

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
December 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Board Chair Dave 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, Sandra Berardy, Deborah Reed-Iler, Tom McNally, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Todd Pomazon, James Wood and David Rowley. Board member Steve Loiler 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, Administrators Lorilyn Caron, Jason Daley, Mary Jane Dix, Chad Ellis, Amy Espinoza, Mark Johnson, William Klinefelter, Jr., Sheila Reagan and Town Council Liaison Gary Murphy.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Motion: That the Board adds agenda Item 6b, Discuss negotiations regarding ratification of the MAA contract in executive session and invite in Superintendent Pam Aubin, Assistant Superintendent Brian Levesque and Business Director Kathy Lamoureux.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded b: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried unanimously

Presentation: A) **Holiday Songs by the Dr. Charles E. Murphy Grade 5 Chorus, directed by Donna Lozupone.**

- **Rules for Christmas**
- **Arbol de Navidad**
- **Shalom Chaverim**
- **Light the Candles all Around the World**

The Murphy School Grade 5 Chorus entertained the Board and the assembly with four holiday songs. The students who participated were Grace Baukus, Melody Spoczak, Maay Wittiker, Caleb Forehand, Alison Richards, Colby Brown, Geetanjali Ghouhan, Elena Landry, Nia Muckenthaler, Dejonte Hall, Tessa Rummel, Miranda Bevin, Jarrett Howard, Alexis Fess, Lauren Ross, Tiffany Mullins, Victoria Mitchell, Nina Dellaquila, and Xyla West. Mrs. Lozupone said that fifty-seven students are involved in the chorus.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:16 p.m. for a short reception and resumed at 6:25 p.m.

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

Oakdale resident Danielle Ladia spoke in support of the proposed full-day kindergarten that is being studied by the Ad Hoc Full Day Kindergarten Feasibility Committee. She said she has a child that just came out of kindergarten and two preschool-aged twins. D. Ladia also said that 2 ½ hours at school was just not enough time in the current half-day kindergarten session. She added that there is not a recess during the half-day sessions for the children.

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

None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Unfinished Business

a. Report and update of the Ad Hoc Kindergarten Feasibility Committee. (8—BOE Knowledge)

P. Aubin reported that the Committee met on December 7 with C. Baxter in attendance and subcommittees reviewed all aspects of a potential full-day kindergarten. A computer-based survey for the same was completed with great participation and was translated into Spanish and Chinese. The Committee will present its findings to the Board at its January 2012 meeting.

b. That the Board discusses negotiations for ratification of the MAA contract. (5—Positive Community Relationships.

Motion: That the Board goes into executive session to discuss negotiations for ratification of the MAA contract.

Proposed by: Tom McNally

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

The Board went into executive session at 6:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 6:50 p.m., with no votes taken.

Item 7. New Business.

a. Consideration and action to ratify the MAA contract (5—Positive Community Relationships)

Motion: That the Board approves ratification of the MAA contract.

Proposed by: Tom McNally

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

b. Consideration and action to approve new Policy (500 series), Safe School Climate Plan. (1—School Safety/Positive Climate)

J. Wood reported that the Committee met last month and approved forwarding the policy to the full board.

Motion: That the Board approves new Policy (500 series), Safe School Climate Plan.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Tom McNally

Vote: Carried unanimously

c. Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy #6146, Credit Requirements. (2—Student Achievement)

J. Wood reported that the Committee met last month and approved forwarding the policy to the full board.

Motion: That the Board approves the revisions to Policy #6146, Credit Requirements.
Proposed by: Tom McNally
Seconded by: Carrie T. Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

- d. Appraisal of field trip: Montville High School, Girls Basketball Team for Basketball Tournament, Enfield, CT (with a day trip to the Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield, Ma, December 28, 2011 – December 29, 2011, 12 students. (2—Student Achievement)**

The Board was apprised of this field trip.

- e. Appraisal of field trip: Ty Middle School, Grade 8 Washington DC Trip, May 22, 2012 – May 24, 2012, grade 8 students. (2—Student Achievement)**

The Board was apprised of this field trip.

- f. Set the dates for Budget Forums:**

- **Monday, January 9, 2012, 5:30 p.m. in the MHS Library/Media Center for Mohegan School, Oakdale School, Dr. Charles E. Murphy School**
- **Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 5:30 p.m. in the MHS Library/Media Center for Leonard J. Tyl Middle School, Montville High School, Palmer Academy**
- **Friday, March 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Senior Citizens Center**

D. Rowley commented that the idea was to have centralized locations for the Board Budget Forums. Figures will not be discussed; the forums are a means for residents to ask questions and get feedback about the upcoming budget. S. Berardy suggested that the purpose for the forums is clarification for residents via the website and other means of communication.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

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

J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed proposed revisions to the policies regarding hiring procedures that was last updated in 1995. There are new statutory requirements including DCF background checks when hiring new personnel.

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

B. Mitchell reported no meeting was held.

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

D. Reed-Iler reported that no meeting was held.

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

D. Reed-Iler reported that LEARN Director Virginia Seccombe reported at the last meeting on a national education science conference on neuroscience with education.

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell). (1 – Advocacy)

B. Mitchell reported that per the Convention held last month, Stonington Board Chair, Gail MacDonald, was elected CABA Area 9 Director and that he had been appointed the new chair of the State Relations Committee.

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

T. Pomazon reported that no meeting was held but that he had been told by the Town Finance Director that the Committee should remain intact until disbanded by Town Council. D. Rowley commented on the ribbon cutting ceremony held at MHS on November 3, 2011.

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

T. McNally reported that he has been appointed as chair of the Council.

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

B. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held due to the holiday party. Also, the Juvenile Review Board will be reactivated in January 2012.

i. Capital Improvement Committee (1—School Safety/Positive Climate)

T. McNally reported no meeting has been called yet.

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

These reports were submitted to the Board in their packets. T. McNally and C. Baxter commented favorably on them.

k. Chair's Remarks.

D. Rowley reported that his interview of C. Baxter regarding the Ad Hoc Kindergarten Feasibility Committee was running that evening at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Cable Access Channel 22.

l. Other.

A November 15, 2011, letter from the Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor discussed the circumstances and procedure for seeking a waiver of the 180-day requirement due to school district closures during the October snowstorm.

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

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

D. Maynard reported to the Board on the following:

Student Needs. She has been working closely with the contracted physical therapist to get the best possible deals on equipment. With the free membership to NEAT Marketplace that Jean Jordan won at a conference, a used car seat in great condition was purchased for \$25. This item new would have cost over \$900. She has also been working with NEAT and local districts to either swap or buy at a significantly reduced cost, used items needed for physically disabled students.

Grant. She has begun work on an application for a training grant sponsored by SERC and the SDE. This grant will allow the district to expand its work with SRBI and provide a continuum of behavior supports for all students. M. Johnson has volunteered his school. On-site technical assistance and coaching will be provided to facilitate strategic decision making to implement the continuum of support to ensure educational benefits for all students. The district does this well now, but we would like to refine our practices.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Levesque.

B. Levesque reported to the Board on the following:

Aspen Special Education Conversion: D. Maynard and he met with X2 today to discuss the conversion of special education data into Aspen. X2 has done a lot of work to complete this conversion, but more work is needed. We will continue to work on this for the next several months in hopes of going live sometime this summer.

Budget Development: B. Levesque is finalizing all of the budget requests that he has received from the schools and will be forwarding this data to K. Lamoureux by the close of the week.

E-Rate: Our Form 470 for the E-Rate Grant will be completed tomorrow. The request to install fiber in all of our schools for next year is being completed. There have been meetings with several consultants and they feel that this is a necessary step to increase band width in our schools. This will be needed when state testing requirements change to on-line testing.

c. Monthly Update.

P. Aubin reported to the Board on the following:

Budget Preparation: Today, representatives from the Town and the Schools met with MDG Associates with regard to the anticipated health insurance impact for 2012-2013. It is still very early in the year to project out rates based on a short history of claims. We will revisit this again in about two months.

Building principals and department heads are submitting their budget requests as we work to build the budget for 2012-2013.

Superintendent's Network visit: The visit took place on December 14th. This involved a cohort of 12 superintendents from around the state who engaged in visiting four classrooms in our district and providing feedback to the host superintendent on the connection between a Superintendent's Theory of Action, alignment between the district's and school's goals, professional development for the staff, the focus on the Professional Learning Community team work and the instruction in the classroom.

Item 11. Information items.

In the Board packets was an October 17, 2011, letter from the State Commissioner of Education with individual letters to the students within district who achieved at the advanced level on all of the CAPT subjects. Montville had 11 students who achieved this distinction. Also in the Board packets was a letter from LEARN Director Virginia Seccombe that mentioned D. Reed-Iler and listed the 2012 LEARN meeting dates.

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

None

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: **That the meeting is adjourned.**

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Carrie T. Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dave Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Tom McNally, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____