

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No. 130-666– November 15, 2017

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held its regular meeting No. 130-666 on Wednesday, November 15, 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
Ms. Melanie Weeks	Fitchburg
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston
Mr. James S. Boone	Gardner
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner
Mr. Ronald Tourigny	Fitchburg
Ms. Whitney Marshall	Barre
Mrs. Barbara Reynolds	Lunenburg
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. John P. Mollica	Princeton
Mr. Austin Cyganiewicz	Winchendon
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams	Sterling
No appointed representative	Harvard

Officer of the School Committee present:

Dr. Sheila M. Harrity	Superintendent-Director
Norman J. LeBlanc	District Treasurer

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
Michael Gormley	Director of Facilities
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. Mr. Walker announced that Doneen Durling of The Gardner News will be making an audio recording of the meeting as allowed in the Open Meeting Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 4, 2017

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2017, with the following correction:

Page 1 – Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi should be listed as “not present” at the October 4, 2017 meeting

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Airoidi, Mr. Boone, and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

LEGAL MATTERS – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Olson moved to take item 10. - Legal Matters – Executive Session – out of order.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Mrs. Barclay moved to go into executive session for:

- a) Discussion of Collective Bargaining Strategy with the Massachusetts Teachers' Association Representing the Montachusett Regional Teachers' Association (MRTA) pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Section 21(a)(3)

- b) Discussion of Collective Bargaining Strategy with the Massachusetts Teachers' Association representing Maintenance and Custodial Employees pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Section 21 (a)(3)

- c) Discussion of Strategy for Non-Union Personnel pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2)

and to return to open session to complete the agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Boone, yes; Capone, yes; Commodore, yes; Cournoyer, yes; Gilbert, yes; Marshall, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes and Weeks, yes. Count – 17 yes.

The Committee went into executive session at 7:10 pm.

The Committee returned to open session at 7:55 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent-Director Update

Superintendent Harrity presented a PowerPoint update of activities as of November 15, 2017.

- Local – presented at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce Leadership Council Meeting. On January 12, 2018, Monty Tech will sponsor “Good Morning North Central Breakfast”.
- State - Monty Tech featured on NBC News – Education Nation – Build the Future Event. A clip from the program was shown to the School Committee members.
- National – presented at the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Ceremony – Women in Leadership.

Other items:

- Over 550 students visited Monty Tech on Tour Day. A list of participating schools and non-participating schools was provided.
- The Fall 2017 VIP session served 240 students. A list of the participating towns and schools and a list of the shops and instructors supporting this program were provided. Superintendent Harrity thanked the instructors.
- The National Honor Society inducted 37 new members bringing the total membership to 591. A list of the new members was provided.
- Over 1300 students are enrolled in the Continuing Education Program.

Vet Tech Update

Superintendent Harrity reported that the Veterinary Science Training Center construction provides meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for 50-60 students daily from: Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC & Property Maintenance, Masonry, and Plumbing.

Year 2 in the multi-year commitments have started to arrive (e.g. Dunkin' Donuts Year 2 in the amount of \$10,000). The Foundation continues to accept donations and the project remains on budget. The Veterinary Science Exploratory program had the highest number of first choice participants - 53 freshmen.

Stoneyard representatives came to the construction site, and provided Masonry students and instructors with a demonstration on how to install the stone selected for the front facade. The company also loaned equipment and tools necessary for a successful installation.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has sent full approval for the new secondary-level program titled Animal Science. This approval is given pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 74 and the Vocational Technical Education Regulations 603 CMR 4.00.

Superintendent Harrity wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

MCAS Update

Christina Favreau presented a PowerPoint of the Monty Tech Spring 2017 MCAS results, accountability status and AP scores. Monty Tech continues to achieve overall success in terms of performance on the MCAS. Since 2012 Monty Tech has met or exceeded the state averages in all three subjects. An overview of the MCAS results was provided:

- For English Language Arts 95% of students are Proficient or Advanced
- For Math 81% of students are Proficient or Advanced
- For Biology 80% of students are Proficient or Advanced

A 5-year review (2013-2017) of Advanced Placement Exam results was provided. This year 53 students who took an AP exam qualified for college credit. Five AP programs in STEM are now offered including AP Calculus.

Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve an out-of-state field trip for seniors to the International Beauty Show at Javits Convention Center in New York City on March 6, 2018 with funding provided from shop gratuities. Seconded by Mrs. Swenson. Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve an out-of-state field trip for seniors and sophomores to attend Viega Educational Center in Nashua, New Hampshire on January 9, 2018 with funding provided from the sale of recycled scraps by the students.

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 on students' activities.

- In preparation for the trip to Houston in February, there will be a construction class on Saturday. Fifty cadets and five chaperons have been chosen for the trip and the students are ahead of fund raising goals.
- Both JROTC CyberPatriot teams did a great job in recent competition.
- Four athletic teams made playoffs – Field Hockey, Girls and Boys Soccer, and Cross Country,
- More than 77 seniors are out on Co-Op.
- Rachel Spivey has been selected for the DAR Good Citizen Award
- Grace Kirrane and Kyle Massak have been selected to apply for MA DESE Presidential Scholars Program.
- Alessandra Cullen and David Hinckley have been selected as MT's honorees at the Worcester County Superintendents' Association Annual Scholars' luncheon.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Browne presented a written report outlining the following activities:

- Monty Tech held two dinners for students and families in recognition of those students who achieved honor roll for each term in 2016-2017. A list of the recognized students was provided.
- Principals and Counselors of Monty Tech's sending schools were invited to attend a presentation to update districts on the admissions process, student support services, vocational programs and academic offerings. A list of the participants was presented.
- Annual Tour Day, Career Awareness Night, and Military Awareness Night were well attended.
- MCAS retests are scheduled.
- A list of upcoming events for November and December was presented.

Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report (1416 students) from September 22 through November 3, 2017 and the Discipline/Attendance Report from August 30 through September 30, 2017 was presented for perusal. The attendance percentage for September was 98.8%.

Advisory Committee Meetings

Minutes of the Program Advisory Committee meetings held on September 27, 2017 were included for information.

A Special Education Parent Advisory Committee scheduled for September 27, 2017 was not held due to lack of parental/community participation.

PERSONNEL

Appointment

Diane Agnew has been appointed Long-term Substitute.

Retirement

Cheryl Mangum, Information Technology Technical Support Assistant, has submitted notice of intent to retire as of October 9, 2018.

Resignation

Ivan Cardona, Evening Custodian, has submitted his resignation effective November 10, 2017.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore moved that the District Committee accept the recommendation of the Financial Planning Subcommittee and vote to approve the final budget for Fiscal Year 2018 as follows:

Budget	\$26,895,680
Less Revenues	\$16,581,604
Assessment	\$10,314,076

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – unanimous.

Policy

Mr. Gilbert moved that the District Committee accept the recommendations of the Policy Subcommittee and vote to approve the following for second reading:

- 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

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the District Committee accept the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and vote to approve the following for a second reading:

- To Remove Policy ADC – Tobacco Free School Policy

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the District Committee accept the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and vote to approve the first reading to revise the following policies:

- Policies DAB, DBI, DBJ, DC, DD, DIE, DJ/DJB, DJA, DJE, DK, DKAB

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the District Committee accept the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and vote to approve for a first reading to remove the following policies:

- Policy DEB – Revenue from State Tax Sources
- Policy DEC – Revenue from Federal Tax Sources
- Policy DKA – Payroll Procedures
- Policy DM – Cash in School Buildings

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, had no report at this time.

Workforce

Mr. Cournoyer moved that the District Committee vote to ratify the motions voted in executive session (11/15/17) as follows:

- **to accept the recommendation of the Workforce Subcommittee to ratify the Montachusett Regional Teachers' Association (MRTA) contract**
- **to accept the recommendation of the Workforce Subcommittee to ratify the Massachusetts Teachers' Association contract for Maintenance and Custodial employees**
- **to accept the recommendation of the Workforce Subcommittee for the Administrative Team and Support Staff compensation and benefits.**

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the Student Advisory Subcommittee met with the students on October 18, 2017. Some comments from the students:

- It was a meaningful start to the school year
- The internet is quicker this year
- Website needs updating
- Parking has improved
- Need more microwaves for lunch periods
- Clarification needed as to how guests can get into the building.

Scholarship (ad hoc)

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said a meeting of the Scholarship (ad hoc) Subcommittee is scheduled for January 24, 2018.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

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

Approval of Health Insurance Rates

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the Health and Dental Insurance Rates as presented by the Business Manager in her memo of October 31, 2017.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Swenson and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

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 \$25,389.41 as listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of November 6, 2017 for the Veterinary Science Training Program Building.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Vote – so voted.

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

Surplus Equipment

Mrs. Swenson moved that the District Committee vote to declare the 1966 Pontiac Catalina car as surplus equipment available to be auctioned as is.

Seconded by Mrs. Weeks.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers' Information or Proposals

No teachers were present this evening.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

Public Records Requests

Mr. Walker said that requests for public records have been received and have been filled in accordance with the Public Records Law. He read the list of requests.

Holiday Gathering Update

The School Committee will hold a Holiday Gathering at Slattery's Restaurant on Thursday, December 7, 2017.

Correspondence

A letter has been received from the mayors of Gardner and Fitchburg. It will be referred to the Policy Subcommittee and will be an agenda item on the next School Committee meeting.

School Committee Comments

Mr. Boone thanked the Workforce Subcommittee for their work in negotiating the contracts and thanked Ms. Favreau for the presentation on the MCAS tests.

Mrs. Barclay presented a report of her attendance as the Alternate Delegate at the 2017 MASS/MASC Conference. It was a fabulous time.

Adjournment

Mr. Capone moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary