

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No .130-652 – September 7, 2016

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No .130-652 on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 7 pm at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, Monty Tech Drive (off 1050 Westminster Street), Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Members of the School Committee present:

Mrs. Barbara Reynolds	Lunenburg
Mr. Ross Barber	Westminster
Mr. Ronald Tourigny	Fitchburg
Mr. James Cournoyer	Holden
Mr. John P. Mollica	Princeton
Ms. Melanie Weeks	Fitchburg
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston
Mr. James S. Boone	Gardner
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby
Mr. Burton E. Gould, Jr.	Winchendon
Mr. Brian Walker	Fitchburg
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Ms. Whitney Marshall	Barre
Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams	Sterling
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton
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:

Leon Gaulin

School District Personnel present:

Andrea Bell, Esq.	Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP
Tammy Crockett	Business/Human Resources Manager
Thomas Browne	Principal
James Hachey	Director of Vocational Programs
Christina Favreau	Director of Academic Programs
Victoria Zarozinski	Student Services, Special Education Director
Katy Whitaker	Development Coordinator
Dayana Carlson	Assistant Principal
Christine Krause	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent-Director
Chad Snyder	AV Technician
Terri Hillman	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Introduction of New Faculty and Staff

New Faculty and Staff members attended a New Employee Reception prior to the meeting. They introduced themselves to the Committee members and were welcomed.

Introduction of SkillsUSA National Medal Winners

Ms. Anne Marie Cataldo, SkillsUSA Advisor, introduced Mrs. Becky Sadowski, mother of Taylor Sadowski. Taylor won the Silver Medal for Medical Assisting at SkillsUSA National but could not be present this evening. Mrs. Sadowski presented the medal to the School Committee on Taylor's behalf.

Grace Kirrane, the new SkillsUSA State Vice-President, was introduced. Grace is a junior in Health Occupations and is from Fitchburg. Grace thanked the School Committee members for their support of SkillsUSA.

Ms. Cataldo suggested that School Committee members view the bulletin board in the hallway which has a good display of the SkillsUSA activities at National.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting– August 3, 2016

Prior to the approval of the minutes, Mr. Barber noted that the minutes from August 3, 2016 did not reference his request to revise the June 22, 2016 minutes with regard to the sequence that Mr. Mollica distributed a memo to School Committee members, Subject: Policy KCD: Public Gifts to Schools with his concerns relative to acceptance of gifts.

Mrs. Toni Phillips moved that the District Committee approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 3, 2016 as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Cournoyer, Mr. Mollica, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Swenson, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Weeks abstained from voting.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approval of all Overnight Travel In and Out-of-State for SkillsUSA for the 2016-2017 School Year

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee approve:

One out-of-state overnight trip for the Washington Leadership Training Institute for State Officer Grace Kirrane, September 17-21, 2016 in Herndon, Virginia/Washington, DC

and

One in-state overnight trip to SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference, November 19-22, 2016 in Marlborough, MA

and

**One in-state overnight trip to SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference,
April 27-29, 2017 in Marlborough, MA**

and

**One out-of-state overnight trip for SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills
Conference, June 19-24, 2017 in Louisville, KY.**

Seconded by Mr. Walker.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Veterinary Science Training Program Update

Superintendent Harrity gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Monty Tech Veterinary Science Training Program as of September 7, 2016. Winn Companies has withdrawn from the project due to scheduling conflicts. This has resulted in a loss of their In-Kind Support of \$300,000. The total now committed is \$2,283,961 leaving \$266,039 needed to reach the funding goal for Phase I.

Superintendent Harrity reviewed the Program Planning Timeline from January 6, 2016 through School Year 2016-2017. The Groundbreaking Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2016. Invitations have been sent out.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Harrity presented a special “Welcome Back To School” report. She outlined the programs and projects completed during the summer 2016.

- Served 84 students in Summer School.
- Ran a successful Summer Academy Program that served 64 students which resulted in Math and English improvements.
- Hired 15 new and talented staff members.
- Coordinated the site work and excavation to begin construction on the Veterinary Science Training Center.
- Repainted the Auto Body instructional space.
- Added a walk-in refrigerator/freezer in Culinary Arts.
- Worked on renovating the Gymnasium.
- Rolled out a comprehensive 1:1 Technology Initiative.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative' Report

Leon Gaulin, Student Representative to the School Committee, read a report on School activities. He told the Committee that all fall sports have started and students are very enthused, and the National Honor Society is planning their first meeting.

Enrollment Report

Principal Browne presented the City/Town Enrollment as of August 31, 2016. The total enrollment is 1,424 students and there are 366 Freshmen (191 male and 175 female) enrolled.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Browne presented a written report with information on activities prior to school opening.

- New Teacher Orientation – Paula deDiego and Dayana Carlson
- Freshmen Orientation - Kim Curry
- Bus Drive Orientation - Tammy Crockett, Tom Porter, Lori Reppucci and Evelyn Houde
- Faculty Professional Development Day - Katy Whitaker and Pam Pothier

He outlined the programs for the Chromebook Classroom and upcoming events for September and October.

PERSONNEL

Appointments

The following appointments have been made:

- Brendan Curran HVAC/R Teacher
- Marcia Goguen Cafeteria Office Manager
- Michael Gormley Director of Facilities
- Amanda Kelly .5 Social Studies Teacher
- Samantha Marshall Biology Teacher
- Matthew Palmer Vocational Specialist
- Christine Santry Vocational Specialist
- Jacob Proctor Masonry Teacher
- Alicia Quinn Guidance Counselor
- Sara Storm Guidance Counselor
- Melissa Reyes Cafeteria Worker
- Thomas Rooney English Teacher
- Debra Bettencourt SPED Paraprofessional
- Katherine Watkevich SPED Paraprofessional
- Juan Valentin Evening Maintenance Worker
- Mary May-Lucchese Director Post Graduate & Continuing Studies
- Heather Gray Special Education Teacher

Retirements

The following have submitted their Letter of Intent to Retire:

- Roseann Bartok, SPED Inclusion Assistant - effective August 27, 2017.
- Evelyn Houde, Secretary, Accounts Payable/Receivable - effective September 2017.
- Christine Krause, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent-Director – effective December 31, 2016.
- Kathy Twichell, Speech Language Pathologist – effective December 31, 2016.

Mrs. Swenson requested that a letter be sent from the members of the School Committee thanking them for their service to Monty Tech and wishing them well in their retirement.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, said the Subcommittee met prior to tonight's School Committee meeting. The 2017 Budget update was discussed. A revised budget with some minor changes will be presented at the October School Committee meeting.

Mr. Gould asked if funds will be reallocated back into the Supply & Materials Budgets' line items. Mr. Commodore said that \$175,000 will be restored to the Supply & Materials Budgets' line items and will be voted on at the October meeting.

Policy

Mrs. Barclay said that the Subcommittee held their first meeting on August 30, 2016. The Subcommittee continued review and discussion of several policies.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve for a first reading Policy JLCD – Administering Medications to Students.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

The next meeting of the Policy Subcommittee is scheduled for September 13, 2016 and is scheduling a meeting for October 11, 2016 for a final review of the Admissions Policy.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, said there was nothing to report at this time.

Workforce

Mr. Walker, Chairperson, said that the Workforce Subcommittee intends to start negotiations with the MRTA. The MRTA wishes to open the teachers' contract for negotiations to bargain the provisions of the next contract with terms expected to be from 2017 to 2020 a term of three school years. The MRTA is choosing traditional bargaining practices.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the meeting of the Student Advisory Subcommittee with the students will be scheduled in October.

Technology (ad hoc)

Mr. Olson, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee is scheduling a meeting on September 21, 2016.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers Information or Proposals

There was no report this evening.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Reynolds said she is looking forward to the new school year. She thanked everyone who attended the reception for new employees this evening. She reminded members of the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Vet Tech building on September 16 and the Golf Tournament scheduled for September 26, 2016.

Mrs. Reynolds said that a Scholarship Fund from the School Committee was recommended by Mrs. Holbert at a recent meeting and that there was talk of having a scholarship in memory of John Scott. She suggested an ad-hoc Subcommittee be formed to work out details.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee move to establish an ad-hoc Subcommittee to work out details to establish a scholarship to be awarded to students from the School Committee and a recognition for Mr. Scott.

Seconded by Mr. Commodore.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Ms. Kathryn Schmidt, Social Studies Instructor, said that the Monty Tech staff would like to donate funds in remembrance of John Scott. They are planning a reception in memory of John at the Old Mill on Friday, September 23. School Committee members are invited to attend. All donations will be given to Tammy Crockett pending a decision on a memorial.

Adjournment

Mr. Gould moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Capone.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary