MONTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 20, 2026
6:00 p.m.
REGULAR MEETING
Montville High School, Library Media Center
MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wills Pike	Robert Mitchell, Jr.	Bonnie Bacon
Carol Burgess	Tina Grove	Erika Striebel
Donna Funk	Angela Sherbanee	

ABSENT: Timothy Shanahan

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Dianne Vumback (Superintendent), Deb Martin, Kristin Brewer, Willie Quinones, David Gollsneider, Rob Alves, Amanda Brown, Will Klinefelter, Jill Mazzalupo, Jessica Lilienthal, Lori Susi, Nic Savoie

Not in Attendance: Andrea Flynn, Ken Daniewicz, Liz Dumond

I. Call to Order, Board Chair Carol Burgess
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

III. Alterations to the Agenda:
None

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Board Minutes: September 15, 2026
September 15, 2026 (Policy Committee)

2. Financial Reports: July 2026
August 2026
September 2026

Motion by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Wills Pike to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously. (8-0).

V. Communications
None

VI. Public Comment
None

VII. Student Representatives' Report – Charles D'Mitri and Emilyta MacKenzie were both in attendance.

D'Mitri Charles - Class of 2027 Reported:

*Starting with **Oakdale Elementary**, two teachers, Mrs. Girardin and Ms. Valdez, along with Mrs. Mazzalupo, are participating in a Play-Based Learning and Leadership Cohort with educators from across the district. This initiative focuses on strengthening play-based learning and providing students with more opportunities to learn through purposeful play. Additionally, Oakdale preschool students recently visited Holmberg Orchards for a fall field trip, where they enjoyed a hayride and explored the orchard.*

*At **Mohegan Elementary**, one of the major highlights has been the positive school culture and strong sense of community. Students and staff have worked to establish routines, build relationships, and create a welcoming environment. The school has also seen encouraging improvements in attendance, including some of its highest attendance rates to date. A surprise attendance celebration provided a fun opportunity to recognize students for their efforts and reinforce the importance of being present at school.*

*Moving to **Murphy Elementary**, the school is bringing back its Math Olympiad program, with 26 students participating. The student ROCK Council is also creating videos to demonstrate positive behaviors aligned with the school's core principles of Responsibility, Outstanding Effort, Citizenship, and Kindness. In addition, School Social Worker Patrick Wright and fifth-grade teacher Mara Lowry recently attended a two-day workshop on addressing harmful language through restorative practices. They will work with staff to implement these strategies and help students better understand the impact of their words on others.*

*At **Tyl Middle School**, eighth grader Keri Alves was named the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship for middle school students, recognizing her leadership, community commitment, and academic ability. Tyl also received a grant to provide high-dosage math tutoring to students throughout the school year. Advisory lessons have focused on citizenship and executive functioning, while the school's attendance team has continued recognizing students with strong attendance. On September 25th, Tyl also held a surprise attendance celebration, giving students the opportunity to throw water balloons at administrators as a fun way to encourage consistent attendance.*

*Finally, at **Palmer**, the school held a successful Open House on September 23rd, with more than 25% of families attending. As the first quarter concludes on October 30th, students and staff are working together to help students finish the quarter successfully. Students also had the opportunity to learn more about career and technical education through an upcoming presentation from Lincoln Tech. Additionally, Mr. Rousseau visited the Culinary class as a guest presenter and helped students prepare Southwest Chicken and Chorizo soup, providing a hands-on learning experience.*

Overall, these updates reflect the work taking place across our district to support student achievement, strengthen school communities, improve attendance, and provide meaningful learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. From academic enrichment programs to restorative practices and family engagement, our schools continue to find ways to help students grow academically and personally.

Makenzie Emilyta - Class of 2028 Reported:

In the last month Montville Highschool has been very productive. Starting off, to close September during students' advisory periods school administration held a club fair featuring the many different clubs at MHS including Culinary Club, Chess Club, National Art Honor Society, FBLA, Newspaper Club, and HOSA which is a new club for those interested in the medical field, to name a few. It was pulled together nicely and positively affected student participation within many of them.

To kick off October the counseling office held a fall college fair featuring over 30 different colleges, teaching the students about their programs and scholarships. As the month has continued many other institutions have visited as well allowing students to personally connect with representatives aiding in their decision process. Students

found the fair to be informative and helpful in learning about different career paths and getting them on track to start planning for their futures.

Additionally, two weeks ago student government held our October spirit week and pep rally, which was run by senior students this year. The event brought together students and staff with entertaining activities like cheering battles between classes, musical chairs, a head shoulders ball game, and a pie eating contest. Also featuring performances by the cheer and unified cheer teams as well as the band and honoring our senior athletes playing fall sports. Overall, the event showcased our shared spirit between students and staff, especially allowing it to be more student centered than in the past.

Fall sports have also maintained a solid standing with Football being 3-2, Boys Soccer being 3-5-5, Girls Soccer 10-3, Volleyball 8-8 and both the boys and girls cross country teams. As our fall sports wrap up their regular seasons many of our spring and winter sports have begun holding informational meetings about the upcoming seasons with softball having held their meeting earlier today and girls' lacrosse coming up on Thursday! This upcoming Friday there is also a student field trip to Eastern Connecticut State University where future leaders from our sports teams have been chosen by the coaches and were invited to watch the Mindset of a Champion Presentation by a former professional athlete.

To end off the month strong, student government is holding a blood drive on October 28th allowing students 16 and older to donate, which has shown to be very successful in the past and is a great way to give back to our community this month!

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Marvels Presentation – Secondary
   Principal Gwudz from Tyl, Principal Alves from MHS, and Principal Gollsneider from The Palmer School presented this month's Montville Marvels.

2. Personnel Report – Resignations and Retirements
   Certified Retirements: Mohegan Kindergarten Teacher, Annette Potvin (end of school year)
   Instructional Coach, Michele Lathrop (December 2026)

3. Public Act 25-93, *Annual report materials provided*

In your board materials you will find information pertaining to Public Act 25-93. We are required to share the number and name of all community-based organizations that are contracted to provide support services to our students and share organizations which provide internship opportunities to our students. We are also required to share a report of all certified and non-certified staff attrition by school/position. As you know I share monthly with you the certified staffing changes as they occur.

4. Grants Update

   Superintendent Vumback provided an update on some grants the district has been participating in. Our special education administrative team made up of Kristen, Amanda and Lori wrote the SEED grant. As a reminder, we received grant dollars last year and we are anticipating another round of funding in the amount of $167,000. With this money we plan to continue our district work on special education in-district programming with the primary goal of building internal capacity which aligns with our district improvement goals.

Additionally, Andrea wrote and received a $50,000 grant for High Dosage Tutoring. This was a competitive grant process and we are excited to bring a Tier 2 intervention to our middle schoolers struggling with math.

Needless to say, I am very proud of my CO administrative team for the creativity and innovation to bring grant funding into our district that benefits both educators and students!

And finally – today Lisa Atkinson was recognized as the 2027 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year for the State of Connecticut! This is truly a wonderful accomplishment for Lisa and an honor for Montville Public Schools. Principal Gwudz did a great job organizing the event which featured presentations from Commissioner of Education Charlene Russell-Tucker, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewiz and Mayor Lenny Bunnell. Thank you to all that attended!

IX. Director of Finance & Operations Report

1. 2026-2027 Year to Date Financial Report

Reviewed the YTD expenditures, encumbrances, uncommitted amount and use of funds. Discretionary spending to date was minimal (less than 9%)

2. Report on Non-Lapsing Account, Capital Purchases

Murphy Asbestos removal and Mohegan wall repair are scheduled for the spring. Murphy Fire Panel and RISE Program relocation were completed in the summer of 2026. TYL Hydraulic elevator lift, exit and pumphouse door replacements were completed in September 2026. Transit Van trade in and acquisition of new utility truck anticipated mid-November. Provided update on 2005 Ford truck, no longer heavily used due to identified mechanical concerns including brake line failure, heating block, structural safety bed and cab floor are rotted and deemed unsafe. Recommended scrapping, anticipate 400-500. Provided updated on sander and plow which can be repurposed.

3. Report on Financial Dashboard

Deb Martin referenced the Financial Dashboard that was shared in Board Materials. The Dashboard includes a comprehensive overview of the budget in both pie graph and bar graph formats, as requested in the September meeting.

4. Report on Bus Purchase Status

Received approval from the Town to move forward on October 2, anticipate delivery in March of 2027.

5. HVAC Update- Provided by Willie Quinones, Director of Facilities

Murphy and Oakdale – HVAC Update

- *Action Air has balancing to complete and installation of a service platform for the last unit that was installed at Oakdale*

Mohegan & Montville High School - HVAC Update

- *Nutmeg will be balancing of the DOAS units will begin in November*
- *The approved additional air conditioning roof top units for the HS gym is still ongoing*
- *The new curbs for the units have been installed and flashed*

- *The 2 gym units are scheduled to arrive within the next couple weeks*
- *The wall penetration for the ductwork and reconfiguration of the ductwork is still scheduled to begin the first week of November with the completion targeted for the end of November*

TYL – HVAC Update

- *The project is ongoing, with all the DOAS units now up on the roof and connected, their work has shifted to installing the VRF system located to the rear of the 2nd floor classrooms*
- *The completion date is scheduled for 2nd to the 3rd week in Nov*

X. Committee Updates

1. Montville Education Foundation – *Carol Burgess did not attend. Grant discussion meeting.*
2. LEARN – *Bob Mitchell: no news to report, progress continues on new construction.*
3. CABE/NSBA – *Carol Burgess: Superintendent/Admin Fall Meeting is 10/27/26. CAPPS Convention is 11/26 in Mystic, all are encouraged to attend.*
4. Montville Youth Services Bureau – *Tim Shanahan: not in attendance.*

XI. Items for Discussion and possible Action

1. The Palmer School; Feasibility Study

Superintendent Vumback updated the Board advising that Board Chair Burgess and Superintendent Vumback have a meeting tomorrow with Mayor Bunnell to discuss the Palmer School building and our options. From there we will have further discussion with our board on how to proceed. Conversation tabled until November meeting, pending Supt. Vumback and Board Chair Burgess meeting with the Town on 10/21/2026.

2. Redistricting, Elementary

Superintendent Vumback: We ran some preliminary numbers based on staffing and students. Combining grade levels, we allow for the reduction of teachers however; I am not sure the cost savings in this area would necessarily be the driving force. Deb will share with you the preliminary numbers regarding bussing.

At this time, the Board needs to decide if we bring in architects to do a review for programming and space needs assessment and to do the bus runs to see if it is feasible to do this or do we begin the discussion on new buildings. The numbers Deb shared with me this week were concerning and I am not sure we can afford that cost.

Motion by Wills Pike and seconded by Bob Mitchell to begin pursuing information from area districts regarding working with an architect to initiate a Feasibility Assessment on redistricting Montville schools. And to initiate the RFP process. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Board of Education Representation – Building Committee

Motion by Tina Grove and seconded by Erika Striebel to appoint Wills Pike to the Building Committee the Motion passed unanimously. (8-0).

4 Discussion and possible action to appoint a delegate from the Board to the CCTV Advisory Council

After a brief discussion Erika Striebel volunteered to be delegate from the Board. No vote was taken.

XII. Second reading and action on new, revised or repealed policies:

a. Repeal P1112.6 Videotaping of Staff/Students by Non-District Parties
   Replace P1112.6 Digital Recording and media of Students/Staff
b. NEW P1112.7; 4118.61; 4218.61 Recording Meetings Without Consent
c. Repeal P1312 Public Complaints
   Replace P1312 Public Complaints
d. Repeal P5112 Ages of Attendance
   Replace P5112 Ages of Attendance/Admission/Placement
e. Repeal P5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault
   Replace P5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault
f. Repeal P3171.1 Non-Lapsing Education Fund
   Replace P3171.1 Non-Lapsing Education Fund
g. Repeal P3542.43R Food Service Charging Policy
   Replace P3542.43 Food Service Charging Policy
h. Repeal P4111.1, 4211.1 Affirmative Action and 4111.3 Increasing Educator Diversity
   Replace P4211 Recruitment and Selection

Motion by Angela Sherbanee and seconded by Tina Grove to approve the Policies as presented. The Motion passed unanimously, (8-0).

XIII. Board Information Items

Superintendent Vumback reminded members that the next meeting will include discussion of next year's calendar.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Angela Sherbanee and seconded by Carol Burgess. The Motion passed unanimously (8-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Terni
Board Clerk