

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER  
April 18, 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**

**Leonard J. Tyl Middle School:** Principal M.J. Dix recognized Andrew Hintz for his strong math ability as demonstrated in his achievements at MATHCOUNTS competitions.

Also recognized were Tenzin Dadon, Kendall Turney and Jordan Godburn for their accomplishments at the Regional History Day competition where they placed first in their categories and qualified to go onto the state competition.

These awards were presented by Board Member Steven Loiler.

**Palmer Building:** Principal Heather Sangermano recognized Savannah Wood for her tremendous growth over the last two years, she has maintained the honor roll, excelled at multiple internships, demonstrated independence and self-advocacy while providing support to peers. This award was presented by Board Member Joseph Aquitante.

**Montville High School:** Mr. Josh Cushing was unable to attend this evening's meeting and will be presented with his award at the May Board Meeting.

Principal Theodoss recognized Brian O'Sullivan for his outstanding achievement in many school programs and activities which helps to foster a more positive school culture.

The awards were presented by Board Member Dan Boisvert.

**Presentation: B) Walking in Our Students' Shoes: Fund for Teachers Fellowships in France and Sweden – Mohegan.**

Principal Will Klinefelter introduced Lisa Kaplan and Lisa Halloran. Both discussed their trips abroad which were completely free through Funds for Teachers. They studied culture and academics during their trips. They will present what they learned and how it applies to their teaching to Mohegan School. This project is funded by the Dalio Foundation and the application process was intense. They focused on the student impact of their trips which is ongoing. The support from FFT continues as part of their participation. They are attending leadership workshops and a summer leadership conference.

Each of them described their fellowship hopes, Lisa Halloran plans to build strategies using fun art and real world photos to develop oral vocabulary. In seven days she traveled to seven museums and took private tours. She used strategies she teaches her students for communication in another country. Student outcomes included an increase in active participation in response to visuals, props and photos from the trip.

Lisa Kaplan took a trip to Malmo, Sweden. She learned how this community with the largest percentage of asylum seekers integrated new arrivals to the country. Lisa serves fifty-five EL students at Mohegan Elementary. They are learning about refugees and immigrants and how they can be supported. She learned strategies herself in assimilating to new cultures and learning a language that she can now use with her students. Sharing her student's struggles making sense of an unknown place has made her a better teacher.

Jim Wood asked how she has shared this experience with her colleagues? Lisa responded that she did a workshop with staff on strategies which they found most helpful.

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

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:**         Joe Aquitante

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

**Item 6. Unfinished Business. – None**

**a. Budget Meetings**

- Public Hearing on General Government Budget, April 25, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Montville High School Auditorium.
- Public Hearing on Board of Education Budget, April 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Montville High School Auditorium.

Board Chair Robert Mitchell provided this information and encouraged the Board to attend the meeting.

**b. 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.**

**c.**

**Motion:**                   **That the Board approves the plan for water remediation and requests that the Superintendent submits the plan to the Town Council to fund the project.**

**Proposed by:**           Monica Pomazon

**Seconded by:**         Colleen Rix

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

This is a long-term solution for MHS, Tyl and the Bus Garage. Kathy, Brian and Steve presented the plan to the State with an engineer from CLA. State was concerned about the length of time with lack of potable water. The State liked the plan. The State indicated that the reimbursement to the town would be 70% our 30% portion would be not to exceed \$150,000. The project could start this summer and be ready for fall. Will need three specific resolutions adopted by the Town Council in order to move forward. Dan Boisvert asked whether the 70% was guaranteed? Superintendent Levesque responded that if we get commitment this fiscal year we will be fixed at 70%. Carrie Baxter asked about the timing with school opening? Will not affect the opening of school.

**Item 7. New business.**

**a. Consideration and action to approve Policy 6152; Class Size with no revisions as recommended by the policy committee at its last meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy 6152; Class Size with no revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee at its last meeting.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood

**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter

**Vote:** Carries (vote 8-0)

**b. Consideration and action to rescind Policy 5125.1; Student Use of Tape Recorder as recommended by the Policy Committee at its last meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board rescinds Policy 5125.1.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler

**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix

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

Policy chair Jim Wood indicated that the policy was dated and unnecessary.

**c. Consideration and action to approve Policy 5111.1(b); Foreign Exchange Students with no revisions as recommended by the policy committee at its last meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy 5111.1(b); Foreign Exchange Students with no revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee at its last meeting.

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix

**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon

**Vote:** Carries (vote 8-0)

**d. Consideration and action to approve Policy 5123; Promotion/Acceleration/Retention with no revisions as recommended by the policy committee at its last meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy 5123; Promotion/Acceleration/Retention with no revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee at its last meeting.

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy

**Seconded by:** Dan Boisvert

**Vote:** Carries (vote 8-0)

**e. Consideration and action to approve Policy 5132; Dress and Grooming with no revisions as recommended by the policy committee at its last meeting.**

**Motion:** That the Board approves Policy 5132; Dress and Grooming with no revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee at its last meeting.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Joe Aquitante  
**Vote:** Carries (vote 8-0)

**f. Consideration and action to schedule a reception to honor its retirees on May 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. and approve the writing of the resolutions.**

**Motion:** That the board approves the reception to honor its retirees and approves the writing of the resolutions.

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**g. Consideration and action to set the tuition rates for 2017-2018 as follows:**

	<u>General Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
Elementary	\$ 9,998	\$26,621*
Middle School	\$10,470	\$25,498*
High School	\$10,921	\$24,419*
Pre-School		\$25,609*
Palmer Building		
PBL Program		\$35,250*
Pathways Program		\$49,775*
Other Services		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 2017-2018 school year.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

Robert Mitchell reminded the Board that the tuitions go into the general fund of the Town. Jim Wood asked about the % of the increase? Kathy Lamoureux responded that it is a 2.1% increase. Robert Mitchell asked if this was keeping in line with others? Superintendent Levesque responded that it does. The tuitions above do not include transportation and private pay would only be under an agreement with another town.

**h. Consideration and action to authorize the Superintendent to apply for inter district cooperative grants and state and federal grants for various educational programs.**

**Motion:** That the board authorizes the Superintendent to apply for inter district cooperative grants and federal grants for various educational programs.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**i. Consideration and action to change the 2016-17 school calendar with June 16, 2017 as the last day of school for students, and with June 19<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, as professional development days for staff members.**

**Motion:** That the board agrees to change the 2016-17 school calendar with June 16, 2017 as the last day of school for students, and with June 19<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, as professional development days for staff members

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

Superintendent Levesque indicated that he has been in touch with Project Graduation.

**j. Consideration and action to confirm the date of Friday, June 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for Montville High School Graduation.**

**Motion:** That the board agrees to confirm the date of Friday, June 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for Montville High School Graduation.

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Steven Loiler  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**k. Consideration and action to cancel the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2017.**

**Motion:** That the board agrees to cancel the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

**Proposed by:** Dan Boisvert  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

**l. Consideration and action to approve Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. as The Board of Education Retreat with Patrice McCarthy, CABE as facilitator.**

**Motion:** That the board agrees to approve Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. as The Board of Education Retreat with Patrice McCarthy, CABE as Facilitator.

**Proposed by:** Jim Wood  
**Seconded by:** Joe Aquitante  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

Superintendent Levesque reminded the Board that this will be the regularly scheduled August Meeting.

**m. Consideration and action to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Melissa Barnes, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)**

**Motion:** That the Board agrees to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Melissa Barnes, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)

Superintendent Levesque; These reductions are in order to project where budget may finish; in current budget further reductions would be required to get to 0% which would mean that non-tenured positions might not be renewed. We hope to recall these employees but they must be notified by May.

**Proposed by:** Steven Loiler  
**Seconded by:** Colleen Rix  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

- n. **Consideration and action to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Julia Manavas, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)**

**Motion:** That the Board agrees to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Julia Manavas, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)

**Proposed by:** Sandra Berardy  
**Seconded by:** Jim Wood  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

- o. **Consideration and action to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Shara Bousquet, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)**

**Motion:** That the Board agrees to approve the motion that the contract of employment of Shara Bousquet, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise this individual in writing of this action. (3 – Budget/Resources)

**Proposed by:** Colleen Rix  
**Seconded by:** Monica Pomazon  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

- p. **Consideration and action to reduce the approved budget by \$230,000 to \$38,160,619 as a result of resignations and retirements received under the Montville Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan; to be reflected in various salary and employee benefits accounts.**

**Motion:** That the Board agrees action to reduce the approved budget by \$230,000 to \$38,160,619 as a result of resignations and retirements received under the Montville Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan; to be reflected in various salary and employee benefits accounts.



**Proposed by:** Joe Aquitante  
**Seconded by:** Carrie Baxter  
**Vote:** Carried 8-0

Superintendent Levesque; This is a new process to amend the budget after approval received. Five teachers took the incentive; several positions will not be filled. Reduction in French caused increase of .2 in Spanish. Reduced roll over savings to \$40,000 instead of \$75,000 because we won't receive more retirements. So \$230,000 reflects savings which we are hopeful will lead to passing 1.2% budget increase now.

**Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.**

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

The committee reviewed three policies including Student Pregnancy, Psychotropic Drug Use and Dissent/Freedom of Speech. Chair Jim Wood explained that two will be recommended for elimination. All of these changes will be brought to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

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

Talked about transition to units of study for teaching reading plus new K-12 Music program. Different possibilities of when instrumental instruction should begin to reduce attrition.

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

The meeting over spring break was cancelled.

**d. Montville Education Foundation (Daniel Boisvert).**

Met on April 3; Grant discussion, with whole subcommittee. Golf date is August 14.

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

Did not attend the meeting.

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

The convention was very good. If anyone wants to attend April 7-9 in San Antonio it is in the budget and someone could go. Will get the CABE dues at a 0% increase.

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

There was no meeting last month.

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

Met on 4/13. Community conversation from tonight postponed to October 18<sup>th</sup>. Ben & Jerry's fund raiser was a huge success. Pancake Breakfast was full. Family night is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dodd Stadium. Summer Center registration, \$375 for thirty kids and is open now. 130 attended screen-agers. Mohegan Congregational Church donated \$150. April 28; 7:00 p.m.

**i. Student Board Representatives.**

**Joshua Archibald**

April 28, 2017 Yale Singing Group will be performing, the cost is \$10. May 1<sup>st</sup>; AP testing begins. Senior Prom is on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ocean Beach.

**Karishma Chouhan**

*Recent Writing Accolades:*

Connecticut Student Writing Magazine 12th grade: Alan Abutin- Honorable mention (poetry) Brooke Dominello- Honorable mention (poetry and nonfiction) Karishma Chouhan- Honorable mention (poetry)

11th grade Joshua Archibald- Honorable mention (poetry and fiction) Shumoel Zafar- Honorable mention (poetry)

*Other awards:*

Josh Archibald- C.A.S Government scholar timed essay Karishma Chouhan- Eugene O'Neill Young Playwrights finalist Senior- eighth grader letter exchange

*Suggestions for transition to High School:*

Have the eighth graders write questions, experiences they think they might have, and other information to seniors so that there is a safe place for the eighth graders to get more information about high school. Have the seniors answer the questions while also adding on their own experiences, advice and other information they think the eighth graders might need.

**j. Chair's Remarks.**

None.

**k. Other. -- None**

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

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

I continue to work on The New Transition Program. Mohegan Sun has a Vocational Training Program that is offered at no charge to the district. We have already contacted them to reserve training opportunities for the students targeted for our program next year. Additionally, I am looking at various curriculums for the life skills portion of the program.

Continued Focus is also on Programing and staffing for ESY.

Over the past month I attended a Leadership and Mental Health Conference. During this conference there were great discussions on the importance of social and emotional learning and how it can be integrated in our daily instructional practice.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> I was asked to speak to the IEE Task Force regarding the new proposed regulations for Independent evaluations and observations. The task force was established to review a petition that would amend regulations to IEE's.

Also this month Brian and I attended a morning Conference at Shipman and Goodwin to hear about the updates to legislation and standards. Topics of discussion also included new FAPE standards, changes to the OCR 2016 guidance and child find and evaluation obligations.

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

K-8 Reading Program-Over the vacation Amy, Will, Jill, M.J. and I met with a consultant to plan for implementation of the Readers Workshop program next year. We have purchased and distributed kits of materials, arranged for professional learning, and discussed strategies to create leveled libraries at the building and classroom level. Many teachers have already signed up for summer professional learning opportunities. I have begun work building a OneNote binder of resources and am working with a team of teachers to plan PD introducing the program on April 28. MJ and I will meet with Tyl reading teachers this Friday to engage them fully in the planning process of this transition.

Teacher Evaluation- The State Board of Education voted to eliminate a requirement that students' scores on State standardized tests be used in teacher evaluation. This means teachers will not be given teacher evaluation scores tied to Smarter Balanced, CMT, CAT or SAT scores. These scores were to have counted for 22.5% of a teacher's overall evaluation score. Instead teachers will be evaluated based upon student performance on local measures. As a district, we will still use state tests to set goals for teachers and students and to shape professional growth plans. I have been reviewing research-based changes which have been made to the Marzano evaluation protocols. In comparison to the current process, the new protocols are greatly streamlined. Teachers are evaluated

based upon twenty-three critical elements of planning, instruction and reflection rather than sixty elements. The assessment rubrics are clearer and suggestions for growth are included. We will bring the possibility of changing to this new version to the teacher evaluation committee. While I think the new protocols are more manageable and would result in greater consistency, change is never easy.

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

Superintendent Levesque commented on the fact that there are just forty-two school days remaining until graduation. The budget continues to be the subject of tireless work. He met with the teachers who receive non-renewal letters before break and on Monday. Hope to be able to do a recall once the budget has passed. This week will be the last set of general monthly principal meetings. Next month will close their evaluations. We are getting close to the final recommendation on the bus proposals. Final meeting to review the insurance and the fact that we are not receiving anticipated insurance savings. I would like to finalize that before bringing to the board with my recommendation.

**Item 10. Information Items.**

None.

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

Rebecca Wright, 230 Oxoboxo Dam Road. Parent of four students. Son was assaulted yesterday at Tyl and is very concerned with bullying and lack of response. She called the school and waited an hour for the response. Found a snap chat video going around with the incident on it. Son did not provoke and it was clearly planned. Doesn't understand why can't be told what action is being taken with the child that was bully. Robert Mitchell: The district will contact you.

**Item 12. Adjournment.**

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

**Proposed by:**           Steven Loiler

**Seconded by:**         Colleen Rix

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair

Carrie T. Baxter, Secretary

Montville Board of Education

Montville Board of Education

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