

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
June 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.**

2015 - 2016 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 Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Sandra Berardy, Daniel Boisvert, Steve Loiler, Kim Navetta, Todd Pomazon, Colleen Rix, James Wood, and Robert Mitchell, Jr. Board member Carrie Baxter was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, and Town Council Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. Student Board Representative Karishma Chouhan was absent.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

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

Board Chair B. Mitchell asked three times for comments. There were none.

Item 4: Letters and communications. -- None

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: **That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.**

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Todd Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Item 6. Report from Student Board Representatives. -- None

Item 7. Unfinished Business.

Item 8. New business.

- a. **A reminder of Board of Education Retreat scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2016, 5:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center.**

Chair B. Mitchell commented that the annual retreat facilitated by Patrice McCarthy of CABA was for the purpose of setting Board Goals.

- b. **Consideration and action to comply with Public Act 06-83, an act concerning Healthy Foods & Beverages in School for the 2016-2017 school year.**

The Montville Board of Education elects, for the 2016-2017 school year, to permit the sale of all foods and beverages that are not legally permitted during the regular school day if the following conditions are met:

- 1) **The sale of foods and beverages is in connection with an *event* occurring *after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend.***
- 2) **The sale of foods and beverages is at the *location of the event.***
- 3) **The foods and beverages are *not sold from a vending machine or school store.***

Motion: That the Board complies with Public Act 06-83, an act concerning Healthy Foods & Beverages in School for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Montville Board of Education elects, for the 2016-2017 school year, to permit the sale of all foods and beverages that are not legally permitted during the regular school day if the following conditions are met:

- 1) **The sale of foods and beverages is in connection with an *event* occurring *after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend.***
- 2) **The sale of foods and beverages is at the *location of the event.***
- 3) **The foods and beverages are *not sold from a vending machine or school store.***

Chair B. Mitchell commented that this vote allows the Boosters to sell food and beverages during school events.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Dan Boisvert
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- c. **Consideration and action to rescind Policy 5141; Grievance Procedures/Parents as recommended at the May17, 2016, Policy Meeting.**

Motion: That the Board rescinds Policy 5141; Grievance Procedures/Parents as recommended at the May 17, 2016, Policy Meeting.

Board member J. Wood reported that the policy was last reviewed in 1991. He stated that the Committee concurred that there are enough safeguards in place for parents to confer directly with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, principal and teachers. Superintendent B. Levesque stated that under the policy a parent can file a formal complaint with the Board, but the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were hired to review and enforce the Board's policy in the case of an issue. He said that per the direction of the Board's legal counsel, the policy should be rescinded. Board member S. Berardy asked whether the policy would save a step by preventing issues from coming before the Board. Superintendent Levesque stated that this policy has the potential to involve the board in many issues which should be handled by building and district administrators.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

d. Consideration and action to adopt the proposed school calendar for 2017-2018.

Motion: That the Board adopts the proposed school calendar for 2017-2018.

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque stated that for the past 5-6 years the district has followed the LEARN regional calendar as mandated by the State. He said that the only question is setting the regional calendar was when to hold the April vacation which he said has been confirmed going forward for the third week in April. Superintendent Levesque also added that Professional Development days will still be regionalized.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

e. Consideration and action to transfer \$50,000 from transportation salary accounts (112) to Transportation Contracted Services (2792/510) to fund subcontracted transportation services for Special Education Students.

Motion: That the Board approves the transfer of \$50,000 from transportation salary accounts (112) to Transportation Contracted Services (2792/510) to fund subcontracted transportation services for Special Education Students.

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque stated that there have been several medical issues with drivers this year.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Todd Pomazon
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- f. Consideration and action to transfer \$50,000 from employee benefits accounts (213-222) to tuition accounts (560-563) to fund student outplacements.**

Motion: That the Board approves the transfer of \$50,000 from employee benefits accounts (213-222) to tuition accounts (560-563) to fund student outplacements.

Per discussion, Board member S. Berardy asked whether this action item concerned new students. Superintendent Levesque responded that the transfer applied to tuitions that were accounted for and had to be paid.

Proposed by: Todd Pomazon
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

- g. Consideration and action to transfer \$30,000 from supply accounts (6111) to Contracted Services (423) by reclassifying the cost of toner to a print management service.**

Motion: That the Board approves the transfer of \$30,000 from supply accounts (6111) to Contracted Services (423) by reclassifying the cost of toner to a print management service.

Per discussion, Superintendent Levesque stated that buying printer toner from a management service will allow us to better track usage to contain costs going forward.

Proposed by: Steve Loiler
Seconded by: Jim Wood
Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

Board member J. Wood reported that the Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed Policy 1212, Employee Drug Testing and determined that no changes were needed. Board member Wood reported that the Committee had been reviewing the policy for the past three months—the policy was last reviewed 20 years ago. He said there was discussion about lowering the blood alcohol threshold rate from .020 -- .029 to a level of .000 -- .029. Although not a unanimous vote, the Committee agreed to retain the level as it is. Superintendent Levesque conducted research regarding the alcohol level and found that all other districts had the .20-.029 level written into their policies, including CAFE. He also discussed the alcohol levels as deemed by the State and the disciplinary action associated with each. The policy will be brought to the full Board for approval at its September meeting.

Superintendent B. Levesque spoke about the issue regarding a State requirement for testing volunteers and the increased fee for the testing from \$14.25 to \$64.25. There were 104 volunteers processed during the 2015-2016 school year. The district must in the future budget for the costs for background checks.

b. Educational Evaluation (Carrie Baxter).

Reporting for the Committee, Board member S. Berardy stated that the Committee met earlier that evening and looked at a proposal concerning changes to the MHS graduation procedure. Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin explained that students' grades are used to calculate GPAs and that the grades for all core courses are weighted. The change the board was advised of is to use course grades to calculate GPA instead of weighted grades. The Educational Evaluation Committee also approved the course proposed to offer A.P. Government to sophomores and authorized curriculum writing for this course.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

Board member K. Navetta reported that she attended the last MEF meeting. She said that the Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$69,511.95, three of them recently to the district for blood pressure cuffs, a printer for technical education, and devices for the myON Reading Program. She added that the annual golf tournament will be held on August 8, 2016, with a single player rate of \$150 and a group rate of \$600. Following the tournament, there will be a barbecue and awards ceremony. Board member K. Navetta referred the Board to the MEF website for upcoming events. She also commented on a breakfast held on June 6th that she was unable to attend.

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

Board member C. Rix was unable to attend the meeting.

e. CAFE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

Chair B. Mitchell reported that he recently attended the NSBA Legislative Advocacy Institute Summit in Washington, DC. He said that 500 persons attended the event where a representative from Connecticut spoke about transgender issues. Chair B. Mitchell also reported that he spent time on Capitol Hill. On July 23rd the Summer Leadership Summit will be held. Also, preparations have begun for the annual CAFE/CAPPS Convention in November and will start for the next NSBA Convention that will be held in Denver, CO, in March 2017.

f. School Building Committee (Todd Pomazon).

Board member T. Pomazon reported that things in Hartford are moving slowly.

g. Atlantic Broadband (Todd Pomazon).

Board member T. Pomazon reported that the Advisory Council now has a link to connect with each town that it serves. Towns that are delinquent in their membership fulfillment will be contacted.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

Board member D. Boisvert reported that he attended the last Bureau meeting prior to its summer break held on June 9th. He said that \$1,000 was raised from the Safety Day event. The Montville Lions Club donated \$350 to the Bureau for the Youth Action Counsel. The next meeting at the Bureau is on September 8th at its new location, Fair Oaks.

i. Administrative Monthly Reports.

j. Chair's Remarks. -- None

k. Other. -- None

Item 10. Superintendent's Report.

a. Report from the Director of Student Services – Mrs. Paula LaChance.

Director of Student Services Paula LaChance reported that ESY is all set and begins on Monday, June 27th. There are four (4) different academic classes. Two (2) classes are at the elementary level and two (2) classes are at the secondary level.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Assistant Superintendent L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

- Professional Development: – On June 14th, we held our final professional development day for teachers. I presented some year-end data surrounding our problem-solving goal work this year and reviewed the progress we have made to date. Teachers worked in small groups across grade levels and content areas to discuss what went well and to provide individual and group feedback about our future work on this goal. We will use this information at the building and district levels to plan for professional learning next year.
- Curriculum: – Summer curriculum work began on June 15th and will continue through mid-July. We began our work at Oakdale since the Oakdale teachers had an additional work day and it was wonderful to have the input of an entire faculty. Our work at the elementary level focuses on clarifying the elementary ELA grading and reporting process and integrating the new science and social studies standards. Work is being done in most content areas at the secondary level, and a high school team is beginning preparations for our next NEASC visit.
- Retreat Reminder: -- Food will not be served at the Board's annual retreat.

c. Monthly Update.

Superintendent B. Levesque reported to the Board on the following:

- Hiring: On the June 14th professional development day Susan LoPresto was announced as the 2017 Teacher of the Year for Montville Schools. We will celebrate this honor at our September Board Meeting.
- Luncheon: A districtwide luncheon was held on June 14th at no cost to the district; we reached out to vendors who provided the food or donations towards the food.
- Hiring: There are two (2) certified vacancies within the district—a full-time culinary teacher at the high school and a Spanish Teacher who will teach at the High School and Middle School.
- Fiscal Year-end: I am working with K. Lamoureux and staff to close out the books for the year. I do not expect much of a surplus but the year will be in the black.

Item 11. Information items. -- None

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

Board Chair B. Mitchell asked three times for comments. There were none.

Item 13. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Sandy Berardy

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____