

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Regular Meeting – August 5, 2015

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No.130-638 on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 7 pm at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, Monty Tech Drive (off 1050 Westminster Street) Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

The following members were present:

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|----------------------------|-------------|
| Mr. Eric Olson | Phillipston |
| Mr. Ross Barber | Westminster |
| Mr. Ronald Tourigny | Fitchburg |
| Mr. John P. Mollica | Princeton |
| Mrs. Diane B. Swenson | Ashburnham |
| Mr. Brian Walker | Fitchburg |
| Mr. Edward Simms | Petersham |
| Mr. Peter B. Capone | Ashby |
| Mrs. Barbara Reynolds | Lunenburg |
| Ms. Claudia Holbert | Fitchburg |
| Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams | Sterling |
| Mr. Eric Commodore | Gardner |
| Mr. LeRoy Clark | Fitchburg |
| Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi | Hubbardston |
| Mrs. Toni Phillips | Athol |
| Mr. James M. Gilbert | Templeton |
| Mrs. Mary C. Barclay | Royalston |

Members of the School Committee absent:

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|-----------------------------|------------|
| Mrs. Helen Lepkowski | Gardner |
| Mr. James Cournoyer | Holden |
| Mr. Edward Sims | Petersham |
| Mr Burton Gould | Winchendon |
| No appointed representative | Barre |
| No appointed representative | Harvard |

Officers of the School Committee present:

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| Dr. Sheila Harrity | Superintendent-Director |
| Norman LeBlanc | Treasurer |

School District Personnel present:

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| Tammy Crockett | Business Manager |
| Thomas Browne | Principal |
| Katy Whitaker | Development Coordinator |
| Francine Duncan | Director of Technology |
| Richard Ikonen | Director of Facilities |
| Jonathan Hurd | AV Technician |
| Marty Shewan | Substitute Recording Secretary |

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Barbara Reynolds, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Mrs. Barclay moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 29, 2015 as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Olson

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Walker abstained from voting.

****Executive Session – The minutes of the executive session of June 24, 2015 were circulated at the table and there were 14 yes, 0 no and 2 abstained.**

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Update on Summer Projects

Mr. Ikonen reported items that were on the agenda included the renovation of Room 106, parking lot, windows, cafeteria ceiling and the locker room floor.

- The cafeteria ceiling proved to be cost prohibitive and could not be done
- The half-ambulance in Room 106 was removed, the room has been rewired for sound, data and phones. Items left are to connect the plumbing, finish the counters, and wash and wax the floors.
- The locker room was completed today.
- Engineering Technology is having Armstrong tile flooring installed which will be completed in two weeks.
- They will start painting the lines and numbering the parking lot on August 7, 2015.
- The windows will be resealed or caulked as soon as possible.
- We have 50 analog cameras that are out of date and failing. We installed 20 new last year, ran all new data cables and have room for 19 more new cameras. We can have 91 total including the blockhouse and football field.
- Data cable was run for wireless routers.
- The Press Box was rewired and has a new heater.
- The bulletin board in the main lobby was relocated and the wall fixed in preparation for the bank that will be coming.
- The Marketing office has been moved to the former Business Tech copy room.
- SRO has a new office in the Dean's area.
- The Cafeteria has a new oven being installed.
- Tree and bush trimming at the meter on Roper Road was completed. This serves the sprinkler system and Quonset Hut.
- All but 25 of the lockers that were taken out of the Girls' Locker Room were refurbished and put into the team rooms.

There was discussion on the potholes that Unitil had left and other areas of the parking lot that need attention. He was in touch with Unitil to discuss fixing of the holes. He added it would be a multi-year project to fix all the potholes in the parking lot.

Review of Summer Camps

Mr. Browne reported there were 92 middle school students attending Summer Camps over a 2-week period. The Monty Tech Foundation gave \$5,769 in scholarships and \$12,000 in tuition. The students ended each week with a trip to Canobie Lake. For high school students, summer school had 68 students attend and they took 18 courses. It started July 7 and has one more week to run. Most of the students were Freshmen with a few Seniors. He said Mr. Scott Zibel did a fantastic job with the program.

There was also a Cyber Security STEM Camp working with the Air Force Association. There were 48 Fitchburg middle school students who attended for 5 days and made visits to Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College. Monty Tech Staff and Fitchburg Middle School Staff donated their time.

Superintendent Update

Dr. Harrity reported she had been invited to the White House to attend a celebration of Career and Technical Education and it was an incredible time. The First Lady made a presentation.

She also attended the National Superintendent's Conference in Boston last week. In addition, she attended the New Superintendent's Induction. She has a 4-hour meeting on August 6 and another full day next week with her mentor.

Dr. Harrity has been speaking with Mr. Peterson from Worker's Credit Union and we are now waiting for the Mass Division of Banks to approve the contract. Construction will start once that has come through.

She also stated she has been in touch with Pepsi from Holden and Tufts regarding the Vet Tech Program. Mr. Clark indicated he did not think we were still pursuing that program since the grant had been pulled. Discussion ensued as to whether we should move forward in pursuing possible funding

Mrs. Barclay moved to approve the Superintendent-Director to continue her pro-active approach for funding.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson

So Voted.

Mr. Clark Voted No.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Browne indicated the first full day of school will be August 27, 2015.

Mrs. Airoidi said there is a typo on Page 1, Item 2 - of the 2015-2016 Faculty Guide. It should be "his/her secretary". Mr. Tourigny indicated he would like to see the entire guide gender neutral.

Mr. Olson moved to recommend the guide be gender neutral.

Mr. Walker Seconded.

So Voted.

Mr. Browne stated we are in the process of making and updating an Emergency Flip Chart.

There was a discussion regarding the wait list and the impact of a potential new charter school in the region.

PERSONNEL

There are three (3) resignations:

John Potter, Math Teacher since 2008, effective June 25 2015.

Malcolm Paradise, Engineering Technology Teacher since 2014, effective June 19, 2015.

Robert Simon, Marine Corps JROTC Instructor since 2006, effective October 23 2015.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

There will be a meeting August 10, 2015

Policy

Mary Barclay moved to approve Second Reading of BCB School Committee Member Conflict of Interest.

Mr. Clark Seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Capone, yes; Clark, no; Commodore, no; Gilbert, yes; Holbert, yes; Mollica, no; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, abstain; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, abstain; Walker, yes; Dr. Williams, abstain.

Count - 11 Yes; 3 no, 3 abstain

Motion Passed

Dr. Williams indicated he was confused by BCB. Discussion was held about our school committee members not becoming members of our staff.

Mary Barclay indicated the motion had been made to approve both BCB and JLCB. A poll of the members showed the majority were voting only on BCB.

JLCB was held for further investigation.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Swenson said the committee voted to move forward with the bank in the school. The bank will pay for all construction, permits, security cameras, etc.

She would like to schedule the next meeting for August 20, 2015.

Workforce

They would like to have back to back meetings with the Capital Improvements on August 20, 2015.

Strategy

The Chairperson is John Mollica and they plan on nominating Eric Olson.

Student Advisory

No Report

Legal Services (Ad Hoc)

Mr. Clark said they have gone through the RFP process with Tammy Crockett. There were 7 responses which were narrowed to 3 firms. Dr. Harrity said the district is in long-term litigation at this time and is using the firm Stoneman, Chandler, Miller. Mr. Clark indicated that firm will bill no travel time, \$30,000 retainer with a buy-down, representation at the school committee meetings, hourly charge is \$220/hour and it would be a 3 year contract.

Several members requested to see synopsis of what each firm has offered and key points on one page for review before the next school committee meeting and they will vote then.

FINANCIAL

Results of Auction

Mrs. Crockett presented the results showing the proceeds of the auction to be \$7,288.79.

Financial Statements

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers Information or Proposals

No Report at this time.

School Committee Chairman Report

Mr. Olson nominated Mr. Cournoyer as the voting delegate and Ms. Barclay as the alternate for the upcoming MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

Mrs. Swenson Seconded.

So Voted

School Committee Comments

Mrs. Barclay indicated the November meeting was moved to November 3rd; however, that is Election Day and not a good day. An alternate date will be discussed at the September meeting.

Mr. Olson made a motion to have the "End of Summer School Committee Gathering" before the September meeting and invite the new staff as was done last year. All were in favor.

It was reported Terri Hillman is recovering well and hopes to be back in September.

John Scott is currently in Quabog Rehabilitation and is doing a little better. He has resigned his seat on the committee and it is up to the Town of Barre to replace him.

School Committee Information or Proposals

New Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Barber motioned that an ad hoc committee be formed to evaluate current status and provide recommendations to the full committee with respect to responsibilities, compliance and intent of Program and General Advisory Committees as regulated by Massachusetts Education Laws and Regulations.

Mary Barclay seconded.

Motion was made to table this motion.

Roll Call Vote - Barber, no; Barclay, yes; Capone, abstain; Clark, no; Commodore, yes; Gilbert, no; Holbert, no; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; Williams, yes.

Vote - 10 yes, 5 no, 1 abstain

Motion Passed

There was much discussion about this going to Policy Subcommittee or if we should start a new advisory committee. A new motion was made to amend the earlier motion.

Mr. Olson motioned that the Policy Subcommittee evaluate current status and provide recommendations to the full committee with respect to responsibilities, compliance and intent of Program and General Advisory Committees as regulated by Massachusetts Education Laws and Regulations.

Mary Barclay seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Capone, yes, Clark, no; Commodore, yes; Gilbert, yes; Holbert, no; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips yes; Reynolds, yes; Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes, Walker, yes; Williams, yes.

Vote - 14 yes, 2 no

Motion Passed

Other

Mr. Capone reported the JROTC trip this summer was very hot; however, the 56 kids were great and they received many positive comments from strangers.

Mrs. Barclay suggested the Policy Committee pick from the dates of August 24, 25 or 26 at 6:30pm and let her know as soon as possible.

Mr. Commodore reported the Robotics Cyber Camp 7/5-7/14 had 193 JROTC Students from 50 schools, 15 states and we had 5 students there. There were 45 females. CyberStem is this week.

Mrs. Holbert reported the rocket that exploded had our project on it.

Adjournment

Mr. Olson moved to adjourn.

So Voted

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

**Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director**

M. Shewan, Substitute Recording Secretary