

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
1050 Westminster Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No. 130-669– February 15, 2018

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-669 on Wednesday, February 15, 2018 (rescheduled from February 7, 2018) at 7 pm at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, 1050 Westminister 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. Matthew Vance	Gardner	(left at 10:30 pm)
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham	
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston	
Mr. James S. Boone	Gardner	(left at 10:15 pm)
Mr. Austin Cyganiewicz	Winchendon	
Mr. Ronald Tourigny	Fitchburg	
Mr. William Brassard	Sterling	
Ms. Whitney Marshall	Barre	
Mrs. Barbara Reynolds	Lunenburg	
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston	
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston	
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol	
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton	(left at 10:15 pm)

Members of the School Committee absent:

Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby
No appointed representative	Harvard

Officers of the School Committee present:

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

Student Representative to the School Committee absent:

Alexander Commodore

School District Personnel present:

Kay Hodge, Esq.	Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP
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
Katy Whitaker	Development Coordinator
Pamela Pothier	Director of Technology
Michael Gormley	Director of Facilities
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.

Doneen Durling, the Gardner News reporter, informed Mr. Walker that she would be making an audio recording of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Introduction of New School Committee Members

Mr. Walker introduced the following new School Committee members.

- Mr. William Brassard representing Sterling
- Mr. Matthew Vance representing Gardner

Other

The following were present at the meeting:

- Eric Commodore, former School Committee representative, City of Gardner
- Christine Johnson, Councilor at Large, City of Gardner
- Robert Swartz, Vice Chairperson, Gardner School Committee
- Scott Graves, Esq., President, Gardner City Council
- Paul DeMeo, Resident, City of Gardner
- Denis Thibodeau, Resident, City of Fitchburg
- Sam Squailia, Councilor, City of Fitchburg
- Barbara Anderson, Chairman Winchendon Board of Selectmen
- Larry Murphy, Chairman Winchendon School Committee
- Greg Vine, Winchendon School Committee Member

Mr. Commodore asked the Chair if he could read a farewell letter to the School Committee members. He had served as the Gardner representative for eight years. He was granted the opportunity.

Mr. Simms thanked Mr. Commodore for his work on many subcommittees during his term and for his efforts to help the students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 3, 2018

Mrs. Swenson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2018, as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Barclay, Mr. Brassard, Mr. Vance and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Recording of Meetings

Mr. Barber moved to record tonight's School Committee meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Mollica.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Vance moved to end discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Boone, yes; Brassard, abstain; Cournoyer, yes; Cyganiewicz, yes; Gilbert, yes; Marshall, yes; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Vance, yes; Walker, yes, and Weeks, yes.

Count 18 yes; 1 abstention.

Motion to end discussion passed.

Roll Call Vote on motion to record: Airoidi, no; Barber, yes; Barclay, no; Boone, yes; Brassard, abstain; Cournoyer, no; Cyganiewicz, yes; Gilbert, no; Marshall, no; Mollica, yes; Olson, no; Phillips, no; Reynolds, no; Simms, no; Swenson, no; Tourigny, yes; Vance, yes; Walker, abstain; and Weeks, no.

Count 6 yes; 11 no; 2 abstentions.

Motion to record did not pass.

Ms. Durling offered to make her recording of the meeting available to members.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent-Director's Update

Superintendent Harrity presented a PowerPoint update of activities as of February 15, 2018.

- Monty Tech sponsored the Good Morning North Central Breakfast at the Doubletree Hilton, Leominster, MA on January 2, 2018.
- The STEM Advisory Council met at Monty Tech on January 25, 2018. Some members toured the Veterinary Clinic.
- Grant applications have been submitted as follows:
 - CFNCM (Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts) in the amount of \$13,919 to start an Oil Burner Technician Training program through the School of Continuing Education
 - Doyle Fund for Animal Welfare and Environment in the amount of \$15,796 to purchase equipment to support the new Monty Tech Veterinary Clinic
 - FY19 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program requested an amount up to \$500,000 to support Electrical and Engineering programs/clusters
- 2018 Motivational Speaker – Wes Moore – Wednesday, February 28, 2018
- Potential Partnership – Workforce Training Fund – Monty Tech Continuing Education has training programs eligible for support from the Workforce Training Fund. Director Mary May-Lucchese has been invited to present at their May 16, 2018 meeting to highlight Monty Tech's ability to develop new (or expand existing) training programs to suit the needs of area employers.

Vet Tech Update

Superintendent Harrity presented photos showing the construction progress on the Veterinary Science Training Center.

Other

A copy of the Monty Tech Annual Report for the 2016-2017 school year was included in the packets.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Report

Alex Commodore, Student Representative, was not present this evening due to the upcoming MCJROTC trip to Houston, Texas for "Operation Restore Hope".

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Browne presented a written report outlining January 2018 events.

- A total of 196 students participated in VIP Session #2. A list of participating towns was included in the report as well as a list of participating vocational programs and instructors.
- Results for the November MCAS retests were received. Three upperclassmen need to participate in the MCAS math retest and six students need to participate in the MCAS science retest.
- Ongoing retest success is due to after school tutorial support and the first "MCAS Boot Camp" an all-day MCAS prep session on the day before the exam. He thanked the instructors for their work to support these students.
- A list of upcoming events for February was provided.

Mr. Browne presented a report on the Monty Tech Student Population – Urban vs. Suburban/Rural.

Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from December 21, 2017 through January 25, 2018 and the Discipline/Attendance Report for December 2017 were presented for perusal. The attendance percentage for December was 94.8%.

Ninth Grade Placement

Mr. Browne presented a PowerPoint of Vocational Selection and Placement for 2017-2018. The number of students receiving their 1st or 2nd choice of Vocational Placement was 346 or 94%. The presentation listed Vocational Shop capacities, and a comparison of placements since school year 2008-2009. Currently there have been no withdrawals due to final vocational placement/dissatisfaction.

Program of Studies

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the Program of Studies for the 2018-2019 school year as submitted.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Brassard, Mr. Vance and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Establish Co-Op Partnership with Sizer School – Boys' Volleyball Team

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to establish a Co-Op partnership with Sizer School for a boys' volleyball team.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Eric Olson said that the Financial Planning Subcommittee met on February 12, 2018. A copy of the Preliminary Budget Plan for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 was approved by the Financial Planning Subcommittee. A copy was provided for School Committee members' review and will be provided to the cities and towns in the District for their review.

Policy

Mr. Gilbert, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee met on January 16, 2018. He presented a PowerPoint of the timeline regarding concerns about antiquated language in conflict with current MA State law and/or policies and procedures. The timeline started with the initial letter from City of Gardner/Mayor Hawke dated February 9, 2017 and listed all correspondence and actions taken by the Monty Tech Policy Subcommittee through January 29, 2018.

The issues and concerns with the Monty Tech District Agreement as outlined in the letter from the City of Gardner/Mayor Hawke dated February 9, 2017 were highlighted in the PowerPoint and the steps the Monty Tech Policy Subcommittee took to address the District Agreement issues were detailed.

The Policy Subcommittee proposes a 5th Amendment to the District Agreement for School Committee approval and a revision to Policy #BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties for a first reading to correct the concerns of the member communities. The 5th Amendment updates District Agreement language as allowed under Chapter 1025 of the Acts of 1973 to comply with MGL Chapter 71 §16 and §16B – that law that governs regional school districts and budgets.

Public Comment

Christine Johnson, Councilor at Large, Gardner, read a letter from Mayor Hawke as he could not attend tonight's meeting. She also spoke on her own behalf.

Others speaking for their communities were Sam Squalia, Fitchburg; Larry Murphy, Greg Vine, Winchendon; Paul DeMeo, Gardner.

5th Amendment to the District Agreement

**Mary Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the 5th Amendment to the District Agreement as presented.
Seconded by Mrs. Airoidi.**

Mr. Boone moved that a review committee be formed to review the District Agreement. The request was ruled out of order and a vote was taken on the original motion.

Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Barber, abstain; Barclay, yes; Boone, yes;

Brassard, abstain; Cournoyer, yes; Cyganiewicz, yes; Gilbert, yes; Marshall, yes; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Vance, yes; Walker, yes, and Weeks, yes.

Count 17 yes; 2 abstentions.

Motion - 5th Amendment – passed.

First Reading - Policy BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the first reading to revise Policy BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties.

Seconded by Mrs. Airoidi.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, said that the Capital Improvements Subcommittee met on January 24, 2018. The Subcommittee reviewed the Preventive Maintenance Agreement that Monty Tech has with Trane. There is one year left on the agreement and the Subcommittee will be considering how to go forward.

The Capital Improvements Subcommittee also discussed a new telephone system for the school, minor renovations to the weight room, and minor repairs to the heating system.

Workforce

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, said that the Workforce Subcommittee will soon start working on the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met with students. It was a great meeting. The students seem very happy and had no complaints. The final meeting for this school year will be scheduled for April or May.

Scholarship (ad hoc)

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, Scholarship Subcommittee (ad hoc), said she will be scheduling a meeting.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

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

Acceptance of Donations

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 \$91,682 as listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of January 30, 2018 for the Veterinary Science Training Program Building.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

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

Josh Page Electric

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to accept the electrical supplies donated by Josh Page Electric with an estimated value of \$3,500 to \$4,000 to be used by the electrical program.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

Various Vendors for “Operation Restore Hope”

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to accept donations from various vendors for equipment and supplies valued at \$8,734 in support of the MCJROTC's mission to Houston, Texas - “Operation Restore Hope”.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

The donors, items and value are listed in First Sergeant Paul Jornet's memo of January 23, 2018.

Donations for MCJROTC

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to accept donations of cash totaling \$20,700 and supplies valued at \$4,500 from various people and vendors for the MCJROTC's Mission to Houston, Texas.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers' Information or Proposals

No teachers were present this evening.

School Committee Chairman Report

Mr. Walker said that the Committee's Sunshine Fund is in need of donations.

Mr. Walker presented a list of School Committee Subcommittees as of January 18, 2018.

School Committee Information or Proposals

Mr. Cournoyer distributed a letter dated February 15, 2018 to Chairperson Walker requesting a review of the City of Gardner's School Committee appointment of February 5, 2018.

Mr. Cournoyer moved that the Monty Tech School Committee authorize Legal Counsel to review the City of Gardner's School Committee appointment of February 5, 2018 to Monty Tech for compliance with the District Agreement. Specifically to review two sections of the Agreement to see if Gardner complied with the timelines outlined for School Committee appointments,

- Section I – The Regional District School Committee (E) Organization
- Section I - 3rd Amendment 1989 – Appointive Method

Seconded by Mr. Gilbert.

Roll Call Vote - Airoidi, yes; Barber, no; Barclay, no; Boone, no; Brassard, abstain; Cournoyer, yes; Cyganiewicz, no; Gilbert, yes; Marshall, abstain; Mollica, no; Olson, no; Phillips, no; Reynolds, no; Simms, yes; Swenson, no; Tourigny, no; Vance, abstain; Walker, abstain; and Weeks, yes.

Count 5 yes; 10 no; 4 abstentions.

Motion did not pass.

School Committee Comments

Mr. Boone spoke about having videos of the meetings to share with the public.

Mrs. Swenson said the Committee would need to have the ability to share the video of the meetings with all of the cities and towns in the District. Some smaller towns could not receive.

Mrs. Weeks gave best wishes to the MCJROTC students for their trip to Texas.

Legal Matters – Executive Session

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy in relation to member towns (Gardner and Templeton) non-payment of tuition to the District and to reconvene in open session only to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Cournoyer.

Attorney Hodge advised that the representatives from Gardner and Templeton should recuse themselves from voting for executive session and should excuse themselves from the meeting. Mr. Boone, Mr. Gilbert (10:15 pm) and Mr. Vance (10:30 pm) left the meeting.

Roll Call Vote to enter executive session: Airoidi, yes; Barber, no; Barclay, yes; Brassard, abstain; Cournoyer, yes; Cyganiewicz, yes; Marshall, yes; Mollica, no; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, no; Walker, yes; and Weeks, yes.

Count 12 yes; 3 no; 1 abstention.

Motion to enter executive session – passed.

The Committee entered executive session at 10:30 pm.

The Committee reconvened in open session at 10:50 pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Olson moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Cyganiewicz.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary