

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Regular Meeting No. 130-655 – January 4, 2017

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held its regular meeting No. 130-655 on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 7 pm at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, 1050 Westminster Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Members of the School Committee present:

Mrs. Barbara Reynolds	Lunenburg
Mr. Ross Barber	Westminster
Mr. Ronald Tourigny	Fitchburg
Mr. John P. Mollica	Princeton
Ms. Melanie Weeks	Fitchburg
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham - via Video Conference
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. Whitney Marshall	Barre
Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams	Sterling
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. James Cournoyer	Holden
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol
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
Thomas Browne	Principal
Dayana Carlson	Assistant Principal
James Hachey	Director of Vocational Programs
Victoria Zarozinski	Student Services, Special Education Director
Pamela Pothier	Director of Technology
Michael Gormley	Director of Facilities
Keyna Thomas	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. She asked for a moment of silence for Mr. John Tamulen who passed away. He had been a paraprofessional at Monty Tech since 2006. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

School Committee members greeted Mr. Simms who was participating remotely via a video conference. The Committee voted to allow this at the December 7, 2016 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 7, 2016

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 2016 as presented.

Seconded by Dr. Williams.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Commodore, Mr. Olson, Mr. Mollica and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Harrity announced that word has been received that Monty Tech was selected to receive a grant funding award from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center in the amount of \$99,697.18. The funds will be used to renovate one of the Science classrooms (\$51,000) and the balance to purchase equipment to bring two new courses to the school. Over 105 applications were submitted for this award and only 49 were funded. This was Monty Tech's second award over the past five years for a total amount awarded of \$347,971.94.

Superintendent Harrity presented a written report of her activities in December 2016.

- The next Superintendent Cohort meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2017.
- A Monty Tech faculty technology survey was sent out for feedback. Responses will be reviewed and planning will begin.
- Participated as a panelist in a national webinar “Leadership Traits of Principals Who Lead High Performing Schools” for the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- Attended the Governor's STEM Council Meeting.
- Applied for a \$25,000 Connecting Activities grant funded through the State Workforce Investment Boards. If granted, it will provide funds for connecting activities to students enrolled in STEM fields. We expect to know in February 2017 if the grant is received.
- Attended the Monty Tech Foundation meeting. The Superintendent's Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2017.
- Several meetings to discuss support for the Vet Tech project - former president of Spectrum Health Systems; Achla Madan and Ashok Hingorany, Achla Design; Allen Rabinow, Seaboard Folding Box Company; and veterinary doctors from Becker College and Tufts University.

- Visited each technical program with the Vocational Director to review Program Advisory minutes with department liaisons.
- The District has 50 articulation agreements with 22 colleges totaling 381 credits and five apprenticeship program. Presently working on reviewing and updating the current articulations that need to be renewed by the end of this school year.

Presentation of “Certificate of Academic Excellence”

Superintendent Harrity presented the MASS “Certificate of Academic Excellence” to the following:

- Ashley Ellis, Winchendon, ranks #1 in the senior class and is in Health Occupations.
- Sashealy Rivera, Fitchburg, ranks #2 in the senior class and is in Health Occupations.

Both students were present and were joined by their parents.

Out-of-State Travel for Plumbing Students

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the out-of-state trip for 38 students and 3 chaperons to the Viega Education Center in Nashua, NH on January 24, 2017. Viega is paying for the students to sit for an examination and is providing lunch.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

NEASC Decennial Report

A Summary of the NEASC Commendations/Recommendations – Fall 2016 was presented for information.

Proposal for Community Development Block Grant Funds

Superintendent Harrity explained that a grant is being requested from the City of Fitchburg to support the construction of the new Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic. The City distributes Community Development Block Grants to qualified agencies and the Monty Tech application will address two of the required goals for submission.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the submission of the Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$50,000 to the City of Fitchburg to support the construction of the new Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic.

Seconded by Mr. Commodore.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Report

Leon Gaulin, Student Representative to the School Committee, reported on school activities:

- Students rang the bell during the Christmas season to help raise money for the Salvation Army.
- ROTC students helped with the Gardner CAC Christmas Party for underprivileged children.
- The MT-LHS Holiday Concert had a good attendance.
- Winter sports teams are doing well.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Browne presented a written report with information on December 2016 events.

- Katy Whitaker worked with Ribas Associates to bring a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement to Monty Tech which allowed 17 teachers to register for the course which is required for their licensure.
- The SkillsUSA Local Competition Awards Ceremony was held on December 16, 2016 and a list of the winners was presented. All local winners will compete at District Competitions in March 2017.
- The normal DESE review of the District's Special Education Program underwent its mid-cycle review. The review was completed with no significant concerns.

The report included a list of upcoming events for January 2017.

