

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, October 21, 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, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Valerie Smith, James Wood and David Rowley. Board members Deborah Reed-Iler and Steve Loiler were absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Director of Facilities Steve Carroll, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jr., Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Mileski, Allison Peterson, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss; Student Board Representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinha, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Director of Special Services Mark Johnson was absent.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Montville.

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

Mohegan School: Principal Allison Peterson recognized Eric Boozer for volunteering his time every morning to greet all of our students as they arrive to start the day and for being an outstanding mentor to some of our students who need a positive male role model in their lives. The certificate was presented by Board Member Kim Navetta.

Oakdale School: Principal Jill Mazzalupo recognized Heather LaBranche for being a dedicated volunteer, giving countless hours of her time at Oakdale School. Board Member Carrie Baxter presented the certificate.

Dr. Charles E. Murphy School: Principal Amy Espinoza recognized Vicky Apicelli for donating countless hours to help with the many details that help Murphy School run smoothly. This certificate was presented by Board Chair Dave Rowley who added that V. Apicelli is a DARE representative and a fundraiser.

Presentation: B) Keeping All Students Engaged – Mohegan School.

Principal A. Peterson and kindergarten teachers Mark Larson, Alicia Potash, and Michelle Roncone gave a PowerPoint presentation on student engagement, a comprehensive approach for all types of learners using the science behind “whole brain learning” with a goal of connecting with and engaging the whole child. The process of student engagement was demonstrated by the staff with the active participation of those present showcasing call responses, random calling, and movement breaks. These demonstrated teaching methods highlighted their adaptability for learning with any content and any age.

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

Chair D. Rowley asked three times for comments. Town Councilor Jaskiewicz asked whether the figure for agenda Item 8.e was the amount discussed at last month’s meeting. B. Levesque responded that the audited number has yet to be determined but is anticipated to be approximately \$185,000.

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: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives.

The student representatives Hannah Marchini and Rohit Sinja gave a report to the Board as follows:

1. On September 30th, the first of several ALLI meetings, a regional conference, was held at Montville High School. Seven schools and more than 90 students participated in the day’s activities that included a speaker flown in from Ohio.
2. The first week of October marked the end of this year’s Spirit Week, which consisted of Turn Back the Clock Day, Holiday Day, Class Color Day, and Black and Orange Day. The participation was largely dominated by the senior class.
3. The Homecoming Dance held on October 4th was one of the most successful ones in recent years with more than 265 students in attendance and few complaints about the deejay.

4. The ECE Maritime Studies class made a field trip to Avery Point to race in UConn's cardboard boat race. With Tommy McDaniel rowing, the Montville boat took a first place victory and was presented with a 2-foot tall cardboard commemorative trophy that is on display in the Main Office.
5. Eleven MHS Choir students performed with an Honors Choir hosted by the CT Chapter of American Choral Directors Association. The students rehearsed with other top singers from around the state at Central Connecticut State University and later that day performed in concert for family, friends, choir directors, and university professors.
6. PSATs were administered on October 15th for students in grades 10 and 11.
7. The International Club held their "One World, One Dance" activity after school today in the Senior Court to help expose students to different cultural dances.
8. On Thursday, October 24 at 6:30 PM there will be Open House for students in grades 7 and 8 who will be able to meet teachers from the different departments, and visit different sports, activities, and clubs.
9. During October and November, the National Honor Society will sponsor a food drive.
10. The first edition of the 2014-2015 Chieftain, the school newspaper, is at press and will be available shortly with a new crew of freshman and three new photographers on staff.
11. Principal Theodoss' MHS newsletter was mailed yesterday and copies are available in the main office.
12. A status update of the fall sport teams was reported.

Item 7. Unfinished business. -- None

Item 8. New Business.

- a. **Consideration and action to designate Brian C. Levesque, Superintendent of Schools, and Kathy Lamoureux, Business Manager, as authorized signatures to file claims for reimbursement under the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.**

Motion: That the Board designates Brian C. Levesque, Superintendent of Schools, and Kathy Lamoureux, Business Manager, as authorized signatures to file claims for reimbursement under the Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously

- b. **Consideration and action to appoint a delegate to the CABA Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 13, 2014, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m., Mystic Marriott, Groton.**

Motion: That the Board appoints Kim Navetta as a delegate to the CABE Delegate Assembly, Thursday, November 13, 2014, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m., Mystic Marriott, Groton.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell

Seconded by: Valerie Smith

Vote: Carried unanimously

- c. **Consideration and action to nominate Robert R. Mitchell, Jr. for Vice-President of CABE'S Government Relations Committee.**

Motion: That the Boards appoints Robert R. Mitchell, Jr. for Vice-President of CABE's Government Relations Committee.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

- d. **Consideration and action to appoint a Board of Education member to serve on the Community Service Requirement Committee.**

Motion: That the Board appoints Todd Pomazon to serve on the Community Service Requirement Committee.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter

Seconded by: Bob Mitchell

Vote: Carried unanimously

L. Pallin commented that one of the Board's goals was to have a community service graduation requirement and students and staff were approached about it.

- e. **Consideration and action to request that the Montville Town Council deposit into a dedicated, non-lapsing account, the unexpended educational appropriation for fiscal year 2013-14 as determined by the auditor's report for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2014. This amount will not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation for fiscal year 2013-14, as allowed under CT State Statute Sec. 10-248a.**

Motion: That the Board requests that the Montville Town Council deposit into a dedicated, non-lapsing account, the unexpended educational appropriation for fiscal year 2013-14 as determined by the auditor's report for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2014. This amount will not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation for fiscal year 2013-14, as allowed under CT State Statute Sec. 10-248a.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously

Superintendent Levesque commented that as soon as he obtains the final audit report he will draft a letter to the Town regarding the same for approval by the Town Council.

f. Consideration and action to approve the district and schools' safety and security plans.

Motion: That the Board postpones consideration and action of the district and schools' safety and security plans.

Proposed by: Bob Mitchell
Seconded by: Valerie Smith
Vote: Carried unanimously

B. Levesque stated that the reports were uploaded to Dropbox but still need editing. He also said that the legislature requires the plans to begin as of 2014. Superintendent Levesque further explained that the document is voluminous, 200 pages, as each district school must have a safety and security plan that is unique to each school but also with similarities. The proposed plan follows the state template and adheres to state statutes. Additionally, NIMS training is required in the district per U.S. Homeland Security and the fire marshal must be a part of each school's Safe School Climate Committee. The Board was asked to review the document and forward their questions to the Superintendent.

g. Consideration and action to set tuition rates for 2015-2016 as follows:

	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
Elementary	\$ 9,647	\$25,688*
Middle School	\$10,103	\$24,605*
High School	\$10,538	\$23,564*
Pre-school		\$24,711*
Other Services		Negotiable
Palmer Building		Negotiable

*Additional costs may be assessed based on the student's individual educational program (IEP).

Motion: That the Board sets tuition rates for 2015-16 as follows:

	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
Elementary	\$ 9,647	\$25,688*
Middle School	\$10,103	\$24,605*

High School	\$10,538	\$23,564*
Pre-school		\$24,711*
Other Services		Negotiable
Palmer Building		Negotiable

*Additional costs may be assessed based on the student's individual educational program (IEP).

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

V. Smith asked whether there was a change in the rates from last year. K. Lamoureux referenced the change in the consumer price index that is reflected in the new rates.

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood stated that a meeting was held earlier this evening and a new policy on restraint and seclusion was heard and approved for forwarding to the full Board for consideration and action at its November meeting. The proposed policy is in line with IEPs and proposes a method to safely seclude special education students and in turn protect them from harm. J. Wood also reported that the Committee would be reviewing all Board policies for enhancement or elimination.

b. Educational Evaluation (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and heard high school directions for Clear Pathways in order to tailor students to be more marketable and to develop partnerships for certification courses for students.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Steve Loiler/Brian Levesque).

In the absence of S. Loiler, Superintendent B. Levesque reported that the MEF has planned an event for February, a magician/comedian performance, to be held at Montville Polish Club. He added that Nancy Thomas, C. Baxter's mother, was now heading up the foundation.

d. LEARN (Carrie Baxter).

C. Baxter reported that she was unable to attend the last LEARN meeting but would send a synopsis to the Board on that meeting.

e. CABA/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell commented that he hoped to see Board members at the upcoming CABA Convention to be held on November 14 – 15 at the Mystic Marriott in Groton.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported “no news is good news.”

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

T. Pomazon reported that a summary of the September 17th meeting was uploaded to Dropbox for the Board’s review. He also said that the Council had approved its new bylaws.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Robert Mitchell).

B. Mitchell reported that the Bureau will have its annual Pancake Breakfast on October 26. He added that southeastern Connecticut has grants coming forth modeled after the local JRB.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports. – No comments

j. Chair’s Remarks.

D. Rowley reported that cable access Channel 22 is up and running. He commented that he recently interviewed Denise Dunning of the Special Education Department; Sheila Bedard will be interviewed on October 22 concerning student services. D. Rowley also reported that Dave Blanchett can now bundle programs and currently airing are interviews of Denise Dunning, Mark Johnson, and Jennifer Russell.

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent’s Report.

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

M. Johnson, who was absent caring for a family member, submitted this report to the Board on the following:

IEPs: The goal of the Special Education Administrative Team is to participate in and supervise the writing of individualized education plans for our students providing evidence that they reach a level of a promising practice.

To that end we have:

- Completed an initial review of IEPs and found that those IEPs fell into the emerging range with major areas of concern being impact statements, goals and objectives, and the completeness of the accommodations/modifications page.
- Provided training to the newly hired special education and related service personnel on Blueprint Modules 1 and 2.
- Provided technical assistance to our elementary special education staff on well written IEPs aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
- Provided technical assistance to our middle and high school special education staff focusing on student success and transition plans. We looked at a backward design to clearly see the building block process of an IEP.
- The Special Education Administrative Team will periodically review IEP documents using the IEP Rubric from the State Education Resource Center.

Future Planning:

- We will be surveying staff to determine future staff training needs. We will arrange individualized technical assistance sessions.
- A committee from the Special Education Department will be trained in the development of comprehensive educational evaluations that are used to initially evaluate and re-evaluate students with disabilities. This is critical in that the results of these assessments provide the information that concerns and needs are based on. Those concerns and needs result in goals and objectives. So an IEP is dependent on the validity of the assessments.
- The Special Education Administrative Team will facilitate an end of the year review to determine status and progress.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

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

- Professional Learning: In October, we rolled out our new professional learning plan to faculty. Teachers were provided with a variety of learning opportunities aligned to their professional and student learning goals and/or school and district initiatives. We are using Survey Monkey to manage teachers' requests to attend sessions and recruiting and training teachers to act as facilitators. I have the support of MEA building representatives in ensuring that the process goes smoothly and best meets and addresses the learning needs of teachers.
- Regional Curriculum Work: Our MHS math department will begin a joint inter-district venture to rewrite and align curriculum documents with CT Core Standards on November 4th. Building on successes with regional professional development and recent regional PD for Advanced Placement teachers, we have

partnered with Colchester (and hopefully Stonington) to begin collaborative work on curriculum.

- Eureka Parent Meeting at Murphy: As reported in last week's weekly summary, we held an informational session regarding our new Eureka math program and have received positive feedback from people who attended.
- Reading Intervention Program Audit: I am working with the consultant who helped us to initially set up our elementary and reading intervention programs to conduct an audit of the programs and assessments we use with our special education and reading intervention students. While we continue to be pleased with the interventions and assessments we use, we developed the program about 7 years ago and feel it's time to review our practices.

c. Monthly Update.

B. Levesque reported on the following:

- EPA Grant: We just received notice a \$3,000,000 grant program with the EPA on replacement of schools buses. If we were to be selected, we could be eligible for a rebate of \$20,000 on the replacement of buses that are currently being used that are a 2006 model year or older. K. Lamoureux and he will pursue the grant. The maximum request allowable is 5 buses. There is no obligation to purchase if approved.
- Transportation Coordinator: Kathy and I will be conducting 2nd interviews for the transportation coordinator this week.
- 2015-2016 Budget: The building of the 2015-2016 budget has begun. We met with principals a couple of weeks ago to outline the process for this year. The budget development will consume the next several months for he and K. Lamoureux.

Item 11. Information items. -- None

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

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

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 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: _____