

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
March 21, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

**2016-2017 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 6:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Library/Media Center. Board members present were; James Wood, Sandra Berardy, Colleen Rix, Steven Loiler, Monica Pomazon, Daniel Boisvert, Joseph Aquitante, Colleen Rix and Carrie Baxter.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators, Jason Daly, Mary Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Phil Orbe, Jill Mazzalupo, Tanya Patten, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, and Student Board Representatives Karishma Chouhan and Joshua Archibald.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**Presentation: A) Montville Marvels**

**Mohegan Elementary School:** Principal Will Klinefelter recognized Katelyn Koning, Benny Wu and Alvin Li for their hard work, problem solving skills, their perseverance and academic accomplishments. The award was presented by Board member Colleen Rix.

**Murphy Elementary School:** Principal Amy Espinoza recognized Treyvon Lewellen for excelling as a kind, gentle and responsible role model for our students and a true asset to their teachers too.

Also recognized by Principal Espinoza was Erika Meyer Reddy for working hard when the work gets hard.

The awards were presented by Board Member Sandra Berardy.

**Oakdale Elementary School:** Principal Mazzalupo recognized Jasmine Chan for her overall achievement, she excels as a problem-solver in the Math Olympiad program.

Principal Mazzalupo recognized Zachary Kobyluck for his overall achievement, he participates and excels as a problem- solver in the Math Olympiad Program.

Also recognized by principal Mazzalupo was Eric Richmond, Eric is the only third grade student in the Math Olympiad Program where he excels as a problem-solver.

The awards were presented by Board Member Jim Wood.

**Presentation: B) Recognition of Board of Education Members.** Superintendent Levesque recognized the members of The Board of Education along with the two student representatives. Each were presented with a token of appreciation for the contributions which they make to the schools by serving on The Board.

**Presentation: C) Leonard J. Tyl Middle School – The Writing Project.**

Principal M.J. Dix and Grade 7 reading teacher, Lindsay Olock presented on the Leonard J. Tyl Middle School writing program, the Writing Project from Teachers' College at Columbia University, which includes three units at each grade level aligned to Connecticut Core standards. Integrated units involving research and culminating in pieces of writing are at the foundation of the program. Instruction is based on mini-lessons and conferences which provide specific, accurate and timely feedback to students. Teachers have received training at workshops at Columbia in skills and strategies. In preparing to implement this program, teachers also attended a weeklong summer program at LEARN. ELA, science and social studies teachers also visited Clark Lane in Waterford and saw the integration of workshop strategies in science and social studies classes. During writing workshop, students are actively involved in academic discourse and then putting their thoughts unto writing.

The process of implementing the method was described and the level of student engagement was emphasized. Teaching strategies emphasize small group and one-on-one instruction.

Principal Dix displayed student work on teen activism and walked the audience through a sample writing journal. She showed how the student used highlighting and margin notes to organize work. After making bulleted research notes, students create a piece of writing that shows elaboration and varied sentence structure, and then uses editing and revising with peers. A video was shown of a student teacher feedback conference and Lindsay shared one of her student's narrative pieces.

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

Town Council Liaison Joe Jaskiewicz asked why the water proposal was not brought to Town Council if it is in the capital plan. Superintendent Levesque responded that it will be brought to the Town Council after the board approves it, in addition there are currently two items on the Capital Plan which relate to water.

**Item 4: Letters and communications.**

None.

**Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves the Consent Calendar.  
**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 8-0)

**Item 6. Unfinished Business. -- None**

**Item 7. New business.**

- a. **Consideration and action to review the plan for water remediation and request the Superintendent to submit the plan to the Town Council to fund the project.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves the proposed plan for water remediation and request the Superintendent to submit the plan to the Town Council to fund the project.

**Proposed by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix

Following a presentation and discussion on the motion:

**Motion:** That the Board postpone the motion on the floor

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Failed (vote 0-8)

**Vote on original motion:**

**Opposed by:** Jim Wood and Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 6-2)

Board member Jim Wood opposed, indicating that a decision cannot be made on a twenty-minute presentation.

