

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.**

Item 1. Call to order.

Board Chair Robert Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were Steven Loiler, Colleen Rix, Robert Mitchell, Jr., Kim Navetta, Sandra Berardy, James Wood, Dan Boisvert and Carrie Baxter, Todd Pomazon was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Director of Special Services Paula LaChance, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer LeMay, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Tanya Patten, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representatives Joshua Archibald and Karishma Chouhan, Mayor Ron McDaniel, Town Councilors Billy Caron and Town Council Board Liaison Joseph Jaskiewicz. CT State Legislators were also present as follows: Representatives. Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th District, Mike France of the 42nd District, Kathleen McCarty of the 38th District, and Senator Cathy Osten of the 19th District. Senator Paul Formica of the 20th District was unable to attend.

Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentation: A) Reception, 2017 Teacher of the Year – Suzanne LoPresto

Superintendent B. Levesque introduced Suzanne LoPresto, the Montville 2017 Teacher of the year and read a summary of her accomplishments. CT Legislators, Representative Dr. Kevin Ryan of the 139th District, Mike France of the 42nd District, Kathleen McCarty of the 38th District, and Senator Cathy Osten of the 19th District presented Suzanne with a proclamation on behalf of the CT State Assembly. Representative Ryan commented that Ms. LoPresto would also be recognized by the Montville Rotary. Mayor R. McDaniel then thanked Suzanne for the work she has done with the students and presented her with a certificate on behalf of the Town of Montville. Board Robert Mitchell presented the Teacher of the Year “golden apple” that will be returned to J. LeMay for engraving.

After the presentation, Board Robert Mitchell invited S. LoPresto to say a few words. She stated that she was, while not a fan of attention, extremely moved by the amazing honor and thanked the teachers and administration for their support. S. LoPresto then introduced her family.

The meeting recessed briefly at 6:10 p.m. for a reception in honor of Suzanne LoPresto. The meeting resumed at 6:25 p.m.

Presentation: B) Introduction of New Staff by Administration.

B. Levesque introduced the district administrators who presented the new certified staff for the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

OAKDALE SCHOOL:

Susan Baier- Special Education Teacher

Montville High School:

Melissa Barnes – Math

Katia Diaz – Spanish - absent

Katherine Morrone – Life Management - absent

Hired after the start of the 2016-2017 school year:

DR. CHARLES E. MURPHY SCHOOL:

Dawn Price – Art Teacher *hired 11/13/2015*

PALMER BUILDING:

Meryl Decarolis – Special Education 10/2015- absent

Item 2. Hearing of delegates and citizens (regarding agenda items only). – Joe Jaskiewicz would like to present a program called “challenge” to the Board as a substitute for DARE, he will bring more information to a future meeting.

Item 3: Letters and communications. – An anonymous letter was received regarding transportation, the board acknowledged receipt of the letter.

Item 4. Approval of Consent Calendar.

Motion: That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Abstained by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried; (vote 7-0)

Item 5. Unfinished Business.

- a. **Consideration and action to review/approve the Board of Education Goals for 2016-2017.**

Motion: That the Board approves the Board of Education Goals for 2016-2017.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

b. Results of self-evaluation, Board of Education members.

Nothing has been received, no discussion took place.

Item 6. New business.

a. Consideration and action to approve the Annual Report for 2015-16 and forward it to the Mayor.

Motion: That the Board approves the 2015-16 Annual Report and forwards it to the Mayor.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

b. Consideration and action to approve revisions to Policy 4118.24; Employee Drug Testing, as recommended by the Policy Committee at its June 21, 2016 meeting.

Motion: That the Board approves revisions to Policy 4118.24; Employee Drug Testing, as recommended by the Policy Committee at its June 21, 2016 regular meeting.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Dan Bosvert
Opposed by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried; (vote 7-1)

c. Consideration and action for the establishment of a Communications Committee.

Motion: That the board moves to establish a Communications Committee with four members from the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Sandra Berardy
Seconded by: Kim Navetta

Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

Motion: That the board elects Carrie, Colleen, Kim and Steve to the Communications Committee as approved by the Board of Education.

Proposed by: Dan Boisvert

Seconded by: Jim Wood

Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

The board discussed their responsibility in deciding on meeting times, committee chair, purpose and the make-up of the board. It was decided that the initial committee would be comprised of four members of the Board of Education. Superintendent Levesque indicated that he would reach out to the members with possible dates for the initial meeting.

d. Consideration and action to review/ratify the wage reopener agreement between General Teamsters Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2016.

Motion: That the board approves the wage reopener agreement between General Teamster Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2016.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Steven Loiler

Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

e. Consideration and action to review/ratify the agreement between CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Paraprofessionals Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2020.

Motion: That the board approves the wage reopener agreement between General Teamster Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2016.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

Sandra inquired as to why there was a difference in the pay increase between part time and full time paraprofessionals. Superintendent Levesque explained that the Paraprofessionals were provided a total dollar amount and the Paraprofessional

negotiating committee chose how to allocate the increases. Their goal is to eventually eliminate the gap in pay between full and part time paraprofessionals over time.

- f. Consideration and action to review/ratify the agreement between CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2020.**

Motion: That the board approves the agreement between CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Montville Secretaries Chapter and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2016.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

Sandra asked how our secretaries' salaries compare to others in the region. Superintendent Levesque responded that when the salaries in the region were researched it was found that our secretaries were not at the top or the bottom but somewhere in the middle.

- g. Consideration and action to transfer \$2,100 from dues and fees (810) to purchase services accounts (232) to close out the 2015-2016 fiscal year.**

Motion: That the board approves the transfer of \$2,100 from dues and fees (810) to purchase services accounts (232) to close out the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter
Seconded by: Kim Navetta
Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

Superintendent Levesque spoke to the transfers, explaining that these are minimal in comparison to prior years and are done in order to clear negative accounts.

- h. Consideration and action to transfer \$700 from dues and fees (810) to tuition accounts (561-563) to close out the 2015-2016 fiscal year.**

Motion: That the board approves the transfer of \$700 from dues and fees (810) to tuition accounts (561-563) to close out the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Proposed by: Carrie Baxter
Seconded by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

i. Consideration and action to set tuition rates for 2016-2017 as follows:

| | <u>General Education</u> | <u>Special Education</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elementary | \$ 9,792 | \$26,073* |
| Middle School | \$10,255 | \$24,974* |
| High School | \$10,696 | \$23,917* |
| Pre-school | | \$25,082* |
| Other Services | | Negotiable |
| Palmer Building | | Negotiable |

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

Motion: That the Board approves the tuition rates for the 2016-2017 school year.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix
Seconded by: Carrie Baxter
Vote: Carried; (vote 8-0)

Carrie Baxter asked whether we offer things that would encourage people to come here. Superintendent Levesque responded that yes, especially in our Palmer program. However, we only accept tuitions from sending towns, not from parents. Tuitions go to the town, not the school but the additional costs are incurred by the district. Kathy Lamoureux indicated that she believes this is written in the town charter. Carrie indicated that she would like to pursue this in the future.

Item 7. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy (James Wood).

J. Wood stated that there was no meeting this evening but one is planned for next month.

b. Educational Evaluation (Carrie Baxter).

Carrie Baxter reported that no meeting was held.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Kim Navetta).

K. Navetta reported that the MEF met last week they raised \$10,833.50 on the golf tournament this year. Next year's annual tournament date has been set for August 14, 2017. November 18th will be the Fall Fundraiser which is Dub Smash, it promises to be a fun event.

d. LEARN (Colleen Rix).

C. Rix reported that at the September 8th meeting there was a presentation on Marine Science High School core values.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

R. Mitchell reminded the Board of the upcoming Convention in November and to please contact Jennifer LeMay if they have not already done so in order to register.

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

g. MetroCast Communications Advisory Council (Todd Pomazon).

The meeting is scheduled to take place tomorrow, September 21, 2016.

h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

D. Boisvert reported that they met last Thursday in their new facility. The new building gives students better access from the High School. The program is currently full and has a waiting list. They plan to start a Community Conversation regarding mental health. D. Boisvert inquired about the new sign at Montville High School and whether the Youth Services Bureau could use the sign. Superintendent Levesque advised D. Boisvert to contact P. Orbe. Dan reported that the Juvenile Review Board would not take truancy cases going forward and asked if the BOE would take over going forward? Superintendent Levesque responded that the role of the Truancy Board will be changing next year due to a change in the statute. K. Chouhan asked whether MYSB has reached out to YES club for students to act in their after school program.

i. Chair's Remarks.

R. Mitchell introduced junior Joshua Archibald who will be a student representative for the Board going forward. Joshua spoke briefly about himself. R. Mitchell went on to explain the new role of Student Reps who will be non-voting members of the board representing the student body.

j. Other. -- None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

P. LaChance reported to the board the following:

Start of the Year: We are off to a good start. We have had quite a bit of movement within the special education population but everyone seems to be adjusting well. Since the start of the school year we have conducted training in HWC for 40 staff members which includes both certified and non-certified staff. We will continue with trainings throughout the year to ensure we are in compliance with the state regulations.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

L. Pallin reported to the Board on the following:

Wishbone: is a program which provides funding for high school students to participate in summer experiences in a wide range of topics (athletic camps, photography, performing arts, architecture, coding, game design, fashion, nursing, neuroscience, engineering, etc.). MHS has been invited to participate in an initiative to send 1000 CT students to these one to three week programs. I had the opportunity to meet with a group of students who participated last summer and Jeff, Sheila Bedard, and I attended a meeting this week to discuss how to ensure that students and teachers are aware of this exciting option. To date Wishbone has provided over \$2 million to fund over

Connecticut Opportunity Project: I received a request for a letter of interest to participate in an Innovation Challenge Pilot which will provide grant funding to support a program which targets disengaged youth. Heather and I are very excited about this possibility and will begin working right away to develop our letter and the required video of Palmer's existing programs.

NEASC – Jeff and his steering committee chair, Ted Richmond, Christine Woodman and I will be attending a workshop this Wed. as we prepare for the next NEASC visit in the fall of 2018.

c. Monthly Update.

B. Levesque reported on the following:

Legislative Changes: I spent the morning at Shipman & Goodwin learning about how recent legislative changes will impact our district. The biggest impacts surround hiring and student data. There are multiple forms which are now required both for previous employees and new hires. These additional steps will make the hiring process much more time consuming. The new law was created in order to protect students. In addition to this law, the new student data law requires all contracts which involve student data to be made

public and to speak to the protection of the data. This law has many layers and the potential to impact hundreds of contracts.

Transportation: We had a rough start with transportation this year, while we were not alone in that as other Superintendents have voiced similar woes to me, it has been a time consuming problem. I have worked with school administrators and the transportation department to work through these problems. As a result of this I have gone out and checked many stops myself for safety.

Talented Students: On Saturday I had the pleasure of watching the Montville Marching Band compete at Putnam High School. In my completely unbiased opinion, I have to say they were by far the best band at the competition. They put on quite a performance!

Item 10. Information items.

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

Loretta Schmidt of 11 Chris Drive, Uncasville thanked Superintendent Levesque for addressing her bus stop complaint and moving the bus stop back to its original location. She asked that the stop stays this way.

Mr. Schmidt, also from 11 Chris Drive, shared that it was important that the bus stop stays where it is. There are no sidewalks, no shelter for students and the stop is a safety risk in winter due to the potential for cars sliding.

Alex Seals of 99 Cottonwood, has a daughter at Murphy School. Mr. Seals is concerned about budget cuts including the elimination of field trips. He feels that these cuts are impacting schools. He asked at what point does the line get drawn with the town so we don't lose programs due to budget cuts. He spoke of the value of these trips and asked how he could advocate for the schools going forward.

Megan Lefluer from the Murphy PTO said their group will work on bringing programs back to the school.

Item 12. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Steve Loiler

Seconded by: Carrie Baxter

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Jennifer LeMay, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Minutes Approved: _____