



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 21, 2024 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, Bonnie Bacon, Timothy Shanahan, Tina Grove, Erika Striebel, Donna Funk; Carol Burgess, and Lisa Terry.

Also participating were: Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Recording Secretary Pamela Rodgers, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Paula LaChance, Greg Gwudz, Rob Alves, Amanda Brown, David Gollsneider, William Klinefelter, and Liz Dumond.

Item 2. Presentations

- a. CABE Student Leadership awards presented by Principals Rob Alves and Greg Gwudz.

Montville High School- Alexa Beams and Jesse Bradham

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School – Jessica Wu and Paul Willhoit. Paul Willhoit was unable to attend.

- b. Recognition of Senior Board Representative: Alexa Beams

Superintendent Pallin:

At this time, I would like to present Alexa Beams with a small token of the Board's appreciation for her two years as a student board representative. Alexa, your insight and the updates you provide to the Board every month have helped the Board to understand student perspectives, experiences, and activities. This is very important to the Board as they make decisions that are in the best interests of students.

We wish you the very best in your work at UCONN next year and congratulate you for your myriad achievements at Montville High School. You have clearly excelled in many areas at MHS and we are very proud of you.

Item 3. Alterations to the agenda

- a. Remove item 7 b. Consideration and action to approve the contract of CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter as recommended by the negotiating committee as the secretaries have not ratified the contract yet

Motion: To remove 7b from the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Second by: Carol Burgess
Vote: Carried (9-0)

- b. Add new item 7b. Consideration and possible action to approve Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts Program for use in grades K – 5 as recommended by the E&E committee.

Motion: To add new item 7b to the agenda

Moved by: Bob Mitchell
Second by: Timothy Shanahan
Vote: Carried (9-0)

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 (9-0)

a. Budget update: Kathy Lamoureux

We are working on orders and reconciling purchase orders to prepare for the end of the year. At this meeting, we are not proposing any transfers, but will continue to monitor the salaries and employee benefits as well as the tuition accounts. We anticipate holding a special meeting after the Town passes the budget, at which point we will likely make recommendations for transfers.

Currently, our projection reflects a surplus in both the salaries and employee benefits accounts, while the tuitions accounts are showing a shortage. This shortage is due to some late outplacements and additional services for a student. As we close out the purchase orders, we will have more accurate information at the next meeting to understand the transfer needed to address this shortage.

Our intention is to reallocate any surplus to cover items that were not initially budgeted for, such as:

- *K-5 Reading Program adoption required by the state*
- *Cameras for the Elementary Schools which are necessary but were not funded by the state security grant*
- *High school scoreboard which was installed in 2008 and has a broken part which can no longer be purchased*
- *Elementary playgrounds which have essential repairs which were identified in playground inspections*

We will provide further updates as we refine our projections and identify funds available for essential items.

Item 7. New Business

- a. Consideration and action to approve the contract of CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraeducator Chapter as recommended by the negotiating committee.

Motion: To approve the contract of CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraeducator Chapter as recommended by the negotiating committee.

Moved by: Carol Burgess
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

The paraeducator' union voted to ratify the contract language which was negotiated in this four-year contract. The Board was represented in these negotiations by Wills and Tina.

Key changes include:

- *reference to mandatory professional development,*
- *reference to the requirement that paras meet federal highly qualified status by achieving a passing score on the ParaPro or two years of study in college,*
- *3.0% wage increase in year 1, 3.25% in year 2 and 3.0% in years 3 and 4,*
- *addition of 4-hour paid holidays for part-time paras (2 paid holidays already in contract, added a third holiday on Step 2, a fourth on Step 3, and fifth on Step 4, a sixth on Step 5 and a seventh on Step 6.) Our goal was to incentivize continued employment.*
- *move from PPO to high deductible health care plan unless already enrolled in the PPO plan*
- *increase in PT paras' group life insurance from \$20,000 to \$25,000*
- *increase in the total amount sick leave that can be accrued (from 135 to 150 days for FT paras, and from 88 to 120 hours for PT paras*

- b. Consideration and possible action to approve Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts Program for use in grades K – 5 as recommended by the E&E committee.

Motion: To approve the Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts Program for use in grades K-5.

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

Superintendent Pallin explained:

An ELA committee worked for two years identifying the critical components of a new program. The reading coaches procured samples of all approved programs and reviewed them to select those which met the committee's criteria. Three programs were brought forward for in-depth review. Program kits were reviewed by teams of teachers from every grade level, representing all three schools and special education. Representatives from each program presented their program to the committee and the programs were scored using a detailed rubric. Committee members visited three schools to view each program in action and speak with teachers and administrators about their experiences. Finally committee members piloted units in their classrooms. Participants completed a survey and shared experiences at meetings this spring. The committee unanimously voted to adopt the Amplify Education Core Knowledge Language Arts program.

- c. Consideration and action to approve the job descriptions for Montville Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion: To approve the job descriptions for Montville Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee

Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback explained:

The job descriptions for superintendent and assistant superintendent have been revised to reflect their current roles and will be used as selection criteria in the Assistant Superintendent search.

Moved by: Lisa Terry
Seconded by: Tina Grove
Vote: Carried (9-0)

- d. Consideration and action to send a letter to the Town Council confirming our use of the non-lapsing account to meet shortage of \$205,611.05 in the 2022-2023 budget

Motion: To send a letter to the Town Council confirming our use of the non-lapsing account to meet shortage of \$205,611.05 in the 2022-2023 budget.

Moved by: Tina Grove
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried (9-0)

Superintendent Pallin explained:

This has nothing to do with our current budget, it's a transfer from the non-lapsing account to make up for a shortage in last year's budget due to unbudgeted costs for tuition and transportation for outplaced students. We typically formally make this request after financial reports are complete and that took longer than usual this year.

- e. Appraisal of awarding of bid for the Tyl roof construction project

Superintendent Pallin explained:

We received 5 bids for the Tyl roof project. Greenwood Industries from Worcester, MA was the lowest bidder and their references were excellent. Al Jacunski has worked with them in the past and highly recommended them. After reviewing those costs eligible for reimbursement at 72.5% and ineligible costs, and adding the architects' fees, we believe the project will come in slightly below budget. The roof project was part of the \$7 million bond approved by voters in which has \$1,450,940 allocated for Tyl roof replacement. We believe the project will come in at a total cost to the Town of about \$1.2 million. Hopefully this will

enable us to reinstate two projects which were in the original bond and were zeroed out to provide funding necessary for the roof project. These projects were additional caulking of exterior and window joints at Tyl (\$177,900) and Mohegan School window replacement (\$129,610). Work is scheduled to begin on June 18 and it is our understanding the work can be completed over the summer.

f. Appraisal of HVAC grant awards

Superintendent Pallin explained:

Yesterday, the state announced \$122 million in grant awards for CT public schools for HVAC systems. Montville was awarded the second highest grant amount in the state at \$15,532,286. Norwalk was the only district with a higher award at \$21.5 million. The state is paying 72.5% of projects at all six schools.

This includes funding for the 5 schools in the HVAC Project bond (voted on by town in Dec. 2023) at a total cost of \$15.3 million and funding for the Tyl boilers and rooftop units which were in the \$7 million bond approved by voters in 2022. The boiler replacement has already been completed and we will receive reimbursement from the state for this project (72.5% of about \$750,000) and the Air Handlers were budgeted at \$4,626,000 in the initial grant. The Tyl projects were in our first HVAC grant request in the initial round of state funding and were resubmitted for this second round of funding.

Receipt of these grants represents a huge savings to the town as the bonds supported fully funding the projects and now the state will fund 72.5% of the total costs. I am extremely grateful to Kathy for her work in preparation of the grant applications and to the Town Council for their support in meeting the requirement that we demonstrate the town has funding in place.

Kathy, Willie, Dianne, and I met this past week with the architect and engineer to discuss moving forward with these projects. There is considerable design work which needs to be completed before the projects can go out to bid. The easiest projects are Palmer and the elementary schools and we are hopeful construction documents will be completed by September. MHS and Tyl probably won't be ready to go out to bid until the beginning of December. There is a 36-week lag in ordering some of the equipment. The projects must be completed by Dec. 2025 to meet the terms of the grant so our timeframe will be tight.

g. Discussion of continuation of recordings on BOE Meetings

Superintendent Pallin explained:

We can see on our website how many times the Board meeting videos are viewed. Below are the total number of views.

<i>Nov 2023</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Dec 2023</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Jan 2024</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Finance 101</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Feb 2024</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Mar 2024</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Apr 2024</i>	<i>1</i>

Viewing of videos of BOE meetings has gone down significantly. It is a time-intensive process, and I just wanted to ensure the Board would like to continue with this initiative.

Lisa Terry requested this be placed on next month's agenda.

- h. Discussion and possible action regarding 2024-2025 substitute pay

Superintendent Pallin explained:

There has been discussion on social media regarding our pay for substitutes. While our daily substitute rate does exceed minimum wage (\$95 for 6 hours) it is not much above minimum wage (\$15.83 / hour). We do pay significantly more for our building substitutes (\$140 / day for subs with a BA and \$150 / day for subs with teaching certificates). It you would like to discuss the daily rate sub pay once we know our budget appropriation, we can put it on a future agenda. Please note that we have been overbudget in the sub line for the past several years.

Principals described their issues staffing vacant positions and Lisa Terry requested this be placed on next month's agenda

Item 8. Old Business

- a. Review and possible revision of 2024-2025 Board of Education Budget

Motion: To revise 2024-2025 Board of Education Budget as recommended

Moved by:	Wills Pike
Seconded by:	Tina Grove
Vote:	Carried (9-0)

Budget Item	Adjustments		*Percent Increase
Superintendent's Request		45,464,616	4.392%
Changes made before submission to the Town			
MERS - Reduce to 16.68% from 17.38%, Received Rate on 2/29	(\$36,000)	45,428,616	4.310%
Error in Tutor Calculation	\$39,300	45,467,916	4.400%
Remove CABA Convention from Conference fees	(\$4,500)	45,463,416	4.390%
Add \$4,000 for Shipman Policy Service	\$4,000	45,467,416	4.399%
Increase magnet tuition - Board decided to keep this savings	\$0	45,467,416	4.399%
Additional paras	\$60,000	45,527,416	4.537%
Changes proposed for consideration at tonight's BOE meeting			
Health insurance adjustment	(\$175,000)	45,352,416	4.135%
Use of grant funding for Pathways Waterford Country Day	(\$10,000)	45,342,416	*4.112%

**This represents the percent increase from last year's total budget amount of \$43,551,628. It includes the town's appropriation of \$43,351,628 plus \$200,000 from the Cannabis tax refund.*

Item 9. Information Items

None.

Item 10. Committee and Liaison reports:

- a. Policy – Tina Grove – Discussed job description of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.
- b. Education Evaluation –Bob Mitchell- (2) presentation, one previously discussed and the other is student participation in sports.
- c. Communications Committee – No meeting
- d. Montville Education Foundation – Laurie Pallin – Met to select grant recipients. Grants being awarded this week.
- e. LEARN - Bob Mitchell –State is funding 95% of the Early Childhood Center in

- Waterford, approx.. 95 million. June 6th last meeting of the year, invited incoming and outgoing Superintendents to attend*
- f. CABA/NSBA – Carol Burgess- Discussed next year budget and priorities for next year*
 - g. Montville Youth Services Bureau- Timothy Shanahan, Mental Health Awareness month and Youth Services will be at Ben & Jerrys on May 27th serving ice cream and providing information on Mental Health.*
 - h. Student Board Representatives*

Junior Class Representative: Adam Gallagher

The Boys Tennis team has finished their season with the record of 11-5, and is sending 3 players to ECC's and has their first states match this Friday along with the girls' tennis team, on the 24th. With this record our team has won our division and will be moving up into the next division, so congrats to us. Last week the arts council held an open mic night, which I went to and unfortunately didn't have the best turnout, but I still found it a valuable opportunity to share my work. The poet laureate submissions are also coming up. Sabria Wynn, this year's poet laureate, will be reading some poetry at this year's graduation before someone else takes the title for next year (or should could win once again). Just like last year, we are submitting our work in May, and will then do a reading in the fall of the next school year and then the winner will be decided, at least as far as I'm aware. As someone who is a big fan and writer of poetry, I find the poet laureate very helpful as one of few opportunities to share our work so I'm very much looking forward to it. I also want to introduce Tiana, who will be the Junior representative next year. Right now she is a sophomore at Montville High School. Her favorite pastimes are listening to music, reading novels, and spending time with friends and family. She is currently a proud member of the Girls Outdoor Track team, a National Society of High School Scholars member, and a member of Montville High's Concert Choir. In the future, she is most looking forward to seeing Montville High School grow as a more welcoming and supportive environment for all in education and extracurriculars. Lastly, I would like to thank you all as well as Alexis for being so welcoming of me and helping me feel comfortable in this position. I really appreciate this opportunity.

Senior Class Representative Alexa Beams:

Our spring athletes are wrapping up a season full of growth and success as teams begin competing in ECC Championships as well as States in the coming weeks. Each sport held senior night ceremonies to honor graduating players' dedication to their respective programs. Notably, the girls track team became ECC Division 3 Champions last week while the Tyl boys track team continues to remain undefeated. I also would like to highlight 2 students, Nick Diaz and Cole Terni, who were awarded the CIAC Unified Sports Exemplary Teammate award for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and citizenship.

Outside of athletics, our students have accomplished a lot in the past month. The Environmental Club partnered with Ben and Jerry's at Mohegan Sun to put on an Earth Day event where they spread information about the environment to the Montville community. The Montville Arts Council and National Art Honor Society hosted a coffeehouse open mic night last Thursday, welcoming artists of any kind to share their work and admire the art of others. The National Art Honor Society also visited an art class at Mohegan Elementary School to draw with students and are currently working on making clay sculptures that bring the student's creations to life. Additionally, our ECE Biology teacher, Mrs. Mathieu, was awarded the 2024 UConn ECE Instructor Award for

Excellence in Course Instruction and as one of her students, I have to testify that her class is truly amazing and the recognition is well deserved.

Though we have less than a month left of the school year, there is still plenty going on at MHS between now and then. Underclassmen awards will take place on May 30 while senior awards will be on June 6th. Newly selected members of the National Honor Society as well as the National Spanish Honor Society will be inducted in a ceremony in the auditorium on May 28. Current NHS members are planning another car wash on June 2nd from 10am to 2pm at the community center to continue raising funds that will purchase new clothing for Montville students in need.

Students at Tyl have been working hard on SBA and NGSS testing and their efforts will be celebrated with a spirit week, concluding in a “Get Out and Play Day” on Friday to promote mental health. On Friday, May 24, Tyl will hold its Spring Tyl Way Assembly. Over 500 students were nominated by their peers and teachers for embodying the core values of Respect, Responsibility, Pride, and Safety. At the assembly, 15 students and 3 staff members will be recognized with the top honors. Before their promotion on June 13th, the 8th graders in good academic and behavioral standing will celebrate their achievements with a class trip to Lake Compounce.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the board for the opportunity to learn about all of the work that goes into education and allowing me to share what Montville students are up to. For the past 14 years, I have attended Montville Schools and I sincerely appreciate all of the work the board has done to provide myself and all students with a valuable education. Thank you.

i. Principal’s Comments

MHS – Rob Alves. Recognized the Administration team: Amanda Brown, Ken Daniewicz, and Tim Dilweg.

CEM- Liz Dumond. The (3) Elementary schools participated in Launching the Little League season.

MOH - William Klinefelter. Family fun day at Mohegan Elementary on Jun 1st all invited.

PAL – David Gollsneider. Fully staffed and looking forward to working with new Math and Special Ed teachers.

Item 11. Report on District Operating Plan

a. Report from Director of Special Services – Paula LaChance

As we wind down the year, I have been working on finalizing programming and staffing needs for ESY. We are fully staffed and the scheduling for outings is well underway. Students are getting excited for the end of the school year. There are a variety of activities planned throughout the district with some already having taken place.

There was a Unified prom at New London High School May 4th. 12 of our students from unified sports attended.

Brian Burns class took a field trip to Niantic where they enjoyed time on the boardwalk, lunch at the shack and time at the Book Barn.

Kalyn's class had a guest; our Speech Path Sam Capozza's brother come in to do a presentation on flowers. He talked to the class about the process for growing flowers and brought in flowers for the students to make bouquets for their mothers on Mother's Day.

Pictures from all these events are posted on our Facebook page so if you haven't seen them, please check them out.

Lastly, the Transition Academy will be graduating three students this year and those three will move onto programming with DDS or BRS. The students each have planned a special event for the group which include a trip to Ocean Beach, Mystic Seaport, and hiking at Devils Hopyard.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Dianne Vumback

Professional Development

On May 2nd we had a 2-hour PD. Secondary educators worked on curriculum. Karen Grey provided presentation on play-based learning to the Elementary educations. PD was really amazing, showed how to incorporated play with learning. Complex learning but they were having fun.

State Assessments

State testing ends on May 31st

Vacancy

A large team are reviewing the applications for Assistant Superintendent. Have a large pool of applicants. Interviews will be conducted next.

c. Report from the Superintendent – Laurie Pallin

I sent an Email to Tim May regarding ECS and Excess Cost funds.

For FY 2024, the town booked \$12,712,864 for the Education Cost Share Appropriation from the State. The town actually received \$12,873,712 (\$12,802,864 appropriation plus \$74,140 adjustment for the prior year. This is a difference of \$160,848 in funds designated for education which are in the fund balance.

For FY 2024, the town booked \$450,000 as revenue from the State for the Excess Cost Grant. Based on the Dec. grant payment report, it is estimated that the town will receive \$699,403. This is a difference of \$249,403 in funds designated for special education costs which are not accounted for in the town's budget.

Similarly, for FY 2025, the town has budgeted for \$450,000 from the Excess Cost Grant. Since there is little change to our special education student outplacements, it is likely we will see a similar savings next year.

Also, for next year, the town has budgeted \$35,000 for the Adult Education Entitlement. We are expecting to receive \$37,598. (It's only \$2,598 but every bit makes a difference!)

In summary:

<i>Fund Source</i>	<i>Amount Booked / Budgeted</i>	<i>Amount Received / Anticipated</i>	<i>Surplus not accounted for in budget</i>
<i>Education Cost Share Grant, FY 2024</i>	\$12,712,864	\$12,873,712	\$160,848
<i>Excess Cost Grant, FY 2024</i>	\$450,000	\$695,000	\$245,000
<i>Excess Cost Grant, FY 2025</i>	\$450,000	\$695,000	\$245,000
<i>Adult Education Entitlement, FY 2025</i>	\$35,000	\$37,598	\$2,598
<i>Estimated Total Funds received (or expected) from State of CT for Education Costs which have not been designated or budgeted for by the town</i>			\$653,446

Finally, it was estimated that the town would receive \$200,000 from Cannabis sales taxes for 2024. Through Feb., the town had received \$276,000 and that does not include revenue from March-June. I also requested that the Town consider applying some of the Cannabis funds to our budget.

Item 12. Citizens' comments

Mr. Kevin Lathrop, 1316 East Lake Rd, I'm on the Board of Finance, appreciate the efforts on watching the number and being honest on the Board of Education budget

Joseph Jaskiewicz, Park Ave – *Has my Finance director been contacted?*

Kathy Lamoureux responded -*Yes, Barbara has been contacted and we have talked.*

Item 13. Board Chair Remarks Wills Pike

Super proud of the Board and administrative team for putting this budget together. Admin team has done a wonderful job on the ESSER grants. Have concerns on the Substitute teachers, Para professional and certified staff.

Item 14. Future agenda items

None

Item 15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wills Pike, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Bob Mitchell, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____