

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No. 130-665– October 4, 2017

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-665 on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 7 pm at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, 1050 Westminster Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Members of the School Committee present:

Mr. Brian Walker	Fitchburg
Mr. Ross Barber	Westminster
Mr. James Cournoyer	Holden
Mr. John P. Mollica	Princeton
Ms. Melanie Weeks	Fitchburg
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby
Mr. Austin Cyganiewicz	Winchendon
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner
Mr. Ronald Tourigny	Fitchburg
Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams	Sterling
Ms. Whitney Marshall	Barre
Mrs. Barbara Reynolds	Lunenburg
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. James S. Boone	Gardner
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
No appointed representative	Harvard

Officer of the School Committee present:

Dr. Sheila M. Harrity	Superintendent-Director
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Officer of the School Committee absent:

Norman J. LeBlanc	District Treasurer
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Student Representative to the School Committee present:

Alexander Commodore

School District Personnel present:

Andrea Bell, Esq.	Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP
Tammy Crockett	Business/Human Resource Manager
Thomas Browne	Principal
James Hachey	Director of Vocational Programs
Christina Favreau	Director of Academic Programs
Victoria Zarozinski	Director of Student Support Services
Pamela Pothier	Director of Technology
Dayana Carlson	Assistant Principal
Keyna Thomas	Admin. Assist. to the Superintendent-Director
Chad Snyder	Audio/Visual Tech
Terri Hillman	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Walker, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7 pm and welcomed everyone. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 6, 2017

Mrs. Swenson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2017, with the following corrections:

Page 8 – School Committee Comments:

- “Mr. Tourigny had concerns about the lack of a recording or a video of School Committee meetings.”
- “Mrs. Reynolds congratulated Mrs. Swenson on her SkillsUSA award.”

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker and Dr. Williams abstained from voting.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Superintendent-Director Update

NBC Education Nation wants to feature Monty Tech on a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. The film crew from the Boston NBC affiliate came to Monty Tech on September 27, 2017 and visited the STEM programs. The NBC Education Nation Summit will be held in Boston on October 11, 2017 and the video will be available for Monty Tech to view after it is presented. Mr. Browne and Mr. Hachey will represent Monty Tech at the Boston program.

Other items:

- Superintendent Harrity has been asked to make a presentation at a National Blue Ribbon Conference.
- At the Program Advisory Committee meeting on September 27, 2017, there were 350 participants - a 78% participatory rate.
- The 23rd Annual Golf Tournament was a success with 101 golfers and 29 sponsors. \$12,000 was raised for the Scholarship Fund.
- Monty Tech did not get the \$100,000 Skills Capital Grant. Monty Tech was close to the award and will reapply in the next grant round.

Vet Tech Update

Superintendent Harrity thanked the School Committee members who came early to tour the Veterinary Clinic. Construction is going very well. Sheet rock is being installed. Lawrence DeSalvatore, a representative from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, visited the Vet Tech building and said that the Veterinary Science program will have full accreditation and Chapter 74 approval by October 28, 2017.

Technology Update

Ms. Lauren Viola and Ms. Althea Trundy, Mathematics Instructors, gave a presentation on how they are using Chromebooks in their classrooms. It is pretty amazing what the students can do with technology. The teachers said that students can ask them questions online that they may hesitate to ask in class, lesson assignments and grades can be posted immediately, parents can be contacted and there are many other uses for Chromebook.

Approval of Overnight Travel for JROTC Trips

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve:

- **One in-state overnight trip for the JROTC students' Annual March-A-Thon from October 20 to 21, 2017 at Monty Tech
and**
- **One out-of-state overnight trip for JROTC students to travel to Houston, Texas to assist with recovery operations from February 16 to 24, 2018.**

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Report

Alex Commodore, Student Representative, presented his report. Students are busy and tryouts for an upcoming drama production are taking place.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Browne presented a written report outlining the following activities:

- Back to School Night was held on September 7, 2017 to allow parents to meet with their student's academic teachers. Representatives from the Guidance Office, Nurses' Office and the Deans' Office were available for questions.
- The 11th annual College & Career Night was held on September 20, 2017. Representatives of various four-year colleges, two-year colleges, trade schools and trade unions had the opportunity to share their information with students and families. A list of the participants was provided. Nearly 300 students visited the fair.
- The annual Fall Advisory Dinner was held on September 27, 2017. 350 members of the twenty-one advisory committees for the vocational programs attended.
- A list of upcoming events for October was presented.

October 1st Enrollment Report

The City/Town Enrollment by Grade/Gender as of October 2, 2017 was presented for perusal. The total number of students as of this date is 1424. Mr. Simms said that he was on the Committee when there were only a little over 800 students and now there are 1424. He is confident that if another building were added, the enrollment would double.

Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from 09/06/17 – 09/21/17 was presented for perusal.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, said the Financial Planning Subcommittee plans to meet on October 23, 2017 to begin working on the upcoming budget season.

Policy

Mr. Gilbert, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee met on September 12, 2017 and presented policies for a first reading.

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the following policies for a first reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- **Policy IHAMB – Teaching About Body/Mind-Altering and Illegal/Controlled Substances**
- **Policy ADB – Illegal/Controlled Substance-Free Schools**
- **Policy JICH – Illegal/Controlled Substance Use By Students Prohibited**
- **To Remove Policy ADC – Tobacco Free School**

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, presented a list of projects that the Capital Improvements Subcommittee is recommending.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to support the projects recommended by the Capital Improvements Subcommittee as detailed in their September 21, 2017 meeting minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Simms.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Workforce

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, said that meetings with the MRTA Negotiating Team are ongoing. The Workforce Subcommittee is working to get this done.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the Student Advisory Subcommittee is scheduled to meet with the students on October 18, 2017.

Technology (ad hoc)

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to dissolve the Technology (ad hoc) Subcommittee as the Subcommittee's work has been completed.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Scholarship (ad hoc)

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said a meeting of the Scholarship (ad hoc) Subcommittee is scheduled for October 24, 2017.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

The August 2017 Statement, the Statement of Accounts, and the Financial Statement for the Continuing Education Program were presented for perusal.

Acceptance of Donation

Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to accept the donation from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts in the amount of \$20,160.78 as listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of September 22, 2017 for the Veterinary Science Training Program Building.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Barber, Mr. Mollica, Mr. Tourigny and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Auction Results

The result of the on-line sale of surplus equipment conducted through Fred's Auction Services was \$8,363 with net auction proceeds of \$6,407.26. The net proceeds, \$6,407.26, will be deposited in Miscellaneous Income.

Award of Bid #2018-02 – Grocery Bid

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to award the contract to provide grocery and paper products to Reinhart Foodservice, Taunton, MA, at an approximate total cost of \$182,115.39.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers' Information or Proposals

No teachers were present this evening.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

Mr. Walker congratulated everyone who worked for the success of the Golf Tournament. He reminded everyone that the November meeting of School Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

Public Records Requests

Mr. Walker said that requests for public records have been received and they will be filled in accordance with the Public Records Law.

School Committee Holiday Party

After discussion, it was decided to arrange a Holiday Party. Mr. Tourigny will be securing the Faye Club, Fitchburg, as a venue and will present dates and menus to the Superintendent-Director for presentation to the School Committee members.

Tabled Request

Mr. Barber moved to remove from the table the motion tabled at the September 6, 2017 School Committee meeting:

- **“That openings occurring in a town's or city's quota be filled from the same town's / city's waiting list until such list is exhausted”.**

Seconded by Mr. Mollica.

Roll Call Vote: Barber, yes; Barclay, no; Capone, no; Commodore, yes; Cournoyer, no; Cyganiewicz, yes; Gilbert, no; Marshall, no; Mollica, yes; Olson, no; Phillips, no; Reynolds, no; Simms, no; Swenson, no; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; Weeks, yes; and Dr. Williams, abstain.

Count – 7 yes, 10 no, and one abstention.

Motion lost.

The motion to take from the table lost. Attorney Bell said the motion is nullified but can be submitted at a future meeting.

Request to Attend National SkillsUSA Conference

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve up to \$2500 for Diane Swenson to attend and participate in the National SkillsUSA Competition in Louisville, KY, from June 25 through June 30, 2018. Expenditures not to exceed \$2500.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Swenson and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

School Committee Comments

Mrs. Barclay, Mr. Simms, Mr. Cournoyer, and Mrs. Reynolds commented on the Vet Tech Building. The building is fantastic and the work the students have done is amazing.

Mrs. Swenson presented information on the SkillsUSA Competition held in June in Louisville, KY.

Mr. Mollica and Ms. Weeks spoke about the presentation on the 1:1 Chromebook that was given this evening.

Mr. Tourigny presented information on communities that record their school committee meetings.

Mr. Gilbert suggested that the cords for graduating students who are entering the military correspond to the military branch they are joining.

Adjournment

Mr. Cyganiewicz moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Capone.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary