

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.**

2014-15 Board of Education Goals:

To engage in a cycle of continuous improvement to ensure all students are educated with high standards and achieve at the highest levels of learning in the Montville Public Schools.

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, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Valerie Smith, James Wood and David Rowley. Board member Steve Loiler was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Mark Johnson, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Margaret Tripp Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Tatiana Patten, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinha, Mayor Ronald McDonald, Town Councilor Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz, State Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th district, State Representative Tim Bowles of 42nd district, and Senator Cathy Olsten of the 19th district.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Reception, 2015 Teacher of the Year – Robin Tamburrino.

Superintendent B. Levesque introduced Robin Tamburrino as Montville's 2015 Teacher of the Year and read a bio of her educational accomplishments. He then introduced the district's 2014 Teacher of the Year Ted Richmond who presented R. Tamburrino with the Montville Teacher of the Year plaque that will be displayed in her classroom during the year. B. Levesque then introduced State Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th district, State Representative Tim Bowles of 42nd district, and Senator Cathy Olsten of the 19th district who presented a State proclamation to R. Tamburrino on behalf of the State General Assembly and their colleagues Representative Betsy Ritter of the 38th district and Senator Andrea Stillman of the 20th district who were unable to attend the reception. B. Levesque also introduced Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Town Council Chair and Board Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Mayor McDaniel presented a certificate to R. Tamburrino on behalf of the Town of Montville.

Board Chair D. Rowley presented R. Tamburrino with “the greatest gift that a teacher can receive” the “Golden Apple”— a new one is on order and will be engraved specifically for her. He then asked her to introduce her family which she did and then followed that with special words of thanks to her family, colleagues, and the Board.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:17 p.m. for a reception in honor of R. Tamburrino and resumed at 6:34 p.m.

Presentation: B) Introduction of New Staff by Administration.

B. Levesque introduced the district administrators who presented the new certified staff members as follows:

Districtwide:

Denise Dunning – Secondary Special Services Program Leader

Mohegan School:

Drew Bicknell – Special Education Teacher

Carl D’Amato – Grade 5 Teacher

Alan Reichle – Grade 2 Teacher

Shara Robertson – Grade 3 Teacher

Amanda Whitney – Grade 3 Teacher

Oakdale School:

Amanda Hergott – Preschool Teacher

Lauren Mercier – School Psychologist

Claire Scott – Music Teacher

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School

Melissa Ambrosio – Grade 5 Teacher

Lia Greenleaf – Special Education Teacher

Lynn Martino – Special Education Teacher

Timothy Thayer– Special Education Teacher

LEONARD J. TYL MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Dorothy Griffiths – Special Education Teacher

Shilpa Nagaraj – Social Worker

Christine San Souci – School Counselor

MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL:

Tara Do – Reading Teacher

Kristen Raulerson – School Counselor

Addy Robarge – Life Management Teacher & Department Head

Jeffrey Ventres – Music/Band Teacher

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

Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. There were none.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

There were none to report.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Deb Reed-Iler

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

- **Introduction of Rohit Sinha, Junior Class**

Chair D. Rowley welcomed back senior Hannah Marchini and introduced Rohit Sinha from, the junior class. The student representatives reported as follows:

1. Students were welcomed back to school on August 25th. Each class assembled in the auditorium to go over new policy changes for the year.
2. Freshman Orientation was held the week prior to school opening, a day in which students learned the layout of the school, found their lockers, and understood their schedules before their first day of school.
3. On September 8th, Dan Holdridge, a 9/11 survivor, spoke to the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors about the events of 9/11 and his personal experience of the surviving the crash into the Pentagon.
4. The Student Government facilitated the Back-to-School Night on September 10. Families were invited in order to meet the students' teachers and to understand their students' schedule. The night was separated into eight 12-minute periods so that every block was represented. About 300 families were in attendance and the culinary class provided refreshments during the program.
5. This past week, a food drive was held for the passing of Alex Rousseau's (MHS English teacher) mother, who was instrumental in the founding and running of the Montville Union Baptist Church food bank. All donations were collected in her memory to honor her.
6. The freshman and sophomore classes are having elections this month for class officers.
7. On September 25th, the ECE Maritime Studies class will be taking a field trip to Avery Point to participate in a "cardboard boat" activity. The students are tasked with creating a boat out of cardboard, plastic, and duct tape that can hold a person and can be raced against other school's boats.

8. A pasta dinner fundraiser will be held on September 26 by the MHS Girls Soccer team from 5 to 7 p.m. at the MHS cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 and all Board members are welcome to attend.
9. On September 30th, Montville High School will host the first of the monthly “ALLI” meetings. ALLI, Adolescent Learning and Leadership Institute, is a regional student conference that consists of different workshops and activities, including a motivational speaker presenting about leadership.
10. Looking ahead, students are beginning to get excited about the approaching Spirit Week and Homecoming football game and dance. Spirit Week begins September 30 and will run for four days and conclude with the pep rally on Friday. The Homecoming football game will be on October 3rd against Woodstock; the Homecoming Dance will be held Saturday, October 4.
11. An update of MHS sports team events and standings was reported.

Item 7. Unfinished business. -- None

Item 8. New Business.

- a. **Consideration and action to approve the Annual Report for 2013-14 and forward it to the Mayor.**

Motion: That the Board approves the 2013-14 Annual Reports and forwards it to the Mayor.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously

- b. **Consideration and action to approve the agreement between the General Teamsters Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the custodial contract, September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2017.**

Motion: That the Board approves the agreement between the General Teamsters Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the custodial contract, September 2, 2014 through August 31, 2017.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously

Superintendent B. Levesque thanked C. Baxter for her participation in the negotiations. He also commented on the language changes to the agreement, the pay raise schedule, and the medical plan which mirrors the changes of the Teacher’s agreement ratified last year.

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood stated that a meeting was not held this month but the Committee would meet next month.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that no meeting was held.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler).

In the absence of S. Loiler, Superintendent B. Levesque reported that the MEF grant cycle has been announced and the deadline for applications is the end of October.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that LEARN met last Thursday and heard an address from Dr. Peter Cummings, the new Associate Executive Director of LEARN. There was also a roundtable discussion at the meeting about the proposed new start time for the high school in Guilford.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell is preparing for the November 14 CABE Convention. He added that the CABE Board meeting held last week focused on the pushback against Smarter Balanced testing, teacher/administrator assessments, and the back off by legislation concerning Common Core.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon). – No report

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that the July meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be held on September 17.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau met on September 11th and discussed the annual Pancake Breakfast that will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on October 26 at the Mohegan Firehouse. He also said that the Juvenile Review Board is doing well. B. Levesque added that a state official was at the last JRB meeting and was pleased with what the Board was doing.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

Board members received the administrative Opening of School reports in their packets. C. Baxter referenced the school name for the Palmer Academy report be updated and told A. Peterson that she loved Mohegan School's new logo.

j. Chair's Remarks. -- None

k. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

M. Johnson reported to the Board on the following:

- IEP Direct: A consultant from IEP Direct spent a half of day with our new special education staff members for training and a half of day with J. Russell, D. Dunning, S. Desirey, and M. Johnson focusing on how to get the best use out of the programming. We also discussed the possibility of integrating a document depository, RTI, and 504 plans along with merging ASPEN and IEP Direct.
- Back to School Meeting: J. Russell, D. Dunning, and M. Johnson will attend the 11th Annual Bureau of Special Education Back to School Meeting. Topics that will be reviewed include data updates, new legislation impacting special education, and the reform of educator preparation. In the afternoon, they will each attend a session, one on secondary transition services, one on PBIS, and one on Special Educator Data Training.
- IEP Plans: On Friday, September 19, a representative from CREC will perform IEP audits on Montville's plans. We are assessing the quality of the plans we are writing and using the findings to generate an action plan for improvement and to guide our professional development. The afternoon will be spent with the elementary special education staff to do a training on the educational benefit practice of determining the quality of our individualized education plans. We completed our summer school programming for our special needs students. We had 46 students from preschool to the high school. The work with the primary grades was to continue meeting IEP academic and social goals while the middle and high school students' focus was on social skills.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

L. Pallin gave a report to the Board on the following:

- Professional Learning: The Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee met last week and is meeting again this week to establish a two year plan for professional learning sessions which will be offered to teachers. Teachers across

the district have identified topics they would like to pursue, and we have begun to train teachers to serve as presenters in specific areas of interest. To date, we have established and trained coaches in Common Core State Standards for ELA, science, social studies, and math and we trained a group of teachers in project based learning. We have plans to develop trainers in areas such as the Mindset Theory, the use of Microsoft and SmartBoard applications, the flipped classroom model, and STAR data analysis.

Based upon faculty surveys, we have determined that our elective area teachers value regional professional development sessions, and we will continue to participate in this inter-district collaborative effort. This month we are working with LEARN to launch regional professional development sessions for Advanced Placement teachers. Two of the sessions met at Montville High School and three of our teachers are acting as facilitators for these sessions.

This Friday we have a half day for professional development which will be utilized across the district for the goal setting required of our teacher evaluation model.

- State Initiatives: We recently learned that the implementation of the reading survey required of early elementary certified teachers which was to begin this month has been delayed. The purpose of this survey was to measure teachers' expertise in the teaching of reading so that the state and local districts could provide necessary professional development. We await further direction from the state.

We are also awaiting further instruction from the state before the district sets a testing window for the spring Smarter Balanced Tests. Right now we know the tests can be administered during a 12-week window at the end of the year, but we do not know how the scores for students who test in March will be compared with scores of students who test in June. Obviously a third of a year of instruction will make a difference in students' performance, and we hope to learn how the scores will be equalized for comparison purposes before we establish our testing window

c. Monthly Update.

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- Hiring Update: We continue to have a vacancy at Oakdale School for the Library/Media Specialist. J. Mazzulupo has done interviews. We hope to have a final candidate soon. We have posted for the Transportation Coordinator. To date, we have received eight applications. He would like to thank Linda Records for her service to the Montville Schools and wish her the best in her new position in Killingly. Her last day in Montville will be October 10.

- Safety and Security: All district and school plans are going through the final editing process. These will be on the agenda for the October meeting. We have also applied for a grant in the second round of the state's security grants. In this grant, we are primarily looking to expand the number of cameras at Tyl and MHS.

Item 10. Information items. -- None

Item 11. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only).

Board Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. There were none.

Item 12. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Deb Reed-Iler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Rowley, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____