**Motion:** That the Board re-cast their earlier vote on the motion That the Board approves the proposed plan for water remediation

**and request the Superintendent to submit the plan to the Town Council to fund the project.**

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Dan Boisvert  
**Vote:** Failed (2-6)

**Motion:** **That the Board tables the motion to approve the proposed plan for water remediation until the April Board of Education meeting.**

**Proposed by:** Steve Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 8-0)

Superintendent Levesque reminded the board that this is the eighth year on bottled water due to manganese in the water. We have looked at multiple options, including the town public water supply WPCA and SCWA, and have worked with three consultants to develop plan for consideration. It is our belief that we are eligible for State reimbursement under a construction grant. This plan meets issues in the capital plan and others issues as well. The plan calls for consolidation of water systems. Consultant Bob DeLuca explained the background of our current potable and fire suppression water supplies and conclusions and current and future needs. He displayed a map that showed current wells and water pipelines and plans for the project.

The issues to correct include high manganese levels in the high school well, high school pipes that need to be flushed and cleaned as well as valves and plumbing equipment that have manganese deposits. Also we need to address the size of the Tyl tank. Stagnation occurs due to a lack of turnover of water in the well with combined fire protection and potable drinking water. It is not recommended that potable water and fire suppression be combined due to issues of cross contamination. Also we need to bring potable water to the bus garage. The new system needs to meet an average daily demand of about 11,000 gallons a day (for Tyl, Bus garage, and MHS). Fire suppression and domestic water would be separated in the plan outlined and the overall cost would be \$485,000. This cost includes engineering, connecting the system, and remediation at the high school. The time frame from preparation of plans to completion of the work, would have the actual work being completed next summer.

Superintendent Levesque explained that the capital plan has had segregation of water at Tyl on plan for several years, our combined system does not meet new codes. This year we added the high school water system to the capital plan. The \$480,000 requested would be eligible for 63% reimbursement by the state. This will reduce the cost to the town. The plan solves multiple issues, provides redundancy, meets water needs to three buildings and fire suppression at MHS and Tyl. We have researched SCWA and WPCA; they cannot meet our needs. This long term solution is a 20 to 25year solution.

Sandra Berardy asked if the proposal was in writing. Superintendent Levesque responded that the documents will be added to OneNote. Sandra stated that it was important that the Board be able to review the documents so they could really understand the proposal. Superintendent Levesque explained that the plan needs to be moved to the Town Council to get the process started because only then can the district apply for a school construction grant which must be done before we can do anything else. Jim Wood asked Steve Carroll how this proposal compared to SCWA. Steve replied that the work by SCWA would not be eligible for reimbursement under a school construction grant.

Bob Deluca explained that there are still a number of additional costs if SCWA provides the water in order to make the necessary connections and remediate the high school and this still wouldn't solve Tyl or bus garage issues.

Board Chair Robert Mitchell asked, Do we have enough information to make a decision? Superintendent Levesque indicated that there is no rush and the decision may be postponed. Robert Mitchell asked for a motion to postpone and this motion was made. Sandra Berardy asked if the motion would postpone asking the town for the funds. Superintendent Levesque responded that it would. Sandra Berardy asked if we will know about the State reimbursement before we bring the plan to the Town for funding, Superintendent Levesque indicated that we would not. The process would be for the Board to endorse the plan and then to bring the plan to the town. The town would need to make three resolutions to send the plan to the State, then we would find out our reimbursement eligibility. Kathy Lamoureux provided more details on the process and indicated the reimbursement for the construction grant might be 70 or 71%.

The Motion to postpone failed and the original motion was brought to a vote. It passed 8-2, but after additional discussion a new motion was presented to redo the vote on this motion. In this second vote the motion failed, and a subsequent motion was approved to table the motion until the April meeting to provide the Board members with time to review the written proposal.

**b. Consideration and action to approve the week of May 1-5, 2017 as National Teacher Appreciation Week and an opportunity to recognize all its employees.**

**Motion: That the Board approves the week of May 1-5, 2017 as National Teacher Appreciation Week.**

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Vote:** Carried (vote 8-0)


**c. Next Generation Accountability report from CSDE.**

Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin presented a brief overview of the Next Generation

Accountability system. All of the resources and information may be found in the OneNote Binder. Below is an overview of the district’s growth as displayed in the Next Generation Accountability Report.

**Montville District Growth: 2014-15 to 2015-16**

No:	Indicator	Percentage of Points Earned		
		2014-15	2015-16	
1a.	ELA Performance Index – All Students	92.5%	92.7%	*
1b.	ELA Performance Index – High Needs Students	81.5%	82.8%	*
1c.	Math Performance Index – All Students	79.5%	84.1%	↑
1d.	Math Performance Index – High Needs Students	70.8%	74.7%	↑
1e.	Science Performance Index – All Students	79.0%	81.9%	↑
1f.	Science Performance Index – High Needs Students	69.8%	73.3%	↑
2a.	ELA Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved – All Students		65.3%	N/A
2b.	ELA Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved – High Needs Students		62.4%	N/A
2c.	Math Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved – All Students		68.1%	N/A
2d.	Math Avg. Percentage of Growth Target Achieved – High Needs Students		63.8%	N/A
4a.	Chronic Absenteeism – All Students	94.0%	94.1%	↔
4b.	Chronic Absenteeism – High Needs Students	73.7%	79.1%	↑
5	Preparation for CCR – % taking courses	87.9%	82.1%	↓
6	Preparation for CCR – % passing exams	51.0%	49.2%	↓
7	On-track to High School Graduation	100.0%	98.4%	↓
8	4-year Graduation All Students	94.3%	99.3%	↑
9	6-year Graduation - High Needs Students	78.9%	87.2%	↑
10	Postsecondary Entrance	81.6%	92.4%	↑
11	Physical Fitness	54.9%	59.2%	↑
12	Arts Access	94.5%	94.2%	↔

Change between ±1 percentage point is indicated as 

\*ELA results are not comparable because the 2015-16 results do not include the Performance Task

**d. Consideration and action to approve the AP Physics textbook as approved by the E&E committee.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves the AP Physics textbook.

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**e. Consideration and action to approve the textbook for Culinary Course Pathways as approved by the E&E Committee.**

**Motion:** That the board approves the textbook for Culinary Course Pathways.

**Proposed by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**f. Consideration and action to approve the Teachers College Reading Project Units of Study for grades K-5 as approved by the E&E committee.**

**Motion: That the board approves the Teachers College Reading Project Units of Study for grades K-5 as approved by the E&E committee.**

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Seconded by:** Daniel Boisvert  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**g. Consideration and action to approve Policy 4301; Criminal History Record Information as approved by the Policy Committee.**

**Motion: That the board approves Policy 4301; Criminal History Record Information.**

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

Policy Chair Jim Wood indicated that the policy is for the protection of records management including access and security. Superintendent Levesque indicated that the policy is required in order to keep fingerprints and background checking information. This is a new policy not an amended policy.

**h. Consideration and action to comply with Public Act 06-63, an act concerning Healthy Foods & Beverages in School for the 2017-2018 school year.**

**Motion: That the board agrees to comply with Public Act 06-63 for the 2017-2018 school year.**

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

Disallows sale of food from school stores and fundraisers selling food.

**Item 9. Committee and liaison reports.**

**a. Policy Committee (James Wood).**

Reviewed five policies including class size, student use of tape recorders, promotion and retention and foreign exchange students. All will be brought to the board for final approval in April.

**b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Carrie Baxter).**

Committee heard reports by students and teachers of new courses including Film and History and AP Computer Science. These reports were beneficial and follow up will

continue in the future. Paula LaChance presented her plans for the transition program which has already been included in the 2017-2018 budget. Paula provided the explanation behind the value of keeping students in district and the details of a higher quality program which is a cost savings to the district.

**c. Communications Committee (Colleen Rix).**

The committee met two weeks ago to get the committee off the ground. Members will continue their work on the mission statement and goals of the committee; to promote community relations. Bylaws to establish this as a standing committee are being looked at.

**d. Montville Education Foundation.**

Dan Boisvert has agreed to serve as a Board Representative for MEF.

**e. LEARN (Colleen Rix).**

Collen reported that the most recent meeting included a lot of talk on legislation and recent awards for Marine Science High School.

**f. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).**

Board Chair Robert Mitchell is going from Thursday through Monday to CABE National Convention. He has also testified twice on behalf of CABE at the legislative session.

**g. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).**

Monica Pomazon reported that Atlantic Broadband is working at peak capacity but there are concerns that the signal going to Wifi- is too slow. Splitting nodes will hopefully help to maintain speed. She also reported that Atlantic Broadband is funding a scholarship of \$500 or a graduate who wants to pursue a career in radio/tv communication. Notice of this scholarship will be sent directly to MHS guidance department.

**h. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).**

A 9% decrease in the MYSB budget has been sent to Town Council. A Free Cone Day will take place at Ben and Jerry's at Mohegan Sun on April 4. On April 20 the MYSB will sponsor a Community Conversation on Mental Health and Addiction at MHS. On March 16 a program called Screenagers-Growing up in Digital World was held at MHS. On October 28-Eric Church at Mohegan Sun, Tickets are \$115 for this fundraiser, Dinner and Skybox seats are included.

**i. Student Board Representatives.**

**Joshua Archibald**



- Murphy Literacy Night was last Thursday, March 16. It was very successful, with 447 people in attendance. The event is a great way to promote reading to families and to provide families with an environment conducive to bonding over language.
- The high school is administering the SAT in two weeks. Study sessions are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays afterschool.
- Read Across America is on April 7 this year. During the popular program, high school students read a book to, and do a related activity with, elementary school students. The high school student body is very excited to engage with younger students in this annual program.

**Karishma Chouhan**

- Cheerleaders placed 7<sup>th</sup> at New England's, finishing off a great season where we got 4<sup>th</sup> at state, and were 3 time back-to-back ECC champions.
- The Pep rally last Friday was a success. Karishma suggested investigating the possibility of introducing the 8th graders to high school life by having them come to one of our pep rallies.
- High school students helped out with games night where the middle school students all had fun with dodgeball, basketball, volleyball and movies. Having high school students involved with middle school students on a casual basis helps to promote the high school programs.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

Robert Mitchell reported that this was one of the toughest budget years the board has ever faced. The board will continue to work with the town.

**k. Other. -- None**

**Item 9. Superintendent's Report.**

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

This month I was fortunate to attend three conferences. Two were focused on Transition Programming and not just the 18 -21 programming. Focus was on properly preparing and planning middle school students for transition activities throughout high school and beyond. The other conference focused on new regulations and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights for 504 students as well as the State Board of Education Petitions on IEE and classroom observations. The petitions will restrict the ability of school districts to impose certain conditions on a parents right to an IEE.

As for classroom observations it proposes to expand parents right to observe or designate an expert to observe a student in school. The child may be observed for up to twenty hours in any school year.

This month I have also spent time working on programming for ESY, I have been looking at staffing needs as well as adjusting the groupings to ensure that all student needs are met. Additionally, I have met with my department teams to review cases and plan for next school year. I have visited all our special needs programs to observe and assess how both staff and students are doing. Conferencing with staff and administrators is ongoing.

**b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin**

**Perkins Program Review:** On Friday, we were visited by two representatives from the CSDE Academic Office, Career and Technical Education Division. Doug Wheeler, our Perkins Program coordinator, had prepared a binder of materials and a schedule that involved classroom visits and teacher and student meetings. At the end of the day we were presented with five recommendations to which we will need to respond:

- Update technology so that computers are compatible with current industry software; the slowness of computers was perceived to be our biggest issue.
- Investigate opportunities to offer AP or honors level CTE courses to encourage enrollment by students who tend to take only weighted classes which count toward their GPA.
- Align CTE courses to state performance standards and increase the number of student concentrators.
- Establish a structures career development plan.
- Re-establish a CTE advisory board which includes representation from businesses, industry, community partners and parents.

Commendations included:

- Internships for special education students in areas of high wage, high demand careers. The state wants to use our program and data as a model of best practice and for an audit by the federal government.
- Development of the engineering / disasters collaborative courses between science and technology education.
- The participation by all juniors in the Credit for Life Fair.
- CTET teachers who are strongly committed to providing opportunities to address students' individual interests and career goals.
- The great relationships and strong bonds displayed between students and teachers.
- The level of support which CTE teachers feel from the administration.

**Co-Teaching Study Committee:** A group of about twenty-five Tyl and MHS teachers and administrators continue to meet to determine how to best support the needs of special education students, disengaged students, and students who need more time and support through leveled and co-taught classes. We have identified a number of issues and are now proposing solutions.

**DARE Program:** The last of the grade 5 DARE culminations will take place this Thursday at Oakdale at 2:00.

**Combined Music Concert:** Tomorrow night at 7:00 there will be a combined Tyl and MHS concert in the MHS auditorium. Students have been meeting together to rehearse and this promises to be a terrific evening.

**c. Monthly Update from the Superintendent.**

Kathy and I met with Terry Hart at the Town Hall regarding the insurance. While we can't lock in rates yet, I am hopeful that this March data will come counteract a bad month last March so we are able to secure a better insurance rate. With the one snow day last week, we are now looking at Friday June 16 as a graduation date for MHS; that will come to the Board for a vote at April BOE meeting. There is a little flexibility and we could keep this date even with one additional snow day. I have a meeting with the safe graduation committee chair scheduled for next Friday.

With our voluntary retirement incentive, I accepted five retirements under the incentive. I will bring the anticipated savings to the Board in April and at that time we can consider revising the budget sent to Town Council. The retirements will enable us to reduce a position without layoff and unemployment expenses. I am very appreciative of the five teachers who accepted the retirement offer and wish them well.

**Item 10. Information Items.**

Steven Loiler reported that there will be a Rotary Trivia Night at the VFW on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., \$10pp, contact Tom McNally for tickets.

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

Nola Waite; 135 Moxley Road, Montville, spoke to the timing of the bids. She explained that she had contacted DMV and found that our Board had one bus out of service by inspectors, while Datco had 4% of its fleet, M&J 5%, and First Student 17%.

Marty Wentzel; 463 Parum Road, Colchester, commented on bus bid and the loss of veteran drivers who know area children. You don't know what you get with something different. Our drivers go out of their way to check houses and not bring students back to school at the end of the day.

Patricia Wentzel; 463 Parum Road, Colchester, commended the board on their due diligence in investigating this big decision which cannot be undone. Montville is 1 of 12 towns with their own buses- have we interviewed those that privatized and do they regret it? There will come a time that there will be unseen additional costs, parent's calls will not get individual attention- they will still take to concerns to the Superintendents Office. She hopes that we will consider the ramifications that involve more than the money.

Cheryl Gregoire; Uncasville. The board should survey parents to ask if we cut services what do parents think should be eliminated and offer them choices.

Bill Battiluco, 174 Connecticut Blvd.; Bus Mechanic for Preston. He indicated that he has firsthand knowledge of going to outsourcing, and it is his belief that it does not work for small towns. When transportation is handled in house, the district has better control. He suggested that we revamp the bus garage instead of privatizing and stated that he is willing to offer his assistance.

**Item 12. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:**           Steven Loiler

**Seconded by:**         Daniel Boisvert

**Vote:**                     Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

**Minutes Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_