interactive and creative “first ever SEL night”.

Stations to visit will include: yoga, meditation, RULER, watercolor breathing activity, coloring, exploring senses and school spirit activities. They have five raffle prizes (free!) that each promote family engagement/togetherness, with themes that include game night, movie night, wellness basket, breakfast basket and a baking basket. Kudos to Principal Klinefelter and his entire team for supporting this wonderful opportunity to encourage family engagement with our schools!

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

d.

I received a letter form Commissioner Russell-Tucker in response to Wills and my meeting with the CSDE staff to request permission to use the state-approved Open Court Foundational Skills Program as part of a compendium of programs to meet the state’s legislation regarding implementation of a one of a list of named programs. Our request was denied. The Commissioner stated that a reconsideration of provisions of CGS 4-181a was not applicable to the waiver process and therefore there would be no reconsideration.

Access to School Cameras by Montville dispatchers – Nic met today with half of the town’s dispatchers and will meet with the rest tomorrow to ensure they are fully trained in accessing our school’s camera systems in case of an emergency.

Willie is off to a great start as our new director of facilities. He is listening carefully and quickly adjusting to his new position. He has been an excellent resource as we are working to comply with the IAQ and HVAC legislation.

Item 12. Citizen’s Comments

None.

Item 13. Board Chair Remarks Wills Pike

I attended a Unified Basketball game. Pleasant way to spend 40 minutes, showed teamwork, respect, friendships and having fun. The Administrators should be very proud of this.

Item 14. Future Agenda Items

None

Item 15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by: Timothy Shanahan

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried (8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____