Special Education Program Advisory Committee Meeting

Due to lack of parent/community participation, this meeting has been rescheduled to February 8, 2017.

Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the Program Advisory Committee meetings held on October 26, 2016 were presented for information. Director of Vocational Programs, James Hachey, was present and answered questions from School Committee members.

Practical Nursing Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program Advisory Committee meeting held on October 26, 2016 were presented for information.

Drafting Technology Program Name Change

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the Drafting Technology program name change from Drafting Technology to CAD Drafting & Design effective Fall 2017.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Enrollment Report

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from November 28 through December 23, 2016 and the Discipline Report for November 2016 were presented for information. Attendance percentage year-to-date is 95.2%.

PERSONNEL

Appointments

A list of the 2017 winter coaches was presented for information.

Retirement

Kenneth A Pearson, Science teacher since 2006, has submitted his intent to retire on July 11, 2017. A letter on behalf of the School Committee will be sent to Mr. Pearson to thank him for his service to Monty Tech and wish him well in his retirement.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, had no report this evening. A Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in January.

Policy

Mr. Gilbert, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on December 13, 2016 and voted to send Policy JF – Admissions Policy to the full Committee for a first reading. The policy has been reviewed and approved by the DESE.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the District Committee vote to approve the first reading of Policy JF – Admissions Policy.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

After discussion, Roll Call Vote – Airoidi, yes; Barber, no; Barclay, yes; Boone, no; Capone, no; Commodore, yes; Gilbert, yes; Gould, yes; Marshall, yes; Mollica, no; Olson, yes; Reynolds, yes; Tourigny, no; Walker, yes; Weeks, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.

Count – 11 yes, 5 no. Motion to approve for a first reading passed.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Cournoyer, Chairperson, was not present and there was no report at this time.

Workforce

Mr. Walker, Chairperson, said that the Workforce Subcommittee continues to meet with members of the MRTA and the Maintenance employees.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said there was no report at this time.

Technology (ad hoc)

Mr. Olson, Chairperson, said there was no report at this time.

Scholarship (ad hoc)

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, presented a proposed timeline and agendas for meetings of the Ad Hoc Scholarship Subcommittee. The meetings will begin on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. The Subcommittee plans to have a final review of criteria, application form(s), selection process(es) and timelines ready to send to the full School Committee for approval in February 2017.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

The November 2016 Statements, the Statement of Accounts, and the Financial Statement for the Continuing Education Program were presented for perusal.

Acceptance of Donation

Mr. Gould moved that the District Committee vote to accept the donation from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts for payment of invoices in the amount of \$60,389 for the Veterinary Science Training Program building as listed in the memo from the Business/HR Manager dated December 22, 2016.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Barber, Mr. Mollica and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Acceptance of Grant

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to accept the grant from Mass Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) in the amount of \$7,000 to upgrade the security camera system.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Surplus Equipment

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to accept the submitted list of items for sale as surplus equipment, to be sold at auction to the highest bidder.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Results of Auction

The net proceeds from the on-line sale of the surplus chief frame machine was \$8,909 and the funds will be deposited into Misc Income.

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers Information or Proposals

Paul Cormier, President of the MRTA, was present to address the School Committee. Mrs. Reynolds read the provisions for teachers to address the Committee. Mr. Cormier, introduced Keith McLinden, MRTA Vice President, and Travis Babb, MRTA member representing academic teachers. Also present was Sam Minskin, local MTA field representative.

Mr. Cormier spoke about ongoing concerns from the union leadership surrounding communication issues between an administrator and their respective group of teachers. He presented Mrs. Reynolds with a written copy of his report.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Reynolds gave kudos to Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator, for bringing the Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement offering to Monty Tech.

She attended the MT-LHS Christmas concerts. The students had a great time. She reminded members that there will be a Community Forum at Fitchburg State University on January 17, 2017. She congratulated all the Skills USA winners. She also reminded the members of the MT Drama Club Musical "Sister Act" which will be presented in February 2017.

School Committee Comments

Mr. Gould gave a "tip of the hat" to those who took care of the problem at the school today. There were no injuries. He also spoke about the work done by the School Resource Officer and requested that a letter be sent to the Fitchburg Police Chief about the officer's work at the school.

Mr. Simms thanked everyone for allowing him to be present remotely tonight. He especially thanked Keyna Thomas who set it up.

Mr. Olson thanked the JROTC students who helped with the recent Gardner Community Action Committee Christmas party for the families they serve. The students started at 8 am assembling bicycles and helped everywhere needed even taking bicycles and other gifts to the cars for families.

Mr. Commodore commented on the Cyber Security competition. The students gave a solid performance and Round 2 will take place in March 2017.

Adjournment

Mr. Gould moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Capone.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary