



**MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
Electronic Meeting  
March 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Board of Education Goal:**

**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/ Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chair Sandra Berardy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All participated in the pledge. Board members participating in this electronic meeting were: Bob Mitchell, James Wood, Steven Loiler, and Monica Pomazon. Absent were Carol Burgess, Sheelagh Lapinski, Dana Ladyga, and Joe Aquitante

Also present were Superintendent of Schools Laurie Pallin and Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Director of Special Education Paula LaChance, and Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux,.

**Item 2. New Business**

**a. Discussion regarding plans in response to COVID-19**

*Superintendent Pallin updated the Board with the news that Commissioner of Education advised all districts that the direction districts previously received was changed and days of distance learning would be accepted as school days to count towards the 180 day school year. No waivers are required to deem distance learning days as school days and online learning should commence immediately. Regardless of the days of school missed our final day of school for students will remain June 17<sup>th</sup>. The State Department of Education advised Laurie that this information could not be shared until Tuesday evening, however the information made its way out earlier in the day so Laurie did email all teachers to advise them of the change. This decision provides us with clear direction on what we need to do to educate our students for the remainder of the year. Monica Pomazon- What are the parameters for special education students? Laurie – We have been advised that it is understood services cannot be perfect but in working with families, our attorneys and our staff we will do our absolute best to meet students' needs in a new and meaningful way. Paula explained that she has a meeting tomorrow to discuss planning and protocols and will disseminate that information when she receives it. This is extremely complicated and the answers will not come in one day. We will continue our discussion and will creatively develop a good plan to meet the needs of our students.*

*Last week we completed some proactive training with staff and worked to identify families who do not have devices or internet. We identified the staff who will need to have face to face meetings to provide services for students including social workers, school psychologists, and speech pathologists. These teachers were trained to use Google Hangout to have individual face-to-face meetings with students. Every teacher was offered training in use of Google Classroom as an interface to facilitate meaningful learning. Teachers met as grade level or content area teams to discuss possible distance learning activities.*

*Today we opened the schools to students to pick up medications and items needed from lockers and desks. This process went very smoothly. Today we looked at the directions administrators need to provide to teachers to define what distance learning will look like and to ensure consistency across classes and grade levels. This direction will go out to teachers tomorrow. In addition we are looking at how to monitor the content teachers are putting out.*

*Dianne – We talked about how to best utilize everyone, researched how other districts are preparing and implementing distance learning. I was at Oakdale today when parents and students stopped in to pick up their belongings and medications, parents and students were positive but a little sad about the changes. Parents who visited Tyl reported that although over 400 students had stopped into Tyl for their belongings and school materials, things were handled extremely well, and everything was organized and efficient.*

*Laurie – Any students who came today were instructed to take everything from their lockers. They were given wipes when they entered and left and we staggered students to enforce social distancing.*

*Bob Mitchell – I have been hearing there is a possibility that we may not reopen until August – have you heard this as well? Laurie: Yes, we have all heard this rumor but we have not heard anything official beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*Our lunch program will begin tomorrow, it is a breakfast and lunch program which is open to all students 18 and under. Lunches will be set up as grab and go at both Mohegan and Montville High. I have spoken with the Mayor and we are working on also providing lunches for our senior citizens.*

*Employment – We have different classes of staff members. We have a number of employees who are ten month who are only scheduled to work on school days including paraprofessionals, food service workers, bus drivers, part-time secretaries, monitors, behaviorists and more. Those employees who receive health insurance through the district would lose that insurance if collecting unemployment. We believe that we can offer our para's the ability to teleconference with our students and assign them caseloads in conjunction with special education teachers. Job coaches can do similar work with the transition academy. We believe that we could offer the remaining staff work which is*

*normally completed by temporary custodial and IT workers during the summer. Those employees not interested in this option will be able to apply for unemployment. I will meet with the unions who have been impacted this week to discuss this proposal with your consent.*

**b. Discussion and possible action to approve entering into a Chromebook lease for 100 Chromebooks**

Motion: To approve the lease / purchase of Chromebooks and iPads to facilitate distance learning for all students.

Moved by: Monica Pomazon  
Seconded by: Bob Mitchell  
Vote: Carried (vote 6-0)

*Laurie – A 1:1 learning environment is essential for executing distance learning successfully. I would like to move forward and enter the Chromebook lease now and I believe we can afford this because we do not anticipate that we will have a spring sports program and we could postpone hiring an athletic director until July. Part of our normal supply budget could also be diverted to the online learning platform. Outsourced student transportation may be reduced based upon the outcome of the meeting Paula is participating in tomorrow and the guidance for outplaced students. I recommend the purchase of iPads for younger students (grades K-1) to best support their leaning.*

*Monica- I think this is a wise idea to give the students more opportunities to complete their learning. Steve – This is an unprecedented situation and this plan makes sense.*

*Dianne - When I met with the elementary teachers about the technology they were using they indicated that they need more exposure to technology particularly K-1 who felt the need to use iPads more frequently to utilize learning apps which are available.*

*Laurie – While these devices are needed immediately because they are essential to distance learning, they will all be put to excellent use once students are back in school as well.*

**Item 3. Adjournment**

Motion: To Adjourn

Moved by: Steven Loiler  
Seconded by: Monica Pomazon  
Vote: Carried (6-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Berardy, Chair  
Montville Board of Education

Monica Pomazon, Secretary  
Montville Board of Education

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