

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
February 27, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**

2017-2018 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 and Dana Ladyga.

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, Heather Sangermano, Jennifer Russell, and Jeff Theodoss, and Student Board Representatives G. Chouhan and Joshua Archibald.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag. Chair Robert Mitchell welcomed all in attendance.

Presentation: A) Montville Marvels

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School: Principal M.J. Dix and Assistant Principal Jason Daly presented students Jordan Godburn, Adele Daniels, Michelle Azarjew, Alexa Hartman, Nora Richmond, Sydney Kolz, Kayleigh Browne and Gabriella Fedus with Montville Marvels for their work to create a positive school experience for many students through their initiative; *Thoughtfulness and Kindness*.

Also recognized by Principal Dix and Assistant Principal Jason Daly, was Xavier Jackson, for his kindness and welcoming attitude which was demonstrated when he welcomed and befriended a new student to Tyl Middle School.

The awards were presented by Board Member Sandra Berardy.

Montville High School: Principal Jeffrey Theodoss recognized Teacher Jennifer Gregory for her outstanding care, devotion and the extra effort she provides the students of Montville High School.

Also recognized by Principal Theodoss was student Mady Whittaker for her outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments.

Both awards were presented by Board Member Jim Wood.

Palmer Building: Principal Sangermano recognized Cherokee Lennox for her focus and efforts to strive toward overcoming a credit deficit and graduate in June, acting as a perfect example of motivation toward goal achievement. The award was presented by Board Member Colleen Rix.

Districtwide: Superintendent Levesque recognized Teacher Erin Spurgas and Principal Jill Mazzalupo, both from Oakdale Elementary School, for going above and beyond in December while delivering holiday gifts to families in need from the Oakdale School community. They recognized a dangerous situation, contacted the appropriate authorities and were instrumental in removing several children from an unsafe situation, getting them the help and support they needed. Mrs. Mazzalupo even went so far as to take the students into her home over night and both Mrs. Mazzalupo and Mrs. Spurgas continue to provide respite care for their family.

The awards were presented by Robert Mitchell.

Presentation: B) Palmer Building – Building school community PBL and Pathways campus update.

Heather Sangermano presented on the community at the PBL and Pathways Campus. Some information shared included; students who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences- 85% experienced two or more, 50% experienced four or more, 30%, experienced six or more. 2016-17 Star Data; 92% of students met individual reading goals, 82% of students met individual Math goals.

A video of a former student was shared, in the video the student discussed the struggles she faced prior to attending the Pathways campus including missing over seventy days of school in one year of middle school along with countless tardies. She discussed her personal struggles with confidence and spending all of her free time locked in her room. She credited the Pathways program with restoring her confidence, providing her with a sense of family and community and for helping her to become the woman she is today. She thanked the teachers and staff for believing in her and investing in her. She never would have imagined that she would become the woman she is today and she expressed her gratitude.

Heather discussed all of the ways that the campus builds community including beginning each year with a camping trip which includes all staff, Monday breakfasts and Friday Café, whole school lunches, holiday celebrations, the dogs who are included in classes and meetings to provide emotional support. All of these things provide the students with solid relationships and support they grow to count on. Students who feel part of a

community are more likely to be academically motivated, to act ethically and altruistically, to develop social and emotional competencies and to avoid a number of risky behaviors. Restorative practices, mindset work, Say it Straight and family support are all tools used to nurture the community on campus. Community experiences include Waterford Country School, High Hopes and community service at Gemma Moran and Social Services.

55% of the students at Pathways transfer with attendance concerns, 76% of these students improve their attendance. 67% of students are off track for graduation at the end of 9th grade which drops their four year graduation rate to below 40%.

Students begin internships in 9th grade two days per week following an interest inventory, a meeting with the internship coordinator, an informational interview and finally a shadow day. Students are placed in internships based on their interests and are assessed with daily feedback forms, quarterly meetings, and a quarterly evaluation on sixteen job skills. 88% of students are proficient or above on 16 job skills. 100% returning students demonstrated improvement.

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

Barry Ellison, 8 James Way, Oakdale - Believes the school system is on a good trajectory and congratulated The Superintendent. Supports Proposal #1, understands it will result in higher taxes – willing to pay that. Doesn't support cuts with class impact (reduces class sections) yes OK w PE/Lib cut. Ok with aligning HS/MS. HS class size; if we can do that without impacting students' progress, he supports it. Keep AD at full time level but defer other duties to him. Athletics fee, he supports these. Eliminate enrichment – could do this. Proposal 3 – I support outsourcing transportation over class size increase, as long as we have quality control. Consolidation of schools – don't rush into for next year, think over time for future year.

Item 4: Letters and communications.

Colleen – Invitation to Tyl Birthday on March 15th @ 1:30 p.m., nothing else.

Item 5. Approval of Consent Calendar.

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

Item 6. New business.

- a. Discussion and consideration for action to discuss an RFP for transportation.**

Motion: That the Board requests that the Superintendent create and post an RFP for Transportation.

Proposed by: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Daniel Boisvert
Opposed by: Colleen Rix
Vote: Carried (vote 7-1-0)

Superintendent Levesque recommended that several Board Members be appointed to serve on a committee so that they may be part of the decision making process. Dana Ladyga and Jim Wood volunteered to serve on the committee.

Monica – What is the time frame? Brian – The attorney recommends three weeks
Dana – Would the contract specify length of runs, consistency of drivers? Brian - yes
Steve – Length of contract? Brian – Five years to ensure the best possible pricing
Dan – Are mechanics included in the contract? Brian – yes Extracurricular included?
Brian – yes, all requested, contract would set an hourly rate.

b. Consideration and action to approve the proposed Capital Improvement projects.

Motion: That the Board opens discussion of the proposed Capital Improvement Projects.

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

Superintendent Levesque explained the requests. Sandra – These are not in the operating budget? Brian – Correct. Colleen – Didn't we approve these last year? Brian – Yes but they were not funded by The Town.

Motion: That the Board postpones the approval of the proposed Capital Improvement Projects until the next meeting.

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

c. Consideration and action to approve the revisions to Policy Number 5128; Procedures Concerning Requests from Parents to Educate their Children at Home as recommended by the Policy Committee at their meeting on January 16, 2018.

Motion: That the Board approves the Policy Number 5128 as revised.

Proposed by: Jim Wood

Seconded by: Steven Loiler

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

Jim – Streamlined the existing policy and compared to several other districts, the Committee was unanimous to bring to the full board.

Item 7. Unfinished Business.

a. Consideration and action for recommendations/approval of the proposed budget for 2018-2019, with submission to The Town by March 15, 2018.

Motion: That the Board opens a discussion of the proposed budget for 2018-2019.

Proposed by: Joe Aquitante

Seconded by: Monica Pomazon

Vote: Carried (vote 8-0)

Superintendent Levesque passed out a worksheet of recommendations and explained it. Brian made the recommendation to move the \$37,981,380 budget forward to The Town. Monica – Do we know how many schools in the area have the activity fee for after school activities? Brian – I do not, but I can research that for The Board. Dana – It is very common. Monica – How do we support the needs of our students who are not free and reduced population? Brian – There would be funds for these kids and I recognize this as a problem, we would need to be creative to ensure every student who wishes to play has the opportunity.

Steve Loiler – I would like to postpone this vote to a special meeting to further discuss.

Motion: That the Board postpones the vote to a special meeting to further discuss.

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Colleen Rix

Vote: Failed (vote 2-6-0)

Dan – Could we vote on the budget tonight and adjust later? Brian – Yes. Jim- I am prepared to vote on a budget tonight, I like what Brian proposed with the changes to proposal one. Monica Pomazon – I agree with Jim. Dana Ladyga – I agree also.

Motion: That the Board approves the proposed budget of \$37,981,30 with the recommended revisions by The Superintendent including Early Retirement, High School and Middle School

changes for 2018-2019 with submission to The Town by March 15, 2018.

Proposed by: Joe Aquitante
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon
Vote: Carried (vote 7-2-0)

Board members Steven Loiler and Colleen Rix opposed.

Item 8. Committee and liaison reports.

a. Policy Committee (James Wood).

The committee voted on a new chair at this meeting. The new chair is James Wood.

b. Educational Evaluation Committee (Dan Boisvert).

Discussed move from Library Special to Creative Technology. Will continue the discussion next month.

c. Montville Education Foundation (Dan Boisvert).

Approved new tri-fold pamphlet, spring family fun day in the planning stages, big concert coming up in the fall.

d. LEARN.

No report, there is no liaison for this committee.

e. CABE/NSBA (Robert Mitchell).

Testified for CABE at Capital and used Montville as an example. March 7th, CABE day on The Hill. Register on line or through Jen.

f. Atlantic Broadband Communications Advisory Council (Monica Pomazon).

No meeting last month, next meeting day after BOE meeting.

g. Montville Youth Services Bureau (Daniel Boisvert).

Next meeting 2nd week of March.

h. Administrative Quarterly Reports.

i. Student Board Representatives.

Joshua Archibald

I'd be remiss not to start with the fact that the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida has had a pronounced effect on students and faculty alike here at MHS. As always, we offer our condolences as a school to those who died in a tragedy at a place of learning and knowledge.

From my conversations with fellow students, I know that we all understand that keeping us safe from harm is the top priority of the school administration, and for that we are grateful.

G. Chouhan

Winter dance organized by the synagogue on February 3rd, really good turnout. Pep rally on February 9th, winter sports were recognized, there are still some track athletes going out. This Friday we have a blood drive, there are a lot of spots filled.

j. Chair's Remarks.

I really don't have any this week, this is budget season, I have been pretty negative for a while with what is going on with the budget in the CAFE journals, recently I tried to be more positive.

k. Other. – None

Item 9. Superintendent's Report.

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

Aside from a focus on budgetary items, this month I worked with both program leaders and other staff to review students transitioning from elementary to middle school and Middle to High. We currently are looking at 5 students to attend the pathways Program at Tyl. One of these students is an outplaced student who will be coming back to district. He will participate in the transition activities that our in district student will be doing. This transition process will begin in the spring and will include spending time at Tyl as well as outings to High Hopes and WCS.

I attended a monthly Sped admin meeting at LEARN with the Guest speaker from Shipman and Goodwin presenting legal updates on section 504 and expulsion law. In Jan 2018 the SBE adopted standards for educational opportunities for students who have been expelled.

I also spent time consulting with parent advocates and reviewing records attached to these advocates.

Tomorrow I will be meeting with legal counsel in preparation for a PPT on Thursday.

Aside from that I have begun my process for summer school programming. It will be four days a week for four weeks.

b. Report from the Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Pallin

Just completed the final editing on the kindergarten manual to get that manual out to the schools. Suzanne my secretary is working with me to get the regional PD set, this is a strong program specific content area. I have been spending a lot of time with the next generation accountability data, this report looks at a great deal more than test scores, it actually looks at twelve different factors which are weighed to give each school an index score. This shows that we don't just value how students score on a test. As I started to compare our district to others in the area including schools which we send students to we look really good, I was really proud of our scores. Most notably our work with our high need students, the gap between them and our general education students is very small.

Lastly the second trimester is coming to a close for our elementary students and I am working with teachers with the work that goes along with that including grading report cards and report card comments.

c. Monthly Update from the Superintendent.

In response to the comments made by Josh, we do take the safety of our student very seriously every day. In light of the recent incidents in Parkland, the past incident at Sandy Hook and others nationally, strike at the core of all of us and what we value. Schools are safe places to educate our children and we worry about all of you, that was a tough day for all of you and every day since reflecting on it is tough.

We have discussed the national walkout on March 14th and how to best support the students who wish to recognize the students who were lost and keep our students safe at the same time. This is an ongoing conversation on how best to support the message that school violence needs to stop. I worry about our kids walking out and standing in front of our buildings for seventeen minutes and announcing this. The school violence really speaks to a lack of mental health services for our kids, we have all seen that in the press. I go back to Heather's presentation and what she said about the traumatic events that the students have experienced at her school, really at all of our schools but specifically at Palmer, it is getting them the mental health help that they need. I feel that the issues of violence in our schools comes down to the mental health of our kids and the work that Heather is doing at Palmer is just remarkable.

We still continue to monitor the date of graduation, we can't set that date until April. We can afford one more snow day, two days would put us to a Monday.

At the last meeting you requested the expenses to date for Curtin transportation, bills posted through January totaled a little over \$120,000 which was not budgeted for. This is due to out of district and some in district special education transportation, we do not have enough drivers to transport. We used to have thirty-five we currently have twenty-two. We will need to transfer the money from the budgeted transportation to out-sourced transportation.

Budget has consumed most of my time and I must thank Kathy Laurie and the Administrators for their work. Bob and I testified in front of the legislature last week. I plan on continuing this throughout the spring. Our next step is to move the budget to the town.

Item 10. Information Items.

Reading night at Mohegan is scheduled for March 29th

HS/MS combined concert is coming up.

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

Dawn Jinkerson, 314 Chesterfield Road – Why was there no moment of silence. Teachers locking doors, What are we doing to keep our students safe? You have issues in your school and you need to address them, you need to recognize the problem with race acceptance.

Item 12. Adjournment.

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

Proposed by: Steven Loiler

Seconded by: Dana Ladyga

Vote: Carried unanimously (vote 8-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Mitchell, Chair
Montville Board of Education

Colleen Rix, Secretary
Montville Board of Education

Minutes Approved: _____