

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
December 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.**

2017-18 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 Daniel Boisvert, Monica Pomazon, Colleen Rix, Sandra Berardy, Steven Loiler, Dana Ladyga and James Wood. Board member Joseph Aquitante was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Brian Levesque, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux, Administrators Jason Daly, Mary-Jane Dix, Denise Dunning, Amy Espinoza, William Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, Student Board Representative G. Chouhan, and Town Council Liaison Wills Pike.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

Presentations: A) **Holiday Songs by the Montville High School Chamber Choir.** The Montville High School Chamber Choir performed several holiday songs.

B) Assessment Data - Laurie Pallin

Assistant Superintendent Laurie Pallin presented the most recent assessment data which may also be found in the Boards OneNote binder. Assessment data is used to note changes in district, School and Grade Level performance over time compared to the State and nation. It provides the percentage of students meeting proficiency and college readiness benchmarks compared to State or DRG. It allows the district to see the growth of groups of students based upon programs, to compare data from multiple sources, review students' individual growth toward a target, and provides item analysis by group and by individual student.

Data presented included; PSAT/SAT Results, Advanced Placement Results, SBA Reading Results, SBA Math Results and Science Results.

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: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

Vote: Carried unanimously; vote: (7-0)

Item 6. Unfinished Business.

- a. Consideration and action to approve adjustments to the 2017-2018 budget as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.**

Motion: That the board approves the proposed adjustments to the 2017-2018 budget as proposed by The Superintendent of Schools.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Monica Pomazon

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

Superintendent Levesque distributed proposed cuts to board and explained them. We would be shifting the spending cycle to purchase one million dollars of items from June to purchase in July (next fiscal year). Will move our purchasing cycle to align with what most districts do and reduce large encumbrances which the town has questioned in the past. The basis for next year's budget would remain \$37.6 million.

Sandra Berardy; Do we need to look at transportation again? Brian; we can look at it again any time the board directs me to. Sandra; what other big things would there be to cut? Brian; Full day kindergarten, close an elementary school, revise middle school model. Jim; where did the sum of one million come from? Brian explained ECS and Special Education funding – Actual cost to town given revenues is close to one million. Monica; Spoke of the importance of communicating to the public that this is not a “slush fund”.

Item 7. New business.

- a. Set the date of Tuesday, February 13, 2018, for the Special Meeting for the Board of Education Budget meeting for budget discussions.**

Motion: That a special meeting is set for February 13, 2018, for the purpose of budget discussions.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Daniel Boisvert

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

- b. Consideration and action to request that the Montville Town Council deposit into a dedicated, non-lapsing account, the unexpended educational appropriation for fiscal year 2016-2017 as determined by the auditor's report for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2017. This amount of \$60,676.71 which does not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation for fiscal year 2016-17, as allowed under CT State Statute Sec. 10-248a.**

Motion: That the Board request that the Town Council deposit into a dedicated non-lapsing account the unexpended educational appropriation for fiscal year 2016-2017 as determined by the auditor's report.

Proposed by: Colleen Rix

Seconded by: Steven Loiler

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

Superintendent Levesque indicated that this would bring the account to about \$100,000 overall. This would protect us going forward. Item may possibly be on the January 8th Town Council Agenda. Board Liaison Wills Pike indicated that he is fully supportive of this transfer.

- c. Consideration and action to review/ratify the agreement between General Teamsters Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020.**

Motion: To approve the agreement between General Teamsters Local No. 493 and the Montville Board of Education for the contract beginning September 1, 2017.

Proposed by: Monica Pomazon

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Vote: Carried unanimously as amended; (vote 7-0)

Brian gave an overview of the process and contract proposal.

- d. Consideration and action to approve a field trip for Montville High School, Spanish Class, to Belize, April 13, 2018 to April 20, 2018, twelve (12) students.**

Motion: To approve the field trip for Montville High school for twelve students to Belize, from April 13, 2018 through April 20, 2018.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Monica Pomazon

Vote: Carried; (vote 7-1-0)

Is their travel Insurance, is Vicky the only chaperone?

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy

Meeting was cancelled due to unexpected absences on the committee and the lack of a quorum.

b. Educational Evaluation

New culinary courses will be brought to the board for approval next month.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Daniel Boisvert).

Dan reported that he was unable to attend. Brian reported that a new member was added and plans for a spring fund raiser were discussed.

d. LEARN (Vacant).

There were no volunteers for the committee, it remains vacant.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

Held a new board member workshop two weeks ago. Advocacy institute is coming up in DC in February.

f. Atlantic Broadband Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).

Continued discussion on digital updates. New Montville resident is on the committee.

g. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

Annual holiday party went well.

h. Student Board Representatives.

As far as I know, we are doing well and many athletes are ready for the new season. Active Athletes: We sung at the Montville Senior Center and it was very enjoyable and they seemed to love it. The second round of the food drive: There was a lot of student participation and involvement. The second prize is bigger than the first one so the classes are competing for the money that would go towards prom, or project grad etc. Student Gov: We have started planning for the next dance, the Winter Ball. We are very ready for break; like really ready, super ready.

i. Chair's Remarks.

Have a happy holiday season.

j. Other.

Colleen reminded The Board that the High School Choir performs tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

This month I spent a lot of time working with several concerned families. Many have asked for outside evaluations in which we are obliged to conduct. I always try to understand what it is they are truly looking for in an outside evaluation. Sometimes that conversation is enough for them to change their mind, allowing MPS to conduct more in-depth evals. Other times the parents are set in what they want and will not consider allowing us to do further testing. These outside evaluation requests by parents are growing rather quickly and they are very costly. We currently have 6 in the works and have completed 4 others. In addition to that we have received approximately 11 new special ed students, two of which were already placed in clinical day schools. So we get to incur that cost as well.

On a brighter note, Jen conducted a PPT today and was successful with her recommendation that the child return to MPS. This is a complex student that moved into district this year. This child was IEP'd for one to one para support and they were having significant difficulties providing for this child even with the extra support.

Also this month I assisted a family in a tour of a clinical day school and the student has been accepted. This placement has taken a very long time as the student is very complex and has been unsuccessful in many placements. Other than that I've met with my itinerant staff, regularly meet with my Program leaders as well as my transition staff and students. The Transition Program is running great and we will have another 4 students joining next year.

b. Report from Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin.

Title IV Grant – We learned that our application for a \$10,000 Title IV grant was approved. We have placed an order for \$5,000 of intervention and enrichment materials to be used for Murphy's math and reading programs. Mohegan is using their portion of the grant for a consultant to provide strategies for teachers to use with several students who require a more therapeutic approach. The consultant will meet with Mohegan's mental health team in Jan.

One last word on Assessment - LAS Links testing begins for all EL students in January. Lisa Kaplan, our district EL coordinator, has been working hard to ensure the state-mandated transition to on-line testing for all students (even Kindergarteners) goes smoothly. Nic is working closely with her to ensure the technology is set and Lisa has created a schedule for herself and our EL tutors to assess every student.

c. Monthly Update – Superintendent Levesque.

Laurie, Kathy and I participated in a teleconference with the DmGroup to follow up on our interviews which took place this fall. They will be sharing their model plans with us in January.

I had the pleasure of volunteering at the Tommy Toy Fund toy distribution last week with a group of NHS students and staff members and will be volunteering at the Gemma E. Moran Food center on Thursday along with the National Honor Society. As I have mentioned before, this is an ongoing project which I am very excited about as we build our relationship with The United Way, there is nothing that I enjoy more than to interact with our students.

On Monday I attended a Legislative Committee meeting in Hartford. Noelle Ellerson, presented as part of the I Love Public Education Campaign. This group is leading a proactive effort to support Superintendents and LEA's in compliance with ESSA requirements related to fiscal transparency. This campaign surrounds a national resolution adopted by AASA, which led more than fifty organizations in a second national resolution that will be used in an event on Capital Hill in January. They are asking State Association and State Legislatures to adopt a state-level resolution in spring 2018 and will provide the draft language for the resolution.

Noelle pointed out changes which occurred in education during recent years including, twenty-nine state which provided less overall funding per student, at the same time local government funding in nineteen states fell overall during the same period.

ASSA Legislative agenda; Essa, School Nutrition, Perkins Career/Tech, IDEA, Rural Education, School Vouchers, E-Rate, Lifeline, Student Data and Privacy, Charters, Higher Education Act, Early Education, Affordable Care Act, Regulations-DoL and EPA, Immigration/DACA, More?

Tomorrow, Kathy, Steve and I have a meeting scheduled with the State to discuss out water project. We are hopeful that we will leave with our final approval and begin the bidding process in January.

There will be no weekly summary this week, enjoy your holiday!

Item 11. Citizens comments (non-agenda items only). None

Item 13. Adjournment.

Motion: That the meeting is adjourned.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Dan Boisvert

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 7-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Jennifer LeMay, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Minutes Approved: _____