

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Board Chair David Rowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Carrie T. Baxter, Deborah Reed-Iler, Steve Loiler, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, James Wood and David Rowley. Sandra Berardy was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Pamela Aubin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Director of Special Services Donna Maynard, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Laurie Pallin, Business Director Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Facilities Matt Bialowas, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp, Administrators Lorilyn Caron, Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Chad Ellis, Mark Johnson, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jeff Newton, Sheila Reagan and Eileen Richmond, Student Board Representatives Jessica Semmelrock and Matthew Clark, and MEA president Joel Farrior.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels.

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

District-wide: Assistant Superintendent Brian Levesque recognized Nic Savoie for his tireless work on the X2 Aspen project, working beyond his scheduled hours (including weekends), his focus on every single detail to ensure a successful implementation for all users, and his dedication to the Montville Public School. A certificate was presented by Board member Bob Mitchell.

Mohegan School: Principal Lorilyn Caron recognized Kayla Hill for her unselfish act in donating her hair to Wigs for Kids, an organization that donates hair to children with cancer. Wen Jing Ou was recognized for her volunteer efforts to help Chinese speaking kindergarten students acclimate to Mohegan Elementary School. Also recognized was Delek Cheokey for her volunteer efforts to help Mandarin and Tibetan kindergarten students acclimate to Mohegan Elementary School. The certificates were presented by Board member Dave Rowley.

Oakdale School: Principal Mark Johnson recognized Timothy Leitzinger for his selfless support of a friend in need. Alexa Charles was recognized for teaching us the true meaning of courage with a smile. Certificates were presented by Board member Carrie Baxter.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Jeff Newton recognized Morgan Lee and her mother Michelle Lee for their tremendous effort in working nightly to improve Morgan's reading over the past two years. Emily Leffingwell was recognized for her courage and bravery battling Alopecia Areata. Board member Steve Loiler presented the certificates.

Leonard J. Tyl School: Principal Mary Jane Dix and Assistant Principal Will Klinefelter, Jr. recognized Brianna Riodan for being a role model to her peers and for her resilient spirit and upbeat nature. Laura Commons was recognized for her strong work ethic and for being helpful and supportive to her classmates. Certificates were presented by Board member Todd Pomazon.

Montville High School: Principal Chad Ellis and Assistant Principal Jason Daly recognized Josh Cushing and representatives Andy Chery, Alicia Gilbride, Zachary Scovish, and Rachael Skinner of the Montville High School Chamber Choir for doing such a wonderful job of singing at so many different events, including the CABA/CAPSS Convention. Board member Jim Wood presented the certificates.

Palmer Academy: Principal Sheila Reagan recognized Dr. J. Eugene Lewis for presenting a magnificent slide show and dynamic presentation on *Climate Trends in the Arctic Circle* to Palmer Academy students. His daughter Susan Osborn accepted on his behalf as he is currently working on a project in Haiti. The certificate was presented by Board member Tom McNally.

Presentation: B) Recognition of Thomas J. Amanti – 36 years of service to Montville High School.

D. Rowley presented T. Amanti with a card and gift certificate for his 36 years of service within the district. He said that he felt that the presenter should be someone who was at MHS before T. Amanti arrived—and that person, of course, was D. Rowley who wished T. Amanti a happy retirement.

**Presentation: C) Recognition of Montville High School Soccer Team:
Senior Captain Tyler Leeman; Seniors CJ. Iler, and Zac Johnson; and
Coaches Colin Delaney, Roger Robinson, Chris Ouellette and Matt
Ouellette.**

Coach Delaney introduced the teammates and coaches representing the MHS Soccer Team praising them for their work ethic and efforts on behalf of the team. Board member Deb Reed-Iler presented the certificates.

A short break took place at 6:27 p.m. to celebrate the honorees and the meeting resumed at 6:44 p.m.

Presentation: D) Raising Readers Program – Mohegan School.

L. Caron and staff Lisa Kaplan, Mona Levin, Lisa Zeblonski, Elizabeth Ager, and Kathy Gustaven who represented a much larger team, gave a presentation of the Raising Readers initiative that began at Mohegan School, with a \$2,000 grant from the MEF. The parent and student literacy program will also be implemented at Oakdale and Murphy Schools.

Presentation: E) Digital Backpack – Dr. Charles E. Murphy School.

J. Newton and staff Jeanne Chrimes, Deb Hamm, Laura Malinick, and Sue McAdams gave a presentation on Digital Backpack, a means for reducing paper going home to parents. By going to the Murphy website, parents can access student activities, homework, and assessments by the week.

Item 3. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only).

None

Item 4: Letters and communications. (8 – Communications/Marketing)

T. McNally reported on letters from the following:

1. Lee Tighe, a resident of Oakdale, who wrote in support of the Enrichment Program.
2. A letter from the State of CT English Language Learner with data results for the district's AMAO for 2009-10 under Title II, NCLB regulations.
3. A notice of resignation from SRO Officer Rockwell effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
4. A letter from the United Way of SE CT in thanks to the district for raising \$5,347 in the 2010 campaign.
5. A Town notice of Ordinance No. 2010-003, to establish child safety zones, adopted October 13, 2010.
6. A letter from George Coleman, Acting Commissioner of the State BOE concerning the upcoming, statewide CMT/CAPT testing in response to this year's winter weather.
7. A thank you card from Stephanie Myette of ECSU for the district donation to the ECSU Habitat for Humanity Shack-a-thon.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

Student Board Representatives Jessica Semmelrock and Matthew Clark gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. The student body welcomes Mr. Ellis to the high school and wishes him the best of luck in his new career.
2. The MHS Drama Club is rehearsing for the spring musical, *Guys and Dolls* that will run from March 17 – 19. Tickets will go on sale on February 23--\$8 for students and seniors, \$10 for adults. Spring t-shirts for the Drama Club were supplied this year by Palmer Academy.
3. The Class of 2012 will host a "Mr. Montville" on Thursday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m. For \$5, the event includes talent, formal wear with a gal pal, and a question and answer period. All grades are able to participate.
4. Student Government will host a blood drive in the MHS gym on Friday, February 18.
5. The American Studies Program took juniors and seniors to the Hartford Stage Company to see the play, "*Snow Falling on Cedars.*" The assignment was to look at the effects of prejudice on society and individuals.
6. English classes are finishing their Poetry Out Loud competitions and are prepping for the school-wide competition on February 24, at 6 p.m.

7. On February 12, five MHS students, Caitlyn Stewart, Riddhi Dave, Joan Miller, Rena Wu, and Loren Rickards won gold, bronze, and silver awards in various categories in the State Academic Decathlon.
8. Sports honors: Tyler Leeman—Soccer All-American and Soccer Area Player of the year; Tyler Girard-Floyd—Football Area Player of the Year; Tyler Girard-Floyd, Robert Johnson, Skyler McNair, and Jake Basilica—All-State Team for football; Courtney Stefano—All-State in girls soccer; Connor Leeman—All-State in boys soccer.
9. Girls basketball record 11-3, State tournament starts February 19; wrestling record 15-7; indoor track has competed in several meets, including two ECC meets at Waterford High; cheerleading is readying to begin the ECC on February 26 and State Competition on March 12. ECC all-stars took place on February 5th at Wheeler High.
10. MHS has selected Chelsea McDermott and Sam Todd as CAS/CIAC Scholar athletes representing the high school at the awards ceremony on Saturday, Mary 1st at the Aqua Turf in Southington.
11. Winter Guard is off to a great season with their 2011 show, “Secrets of the Forest.” At their first performance, they won first place out of five guards in the Scholastic AA class.

Item 7. Unfinished business.

- a. **Consideration and action for recommendations/approval of the proposed budget for 2011-2012. (Board members are requested to bring copies of their budget, previously distributed.) (3 -- Budget/Resources)**

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed 2011-2012 budget.
Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

At its annual budget meeting on Saturday, February 12, the Board discussed the proposed 2011-2012 budget of \$36,789,692, representing an increase of 1.43% over last year's budget. P. Aubin reported that absent Board member S. Berardy was in support of the same.

- b. **Consideration and action to adopt the proposed school calendar for 2011-12. (1 – Advocacy)**

P. Aubin stated that the 2011-12 calendar aligns with the regional calendar and according to B. Mitchell the region is being observed to see if the regional calendar works.

Motion: That the Board adopts the proposed 2011-12 school calendar.
Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 8. New Business

- a. **Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy 3541, Pupil Transportation as recommended by the Policy Committee at this evening's meeting. (6 – School Health/Safety)**

An adjustment was made to the policy, page 2, line2, to read “in the vicinity” instead of “generally within one-half mile.”

Motion: That the Board approves revisions to Policy 3541, Pupil Transportation, as recommended by the Policy Committee, at this evening’s meeting, as revised.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

b. Consideration and action to approve new Policy 5117, School Attendance Areas, as recommended by the Policy Committee at this evening’s meeting. (6 – School Health/Safety)

Motion: That the Board approves revisions to Policy 5117, School Attendance, as proposed by the Policy Committee at this evening’s meeting.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

c. Consideration and action to approve new Policy 5145.12, Policy regarding Search and Seizure, with Administrative Procedures, as recommended by the Policy Committee at this evening’s meeting. (6 – School Health/Safety)

Motion: That the Board approves new Policy 5145.12, Policy regarding Search and Seizure, with Administrative Procedures, as recommended by the Policy Committee at this evening’s meeting.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

c-1. Consideration and action to approve a grade 7 social studies textbook, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at this evening’s meeting. (Added to agenda).

B. Mitchell stated that the E & E Committee discussed the same this evening. The textbook aligns with the 6th and 8th grade books already in use at a cost of \$13,311 for 250 textbooks—a cost already included in the proposed budget.

Motion: That the Board approves the grade 7 social studies textbook, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee at this evening’s meeting.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

c-2. Consideration and action to adopt the textbook entitled, Personal Finance, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee, at this evening's meeting. (Added to agenda)

B. Mitchell stated that the textbook is designed for 38 students, for ELL students or others who must meet the MHS graduation requirement. The cost for 25 textbooks is \$1,583.

Motion: That the Board adopts the textbook entitled, Personal Finance, as recommended by the Educational Evaluation Committee, at this evening's meeting.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously

d. Consideration and action to accept Dr. Charles E. Murphy School, State Project #086-0087EA, as complete by the School Building Committee. (6 – School Health/Safety)

Motion: That the Board accepts the Dr. Charles E. Murphy School, State Project #086-0087EA, as complete by the School Building Committee.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

e. Consideration and action to accept Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, State Project #086-E/CV, as complete by the School Building Committee. (6 – School Health/Safety)

Motion: That the Board tables action to accept Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, State Project #086-E/CV, as complete by the School Building Committee.

Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler
Vote: Carried unanimously

The egress doors to the Tyl gymnasium are eligible for reimbursement.

f. Consideration and action to accept Montville High School, State Project #086-0085EA, as complete by the School Building Committee (6 – School Health/Safety)

Motion: That the Board accepts Montville High School, State Project #086-0085EA, as complete by the School Building Committee.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

- g. Consideration and action to accept the Central Office project, State Project #086-0090BE/A, as complete by the School Building Committee. (6 – School Health/Safety)**

Motion: That the Board accepts the Central Office project, State Project #086-0090BE/A, as complete by the School Building Committee.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler
Seconded by: Tom McNally
Vote: Carried unanimously

- h. Appraisal of field trip: Montville High School, Adventure Club, Wild Cat, NH, 20 students, February 25-27, 2011.**

Board members were apprised of this trip.

- i. Appraisal of a field trip: Montville High School, Adventure Club, Mt. Snow, VT, 20 students, March 25-27, 2011.**

Board members were apprised of this trip.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

- a. Policy (James Wood). (1 – Advocacy)**

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening. He thanked K. Lamoureux for her help on the pupil transportation policy dealt with this evening. He also thanked T. McNally and S. Loiler for their input regarding bus conduct. J. Wood added that the Committee continued its review of the Board bylaws.

- b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell). (5 – Monitoring District/School Improvement)**

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and heard a presentation on the 2010-2011 athletic programs and another on 2011-2012 courses.

- c. Montville Education Foundation (Deborah Reed-Iler). (7 – Positive Community Relationships)**

B. Levesque reported that the MEF had a successful fundraiser, having raised \$9,000 from the Brad Paisley concert at Mohegan Sun. He also reported that the grant cycle ended on October 31 and third cycle grants will be distributed.

- d. LEARN (Deborah Reed-Iler). (1 – Advocacy)**

D. Reed-Iler reported that she was unable to attend the LEARN meeting but was sent a perspective on the North Stonington senior project. She asked for commentary from the Board on the same. She will forward the information to P. Aubin for distribution to the Board.

- e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell). (1 – Advocacy)**

B. Mitchell reported that a Legislative Breakfast sponsored by Stonington was held. The topic discussed was the delay of secondary school reform. The matter was also touched upon by Senator Stillman. Also, March 9 is the CAFE Day on the Hill and again he would like to take the Student Board Representatives to witness the day.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon/Donna Jacobson). (6 – School Health/Safety)

T. Pomazon commented on the January Committee meeting and the discussion regarding the door openers for the Tyl gymnasium.

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Tom McNally). (8 – Communication/Marketing)

T. McNally did not attend the meeting as he was away on vacation.

h. Capital Improvement Committee (Tom McNally). (6 – School Health/Safety)

T. McNally asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

i. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell). (7 – Positive Community Relationships)

B. Mitchell reported that the bylaws have been changed and the facility will no longer be available for rental.

j. Administrative Monthly Reports. (5 – Monitoring District/School Improvement)

These reports were submitted to the Board in their packets.

k. Chair's Remarks.

- D. Rowley will conduct an interview with MHS principal Chad Ellis on Cable Channel 22.
- A March 4, 2011, a budget forum will be held at the Senior Center.
- He read to second graders at Oakdale School.

l. Other.

None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Ms. Maynard.

- She reported on the House of Representatives vote to reduce \$5 million in IDEA grants.
- Special education has been hit with an unprecedented action.
- LEARN is reaching out to area high schools for transition services.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

- Reported that he is happy that the weather has taken a turn for better.
- The district is gearing up for CMT and CAPT testing with materials having been delivered to schools for administration from March 2 – 29. Results will be sent to the State by April 1.
- The Team Program, that replaced BEST, has done a good job with mentoring. Five staff members had to complete the program by January 31, and all have been submitted and accepted.

- Read to Ride, in cooperation with Norwich, gives bikes to elementary children as a reading incentive. Funds are being raised to continue to support the program. Board members will be notified of the same.
- The X2Aspen data software parent portal is being tested for its debut with two mock students. The next step will involve having the entire Tyl School start implementing the software by fall.

c. Monthly Update – Mrs. Aubin

- Legislative Breakfast on February 14, 2011, at Stonington High School. Present were: Senator Stillman, Senator Maynard, and Representatives. Reynolds, Ritter and Ryan.

The following issues critical to education were addressed:

- Kindergarten start date and universal preschool/Early Childhood Education
 - “Money follows the child” concept
 - Education Cost Sharing-level funding
 - Minimum Budget Requirement
 - Secondary School Reform
 - Statewide school calendar
 - Governor Malloy’s Budget-Proposed School Construction reimbursement percentage changes.
- At the Town Council Meeting on February 14th at 7:00, the council unanimously voted to accept the BOE/MEA Contract.
 - School Calendar 2010-2011--current last day for students June 20, 2011 (6 snow days) and last day for staff June 21, 2011. Montville started school on the Monday before Labor Day (Aug. 30) and only has one additional day for February break.
 - Governor Malloy will be presenting his budget tomorrow and will be holding a Town Hall meeting at Norwich City Hall. (Notice handed out to Board).
 - On March 4, 2011, we will hold a Budget Forum at the Senior Center at 10:00 AM. BOE members are welcome to attend.
 - Virginia Seccombe (Executive Director of LEARN), Paul Kadri (Superintendent. of Schools in Groton), Mike Graner (Superintendent. Of Schools in Ledyard) and Mrs. Aubin met with the Executive Board of SCOG to discuss ideas around regional cost sharing approaches and ways to achieve efficiencies between Boards of Education and Municipalities.
 - February 3, 2011-Community Council met and Laurie Pallin presented on Assessment Practices in our schools including DIBELS, Benchmark Assessment, CMT, CAPT, SAT and AP exams.

Item 11. Information items.

The CAFE Day on the Hill will be held on March 9 in Hartford.

Item 12. Citizens’ comments (non-agenda items only).

None

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell
Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Tom McNally, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____