

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No. 130-659 – April 5, 2017

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-659 on Wednesday, April 5, 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. James Cournoyer	Holden (arrived 7:15 pm)
Ms. Melanie Weeks	Fitchburg
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
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 Olson	Phillipston
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol
Mr. James Gilbert	Templeton

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. John P. Mollica	Princeton
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner
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:

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
Dayana Carlson	Assistant Principal
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. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 1, 2017

Mr. Boone moved that the District Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 1, 2017 with the following corrections:

- Page 2 – Mr. Gary Candelet Fitchburg Resident
- Page 5 – 6.a) 1. -2017 Budget Assessment \$10,120,930

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Capone, Mr. Gilbert and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Mr. Gould moved to suspend the rules to take the following items out of order:

- 7. Financial g) - Audit Report
- 10. Legal Matters – Executive Session

Seconded by Mr. Capone.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

FINANCIAL

Audit

Ms. Patrice Squillante, Melanson Heath & Co., presented the following financial reports and provided information on the prepared statements:

- Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2016
- Independent Auditors' Reports Pursuant to Governmental Auditing Standards and Uniform Guidance for the Year Ended June 30, 2016
- Management Letter for the Year Ended June 30, 2016

LEGAL MATTERS – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Montachusett Regional Teachers Association (MRTA) pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Section 21(a)(3) and to reconvene in open session to continue the agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Roll Call Vote - Airoidi, yes; Barber, yes; Boone, yes; Capone, yes; Cournoyer, yes; Gilbert, yes; Gould, yes; Marshall, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; Weeks, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.

Count 17 yes.

The Committee went into executive session at 7:45 pm.

The Committee reconvened in open session at 8:25 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Harrity presented information on March activities:

- Continued to meet with Induction Program Coach, Joan Connolly.
- Met with the following to discuss partnership and/or donations for the Vet Tech Program – the owner of Wachusett Brewery, VCA Animal Hospital, and the President of National Grid.
- Met with Dr. James VanderHooven, President MWCC, and his administrative team to discuss partnership opportunities. To date, 30 MT students have earned 206 credits at MWCC and saved \$41,000. IT Instructors, Richard Duncan and Roger Bellerose met with Professor Dan Donovan, MWCC's Computer Information Systems Department Chair, to discuss course sequencing and alignment between MT and MWCC.
- A new articulation agreement between MWCC and MT's Business Technology Program totaling 9 to 12 credits toward the Administrative Assistant Certificate has been created.
- Attended the Governor's Executive STEM Committee Meeting, MAVA Board of Directors' meeting, the Central Mass. Manufacturing Roundtable at Primetal Technologies, Monty Tech Foundation meeting, the Skills Capital Grant event at Gr. Lowell Technical High School, and United Way Board of Directors' meeting.

Vet Tech Update

Superintendent Harrity presented a PowerPoint showing the update of the Veterinary Science Training Program as of April 5, 2017. She showed the latest figures on fundraising. To date, the project is short \$238,888 and fundraising continues. Rollstone Bank and Colonial Chevrolet are partnering with MT to raffle a choice of one of three cars as a fundraiser.

She presented information and photos on the progress of the Vet Tech building. The walls have been framed and installed. An average of six or seven instructors and 45 students are working on the project every day.

Superintendent Harrity said student accomplishments across the school continue to be outstanding. There are 151 students out on Co-Op earning between \$11 and \$25 per hour. For the third year in a row, students won the first place trophy at the World of Wheels Pedal Cars Competition in Boston.

Matt McGee, HVAC Instructor, nominated Alex Rivera, a student in HVAC, for the A+ Student Award given by TV Channel 5, Boston. Alex will be featured on their newscast on April 11, 2017 at 5 pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Report

Leon Gaulin was not present this evening. He was competing at the National Cyberpatriot Competition in Maryland. Leon received the All American Award for Outstanding Achievement in the National Youth Cyberpatriot Competition.

Principal's Monthly Report

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

- The Annual Open House was held on March 15, 2017. Approximately 260 guests enjoyed the annual spaghetti supper. Hundreds of community members toured the hallways to get a sense of academics offered and toured the vocational shop areas.
- The Spring VIP Session began on March 16, 2017. Participating communities are Ashby, Athol, Fitchburg, Petersham and Royalston with 208 students participating.
- A MEFA College Admissions Seminar was held on March 21, 2017.
- SkillsUSA District Competitions were held on March 24, 2017 at Bay Path RVTS. A list of the medaled students was provided.

The report included upcoming events for April 2017.

Enrollment Report

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from February 17, 2017 through March 24, 2017 and the Discipline Report for February 2017 were presented for information. Attendance percentage for February 2017 was 95.2%.

Ninth Grade Placement

Mrs. Victoria Zarozinski, Student Support Director, gave a presentation on the Ninth Grade Placement. Students were notified of their vocational placement on January 26, 2017. For the 2016-2017 vocational placements, 93% of the students placed in their 1st or 2nd choice.

High School Graduation and Dropout Report

Principal Browne presented information on the Graduation and Dropout reports. Monty Tech's graduation rate for 2016 was 98.6% and the dropout rate was 0.2%. He also presented a table of graduation rates and dropout rates for the previous ten years and comparisons with selected regional vocational schools and sending schools.

Vote to Approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar

Mrs. Swenson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented with the first day for students August 30, 2017.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Copies of the Vocational Program Advisory Committee minutes of the meetings held on February 8, 2017 were presented for information.

Special Education PAC Meeting

Copies of the minutes of the Special Education PAC meeting held on February 8, 2017 were presented for information.

Practical Nursing Program Advisory Committee

Copies of the minutes of the Practical Nursing Program Advisory Committee meeting held on February 8, 2017 were presented for information.

Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee

Copies of the minutes of the Animal Science/Veterinary Science Program Advisory Committee meeting held on March 7, 2017 were presented for information.

PERSONNEL

Appointment

Dr. Christine Schlupf has been appointed Veterinary Science Instructor and began work on April 4, 2017.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, was not present this evening and there was no report.

Policy

Mr. Gilbert, Chairperson, said that the three policies that were going to be presented for a first reading have been withdrawn for further review by the Policy Subcommittee. They will be presented at a future meeting.

Capital Improvements

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

Workforce

Mr. Walker, Chairperson, presented a timeline for the Superintendent-Director's evaluation for 2016-2017 and for goal setting for 2017-2018. The Subcommittee plans to meet on April 10, 2017.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, was not present and 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, was not present and there was no report at this time.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

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

Acceptance of Donations

1) - Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

Mr. Gould moved that the District Committee vote to accept the donation from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts in the amount of \$34,759.24 as listed in the Business/HR Manager's memo of March 28, 2017 for the Veterinary Science Training Program Building.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

2) – BNY Mellon

Mr. Gould moved that the District Committee vote to accept the donation from BNY Mellon in the amount of \$1,500 for the Veterinary Science Training Program Building.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

This donation from BNY Mellon was made on behalf of Eric Commodore's service time on the School Committee. Mr. Commodore asked that the donation be applied to the Vet Tech Program.

3) – Skills Capital Grant

Mr. Gould moved that the District Committee vote to accept the Mass Skills Capital Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education in the amount of \$435,855.67 to be used to enhance the Machine Technology Program.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Auction Results

Mr. Gould moved to accept the Business/HR Manager's report of sale of surplus equipment for a total net proceeds of \$22,114.14 to be deposited into Misc Income.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Walker moved that the District Committee vote to accept the list of surplus equipment submitted as of March 28, 2017 to be sold at auction to the highest bidder.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

HVAC Bid Award

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to approve the award of the Veterinary Science Building HVAC bid to Trane U.S., Inc. of Springfield, MA for a total price of \$94,995.00, as recommended.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – voted.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers' Information or Proposals

Mr. Paul Cormier was present this evening but had no comments.

Reorganization of School Committee

Mrs. Swenson moved that Mr. Brian Walker be appointed to be Chairperson of the School Committee and Mr. Eric Commodore be appointed Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year.

There were no other nominations.

Mr. Boone moved that District Committee vote to appoint the following slate of officers for the School Committee for the ensuing year effective June 30, 2016:

- Chairperson Brian Walker
- Vice Chairperson Eric Commodore
- Secretary Sheila M. Harrity
- Recording Secretary Theresa Hillman
- Treasurer Norman J. LeBlanc
- Assistant Treasurer Barbara Reynolds

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

1. - School Committee Public Records Requests

a. Fitchburg Citizen Requests

Mrs. Reynolds read a list of public records requests from a Fitchburg citizen requesting information which included a request for the audio recorded version of meetings. Mrs. Reynolds explained that the law does not require an audio recording of committee meetings. The audio recordings were originally started to assist the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary does not need or use the audio recording and it will no longer be made.

Mrs. Reynolds read the Open Meeting Law regulation regarding recording of an open session of a public meeting.

b. MRTA Request

Mrs. Reynolds read a request from the MRTA for public records.

2. - District Agreement

Mrs. Reynolds updated the Committee regarding communications received regarding the District Agreement.

Mr. Olson moved that the District Committee vote to create a District Agreement Ad Hoc Subcommittee to make recommendations for the next steps to the full Committee by June, 2017.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Roll Call Vote - Airoidi, abstain; Barber, yes; Boone, yes; Capone, no; Cournoyer, no; Gilbert, no; Gould, no; Marshall, yes; Olson, no; Phillips, no; Reynolds, no; Simms, no; Swenson, no Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; Weeks, no; and Dr. Williams, yes.

Count 6 yes, 10 no, and 1 abstention.

Motion did not pass.

School Committee Comments

Dr. Williams spoke about Superintendent Harrity's recent interview for position at Quinsigamond.

Superintendent Harrity thanked School Committee members for their support and encouragement during that process.

Mr. Gilbert attended the Rachel's Challenge presentation and said it was very emotional. He also suggested that students who plan on entering the military be recognized at graduation.

Mr. Tourigny, Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Swenson agreed with Mr. Gilbert regarding recognition for graduating students who have chosen to enter the military.

Mr. Commodore thanked members for their cards and fruit basket while he was recovering from his operation.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone voting for him to be Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. Olson thanked the District Business Manager for her letter of March 28, 2017 regarding comments made at the School Committee meeting of March 1, 2017 and correspondence sent to school committee members individually after the meeting. He thanked her for bringing this matter to the attention of the Committee. The letter addressed inaccuracies of these statements and presented information on the fiscal procedures within the Business Office.

Adjournment

Mr. Gould moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary