

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Regular Meeting No. 130-673– June 6, 2018

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-673 on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 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	
Dr. Robert Babineau	Fitchburg	
Ms. Melanie Weeks	Fitchburg	
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham	
Mr. Matthew Vance	Gardner	
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham	
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston	(left at 10 pm)
Mr. James S. Boone	Gardner	
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby	
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	(left at 10:15 pm)
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol	
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton	

Member of the School Committee absent:

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 present:

Rebecca Whittier

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
Katy Whitaker	Development Coordinator
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 7:20 pm and welcomed everyone. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Vance, Gardner Representative, and Ms. Doneen Durling, The Gardner News reporter, stated that they would be recording the meeting.

**Mr. Mollica moved a point of order. He had requested an item to be put on the agenda.**

Mr. Walker said that the written request can be considered under School Committee Information or Proposals.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – May 2, 2018**

**Mrs. Reynolds moved that the District Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 2, 2018 as presented.**

**Seconded by Mr. Capone.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mr. Boone, Mr. Olson, Mrs. Swenson, Mr. Vance and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.**

**SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Introduction of State SkillsUSA Award Winners**

Several of the SkillsUSA State Competition winners were present and introduced themselves. All of the winners could not be present due to work commitments. Eight students will be competing at SkillsUSA Nationals. Committee members wished them well.

**Superintendent-Director's Update**

Superintendent Harranty presented a PowerPoint update of activities as of June 6, 2018.

- Two modern style credenzas were built in the Cabinetmaking program for MWCC. They were constructed from maple trees cut from the MWCC property.
- Senator Dean Tran visited Monty Tech, toured the school, and visited with students and staff.
- Cities/towns that have voted to pass the budget – Ashburnham, Ashby, Harvard, Holden, Hubbardston, Lunenburg, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Princeton, Sterling, Templeton, Westminster, Winchendon.
- Superintendent Harranty was a guest on the WYPR Future City podcast hosted by Wes Moore on May 16, 2018. The topic was “The Future of Education”. He is looking at bright ideas that work in education in other cities and would like these ideas to work for Baltimore. Mr. Moore was the motivational speaker at Monty Tech this year.
- The Maryland legislature is revamping their state’s vocational system and has invited Superintendent Harranty to speak.

- Three grants have been awarded to Monty Tech:
  - Educational Access Grant \$13,919 – to purchase equipment and materials for an Oil Burner Technician Training program.
  - Doyle Fund for Animal Welfare and Environment - \$15,796 – to purchase equipment for the new Veterinary Clinic.
  - Skills Capital Grant Program - \$499,999 – for Engineering, Electrical, CAD/Drafting & Design.

### **Vet Tech Update**

Superintendent Harrity's PowerPoint included photos of the work and a written report of the construction progress on the Veterinary Science Training Center. Students and staff who worked on this project will be recognized by a display of group photos in the completed clinic. Department and group shots that were taken for this purpose were included in the report. A “Thank You” lunch for the students and staff was hosted. All faculty have been invited to tour the facility on June 12, 2018.

### **Reappointment of Legal Counsel**

**Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to retain Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP as the District's Legal Counsel effective July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 and to approve the Legal Services Retainer Agreement.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mr. Boone, Mr. Tourigny and Mr. Vance voted no.**

**Mr. Walker abstained from voting.**

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

#### **Student Representative's Monthly Report**

Rebecca Whittier reported on student activities.

- JROTC students participated in ceremonies at local cemeteries on Memorial Day.
- Gave an update on sports.
- John Sweeney was awarded a TAMY for his performance in *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

#### **Principal's Monthly Report**

Principal Browne presented a written report outlining April 2018 events.

- Approximately 425 students, supported by 26 faculty chaperones attended the Annual Junior/Senior Prom held at Wachusett Mountain.
- Mike Dion, Cabinetmaking Instructor, was recognized as *Monty Tech's Employee of the Year* by the Fitchburg Rotary Club.
- Approximately 140 seniors received approximately 205 awards totaling over \$97,160 in monetary and tool/equipment support from a variety of community partners at Senior Awards Night. An awards list was presented for information.
- 327 seniors participated in Monty Tech's 47<sup>th</sup> Graduation Exercises.

Upcoming events for June and Summer Programs were listed on the report.

**Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report**

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from April 21, 2018 through May 25, 2018 and the Discipline/Attendance Report for April 2018 were presented for perusal. The attendance percentage for March was 94.6%.

**NEASC Two-Year Progress Report**

Superintendent Harrity was notified on April 19, 2018 that the Commission on Public School Committees on Technical and Career Institutions reviewed and accepted without change in membership status the Two-Year Progress Report submitted on behalf of Monty Tech. A Five-Year Focused Visit is scheduled for the Spring of 2021.

**Proposed Edits to the 2018-2019 Student Handbook**

Mr. Browne reviewed the proposed changes for the 2018-2019 Student Handbook for the Committee. A draft of the Handbook was presented and a copy of the published handbook will be provided to Committee members.

**Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the proposed changes for the 2018-2019 Student Handbook as presented.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mr. Walker abstained from voting.**

**PERSONNEL**

**Resignations**

- Pamela Pothier, Director of Technology, has submitted her resignation effective June 29, 2018.
- Shannon Cleveland, Coordinator of Cooperative Education and Student Placement, has submitted her resignation effective July 1, 2018.

**Retirement**

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary for the School Committee, has submitted her notice to retire effective after the School Committee's final 2018 meeting on June 20, 2018.

**REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Financial Planning**

Eric Olson, Chairperson, said that the Financial Planning Subcommittee met on May 23, 2018. They discussed the Legal Services Retainer Agreement and approved the Agreement as presented. Mr. Olson stated that Monty Tech now has a budget for FY 2019 as it has been approved by the required number of communities.

**Policy**

Mr. Gilbert, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on May 8, 2018. The Subcommittee is working on a surveillance camera and getting legal opinions.

**Capital Improvements**

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, said that the replacement for the gas pump is out to bid and the front parking paving is also out to bid. The paving for the multipurpose parking lot was completed in time for graduation.

**Workforce**

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, presented the summary of Dr. Sheila Harrity's evaluation for school year 2017-2018.

**Mr. Cournoyer moved that the District Committee vote that the full Committee follow the unanimous decision of the Workforce Subcommittee and rate the Superintendent-Director, Dr. Sheila Harrity, as Exemplary for the 2017-2018 evaluation cycle.**

**Seconded by Mr. Boone.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mr. Walker voted in favor and Mr. Brassard and Mr. Vance abstained from voting.**

**Superintendent-Director's Goals 2018-2019**

**Mr. Cournoyer moved that the District Committee vote that the full Committee follow the recommendation of the Workforce Subcommittee to accept and adopt the proposed goals as presented by the Superintendent-Director for the 2018-2019 school year with the following addition:**

**Professional Practice Goal - Indicators**

**Add:**

**3. Update School Committee members.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Phillips.**

**Vote – Unanimous.**

**Mr. Walker voted in favor.**

**Legal Matters – Executive Session**

**Mr. Cournoyer moved to take Legal Matters – Executive Session – out of order.**

**Seconded by Mr. Gilbert.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mr. Barber and Mr. Vance voted no.**

**Mr. Cournoyer moved that the District Committee enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to the contract of non-union personnel – Superintendent-Director – pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) and to return to open session to complete the agenda.**

**Seconded by Mr. Boone.**

**Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Babineau, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Boone, yes; Brassard, yes; Capone, yes; 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 – 21 yes.**

The Committee went into executive session at 8:35 pm.

The Committee returned to open session at 9:30 pm.

**Ratification of Votes Taken in Executive Session**

**Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to ratify the unanimous vote taken in executive session to update the Employment Agreement between the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School and Sheila Harrity, Ed.D, Superintendent-Director.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – Unanimous.**

**Mr. Walker voted in favor.**

**Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to ratify the unanimous vote taken in executive session to approve the Agreement between the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School and Sheila Harrity, Ed.D, Superintendent-Director.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – Unanimous.**

**Mr. Walker voted in favor.**

**Student Advisory**

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that Student Advisory Subcommittee met with the students on May 18, 2018. There was a wrap-up with the present student members and an introduction of new student members for the coming school year. Meetings will resume in October.

**Scholarship (ad hoc)**

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the Scholarship (ad hoc) Subcommittee met on May 22, 2018. They established criteria and a process to follow to award a scholarship. The next meeting is June 7, 2018. A written report will be provided in the June 20 School Committee Meeting. She asked School Committee members to contribute to the Scholarship fund. The goal is to give at least one \$250 scholarship in 2019.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Financial Statements**

The April 2018 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 \$53,346.78 as listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of May 30, 2018 for the Veterinary Science Training Program Building.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.**

**Vote – so voted.**

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

**Line Item Transfers**

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to transfer from and to accounts within different function codes in accordance with School Committee Policy. The transfers are listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of May 30, 2018.

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 Chairman Report**

Mr. Walker said that Awards Night and Graduation went extremely well. He thanked everyone who was involved in these events and congratulated the graduates. He is preparing a list of subcommittees to include the new members. He asked members to let him know of any subcommittee they are interested in serving on.

**School Committee Information or Proposals**

Mr. Mollica moved that the Monty Tech School Committee be given a comprehensive chronological appraisal of the March 27<sup>th</sup> “starter pistol” event to date.

**This should include policies and laws considered, involvement, and the action taken by law enforcement entities and the school administration, as well as administrative and police reports.**

**Names of the student(s) are not necessary to be known.**

**The school committee however should review these to-date events, to see if their policies are robust regarding this type of incident, and that their policies and the state laws are being followed.**

**Seconded by Mr. Barber.**

Mr. Mollica distributed a copy of the above motion to all School Committee members. Discussion followed. He is concerned about the District's liability and personal liability in such instances. The Chair confirmed that the Administration was advised by District Counsel on the matter.

Kay H. Hodge, Esq., Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP, was consulted on this matter. Due to confidentiality, the student discipline report to the School Committee must be brief.

Speaking directly to Attorney Bell, Mr. Mollica asked if M.G.L. c. 71. Sec 37L and/or Chapter 269, Section 10(6j), or district policy had been violated relative to the “starter pistol” incident on school property on March 27.

Attorney Bell responded that based on the information shared during the discussion, there was no violation of M.G.L. c. 71. Sec 37L or policy. As for Chapter 269, Section 10(6j), she did not opine as it is a criminal statute and should be interpreted by the district attorney and/or law enforcement.

Officers from the Fitchburg and the Westminster Police Departments investigated and determined that no criminal laws were broken.

After further discussion, **Mr. Olson moved the question.**

**Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Babineau, abstain; Barber, no; Boone, yes; Brassard, yes; Capone, yes; Cournoyer, yes; Cyganiewicz, yes; Gilbert, abstain; Marshall, yes; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, no; Vance, yes; Walker, abstain; and Weeks, yes. Count – 15 yes; 2 no; 3 abstentions. Motion to move the question – passed. Note – Mrs. Barclay left the meeting at 10 pm and was not present for this vote.**

**Roll Call Vote on Mr. Mollica's motion (stated on page 7): Airoidi, no; Babineau, abstain; Barber, yes; Boone, yes; Brassard, no; Capone, no; Cournoyer, no; Cyganiewicz, yes; Gilbert, abstain; Marshall, no; Mollica, yes; Olson, no; Phillips, no; Reynolds, no; Simms, no; Swenson, no; Tourigny, yes; Vance, yes; Walker, no; and Weeks, no. Count – 6 yes; 12 no; 2 abstentions. Vote on motion – lost.**

**School Committee Comments**

Due to the length of the meeting, there were no School Committee comments this evening.

**Other**

Notice was received from the Fitchburg Planning Board regarding a Public Hearing on a request from Native Sun Wellness to open a cannabis cultivating facility on 140 Industrial Road, Fitchburg. The owners are willing to attend a School Committee meeting to speak about the project. Mr. Olson requested that they be invited to speak at the June 20, 2018 meeting and be placed first on the agenda. One concern of School Committee members will be security at the facility.



**Adjournment**

**Mr. Boone moved to adjourn.**

**Seconded by Mr. Cyganiewicz.**

**Vance, voted no.**

**Mr. Walker abstained from voting.**

**Vote on motion – passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

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

Terri Hillman, Secretary