

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No. 130-658 – March 1, 2017

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-657 on Wednesday, March 1, 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
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston
Mr. James S. Boone	Gardner
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. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton (arrived 7:55 pm)

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. James Cournoyer	Holden
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 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
Pamela Pothier	Director of Technology
Michael Gormley	Director of Facilities
Keyna Thomas	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent-Director
Chad Snyder	AV Technician
1 st Sgt. Paul Jornet	JROTC
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.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 38N, notice of the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget was published in the Gardner News (2/20/17); the Sentinel & Enterprise, Fitchburg (2/20/17); and the Telegram & Gazette, Worcester (2/20/17). The meeting notice was emailed to city/town clerks in the District to share with city/town officials and post. This notice was also posted on the Monty Tech website.

Copies of the Monty Tech Tentative Budget 2017-2018, Public Hearing, March 1, 2017, were distributed to those present and will be sent to all the cities and towns in the District.

The following were present for the Public Hearing:

- LeRoy Clark Fitchburg Resident
- Marisa Fleming Fitchburg School Committee Member
- Mayor Mark Hawke City of Gardner
- Mayor Stephen DiNatale City of Fitchburg
- Mark Pellegrino Superintendent of Schools, Gardner
- Gary Candelet Fitchburg Resident
- Bob McDermott Fitchburg Resident

Mrs. Tammy Crockett, Business/Human Resources Manager, presented a PowerPoint explaining the budget process, the Foundation Budget, net school spending, minimum contribution and explained the calculation of a community's assessment. She presented individual information on their city or town to all the School Committee members.

In the regular School Committee meeting, a vote will be taken on the following tentative budget for fiscal year 2018 as follows:

- Budget \$26,895,680
- Less Revenues \$16,556,034
- Assessment \$10,339,646

Mayor Hawke, Mayor DiNatale, and Mr. Clark spoke regarding the budget.

School Committee members commended Mrs. Crockett for the complete and informative presentation of the Fiscal Year 2018 Tentative Budget.

Mrs. Reynolds closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Mayor Hawke spoke about a letter he wrote to Mrs. Reynolds, Chair, and all School Committee Members, dated February 9, 2017. A copy of this letter was included in the members' packets. Mrs. Reynolds said that a copy of the letter has been sent to Monty Tech's Legal Counsel, MASC, MAVVA and MARS. When information is received from these contacts, she will present the information.

Dr. Williams pointed out an error on page 3 of the Mayor's letter. There are "eighteen participating municipalities" in the District.

Mr. Gould read several sections of the District Agreement and also spoke about Monty Tech's Admissions Policy which has been approved by the State. He invited the Mayors to visit the school for lunch and a tour. He also invited them to attend Open House on March 15, 2017.

Mayor DiNatale supported Mayor Hawke's letter. It would be prudent to look at the document to see if it should be updated.

Mr. Clark presented concerns he has with the proposed budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 1, 2017

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2017 as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

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

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent's Update and Vet Tech Update

Superintendent Harrity presented a PowerPoint showing the update of the Veterinary Science Training Program as of March 1, 2017. The "Puppy Love" fund raiser made \$4,300 and to date 83 tickets have been sold for the car raffle raising \$4,150.

The flag is flying from the roof of the Vet Tech building and the students have installed 260 trusses and 11,000 sq. ft. of plywood. The cabinet making for the interior is 40% complete.

Superintendent Harrity said student accomplishments across the school are outstanding. There are 123 students out on Co-Op as of February.

Lt. Governor Polito announced the Massachusetts Life Sciences Grant of \$99,697 to Monty Tech. The grant advances Governor Baker's administration's commitment to building a highly trained workforce and funds for STEM education projects.

The Governor's Skills Equipment Grant will be received this week in the amount of \$435,856.67. It will be used to support the Machine Technology program and establish an evening program to help meet the needs of manufacturing.

Superintendent Harrity spoke about the warm reception accorded to Mr. Gardner, the motivational speaker, by the students. She said Monty Tech's drop-out rate is 0.2% - three students have dropped out and the 2016 graduation rate was 95.6%. She encouraged School Committee members to attend the spaghetti supper and Open House on March 15, 2017.

Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip for JROTC Students

Mr. Gould moved that the District Committee vote to approve the overnight out-of-state trip for six JROTC students and two chaperones to Baltimore's Inner Harbor to compete in the Air Force Association's National CyberPatriot Competition Finals from April 2 to April 6, 2017 with all expenses to be paid by Marine Corps JROTC. Seconded by Mr. Walker. Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Report

Leon Gaulin, Student Representative to the School Committee, read his report on School activities during February.

- The Drama Club presentation of "Sister Act" was well received.
- The Math Competition took place.
- District SkillsUSA competition will take place in late March.
- The Open House with a spaghetti supper will take place on March 15, 2017.
- Leon will be competing at the CyberPatriot Competition in April and will not be present at the School Committee meeting.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Browne presented a written report with information on February 2017 events.

- 312 Program Advisors attended the annual spring meeting. There were eight new members in attendance.
- February 14 was Puppy Love Day – a fund raising effort for the Vet Tech Program.
- An email blast was sent out to Monty Tech alumni, community partners and supporters seeking online donations for the project.
- There were three performances of *Sister Act* – the annual musical.
- Christopher Gardner, entrepreneur, author, motivational speaker and philanthropist spoke to the students. The film, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, which was based on his book of memoirs, was shown to the students before Mr. Gardner's visit.

The report included upcoming events for March 2017.

Enrollment Report

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report as of February 17, 2017, and the Discipline Report for January 2017 were presented for information. Attendance percentage for January 2017 was 95.3%.

Enrollment Quota for Class of 2021

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee vote to approve setting the enrollment quota for the Class of 2021 at 370 students and to authorize the Dean of Admissions to accept up to 375 students after June 1, 2017.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Tourigny abstained from voting.

PERSONNEL

The following appointments have been made:

- Spring Coaches - a listing from David Reid, Athletic Director, dated February 22, 2017 was presented for information.
- Nicole Goguen - Special Education Paraprofessional starting 2/27/17.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore moved that the District Committee vote to approve the final Fiscal Year 2017 Budget as follows:

Budget	\$26,374,468
Less Revenues	<u>16,253,538</u>
Assessment	\$10,120,930

Seconded by Mr. Simms.

Roll Call Vote: Airoldi, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Boone, yes; Commodore, yes; Gilbert, yes; Gould, yes; Holbert, yes; Marshall, yes; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; Weeks, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.

Count – 19 yes. The final Fiscal Year 2017 Budget was approved.

Mr. Commodore moved that the District Committee vote to approve the tentative Fiscal Year 2018 Budget as follows:

Budget	\$26,895,680
Less Revenues	<u>16,556,034</u>
Assessment	\$10,339,646

Seconded by Mr. Simms.

Roll Call Vote: Airoldi, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Boone, yes; Commodore, yes; Gilbert, yes; Gould, yes; Holbert, yes; Marshall, yes; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; Weeks, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.

Count – 19 yes. The tentative Fiscal Year 2018 Budget was approved.

Policy

Mr. Gilbert, Chairperson, had to postpone the Policy Subcommittee scheduled meeting and there is no report at this time.

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 has met several times with the MRTA representatives and with the representatives of the Custodial Staff.

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, said that the Scholarship Subcommittee met prior to tonight's Committee meeting. The Subcommittee decided to present a scholarship in memory of John Scott for the year 2017. The Guidance Department will take care of the selection process. For the year 2018, the Subcommittee will prepare a scholarship from the School Committee.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

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

Bid Award

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the award of three year contracts to J P McCarthy of Brookfield, First Student of Fitchburg, E.H. Merrifield of Athol, Dee Bus Company, of Shirley, and AA Transportation at a total cost of \$5,693,400. Funds are to come from Account #1554 – Pupil Transportation.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Acceptance of Donations

1) MIT

Mr. Walker moved that the District Committee vote to accept the donation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the amount of \$10,000 for the Student Space Experiment Program as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

2) 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 \$10,868.28 as listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of February 17, 2017 for the Veterinary Science Training Program.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers Information or Proposals

There were no teachers present this evening.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Reynolds attended the Advisory Dinner and also attended Motivational Day.

School Committee Information or Proposals

Mr. Simms moved that the District Committee vote to approve up to \$1,500 for Eric Commodore to attend the National Cyberpatriot Competition in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Maryland from April 2-6, 2017.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Commodore and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

School Committee Comments

Mr. Gould spoke about Mayor Hawke's comments on the District Agreement. He also listed the many projects the students have done for the cities of Fitchburg and Gardner.

Mr. Boone spoke about inaccuracies in the District Agreement.

Mrs. Barclay plans to attend the CyberPatriot Competition in Maryland.

Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Holbert had been asked about the Monty Tech band program with Leominster High School by Mayor DiNatale.

Mr. Olson congratulated the Budget Subcommittee for their work on the budget preparation. He asked all members to pay attention to how instructional costs are increasing. In the future, assessments will have to increase if the school is to keep the same level of education for the students.

Mr. Commodore thanked the members for approving his travel to the CyberPatriot Finals.

Adjournment

Mr. Gould moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary