

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Regular Meeting – October 7, 2015

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-640 on Wednesday, October 7, 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:

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

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. Burton E. Gould, Jr.	Winchendon
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston
No appointed representative	Barre
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:

Emily Repaal

School District Personnel present:

Andrea Bell, Esq.	Legal Counsel
Tammy Crockett	Business Manager
Thomas Browne	Principal
James Hachey	Director of Vocational Programs
Christina Favreau	Director of Academic Programs
Victoria Zarozinski	Student Support Services, Special Education Director
Francine Duncan	Director of Technology
Dayana Carlson	Assistant Principal
Christine Krause	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent-Director
Jonathan Hurd	AV Technician
Terri Hillman	Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Reynolds, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & VISITORS**

Attorney Kay Hodge, Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, introduced Attorney Andrea Bell, Stoneman, Chandler & Miller. Andrea will be attending all future School Committee meetings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mrs. Barclay moved to take Item 10 – Legal Matters – Executive Session – out of order.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

**Mrs. Swenson moved to go into executive session to discuss strategy pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A, Section 21(a)(3) and to return to open session to complete the agenda.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Lepkoswki.**

**Roll Call Vote: Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Capone, yes; Clark, yes;**

**Commodore, yes, Cournoyer, yes; Gilbert, yes; Holbert, yes; Lepkowski, yes;**

**Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds yes;**

**Simms, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.**

**Count - 18 yes.**

The Committee went into executive session at 7:05 pm.

The Committee reconvened in open session at 7:15 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – September 2, 2015**

**Mrs. Barclay moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 2, 2015 with the following corrections: Page 4, remove word “Regular” (4<sup>th</sup> line from the bottom); Page 8 should be “Mr. Olson moved to dissolve the Legal Services Subcommittee.”**

**Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

Mr. Barber spoke about the wording of his motion on page 2 regarding SkillsUSA. His intent was to recognize everyone instrumental in contributing to the success of the SkillsUSA competitions. The motion just mentioned teachers.

## **SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Introduction of Superintendent's Mentor**

Superintendent Harrity introduced her mentor, Dr. Thomas Kingston. Dr. Kingston spoke about the monthly meetings with Dr. Harrity. He has a working relationship with the MASC and works with other first year superintendents. He thanked the School Committee for inviting him to attend tonight's meeting.

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Harrity presented her Superintendent's Update.

- Attended New Superintendent Induction Program
- Worked on three year Technology Plan
- Has been asked to be the keynote speaker at the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Conference in November
- Attended the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee Meeting
- Development of DRAFT 3-year District Improvement Plan
- Attended MARS End-of-Year Report Training with Ms. Crockett, Business Manager
- Attended a community luncheon to welcome the new President of Fitchburg State University and the new Headmaster of Applewild School
- Received a \$25,000.00 donation to the Monty Tech Foundation by the Hermann Foundation for Motivational Day
- Met with representatives of several businesses to discuss school business partnerships and opportunities for students
- Met with MWCC personnel regarding EMT course starting in February with approximately 20 seniors participating
- Met with Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs from Westminster and Fitchburg to discuss safety plan development also conducted security assessment with them
- Met with Dr. Johnson, President of Becker College, and received a commitment for a Veterinarian (salary approximately \$100,000.00 annually) for a potential program
- Met with President Asquino, MWCC, and James Samels, UMass Stockbridge, to discuss potential partnership for a Vet Tech Project

Superintendent Harrity presented MCAS Data:

- ELA – 96% of Monty Tech students are Proficient or Advanced in ELA There was a 16% improvement of students scoring Advanced from 2014.
- Math - 87% of Monty Tech students are Proficient or Advanced in Math. There was a 10% improvement of students scoring Advanced from 2014.
- Biology - 75% of Monty Tech students are Proficient or Advanced.

Ms. Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs, presented a PowerPoint of the MCAS results.

**District Attorney Joseph Early's Community Screening - "The Hungry Heart"**

In an effort to raise awareness about opioid addiction and its consequences, District Attorney Joseph Early's office is sponsoring a community screening of the movie "The Hungry Heart". It is scheduled to be shown at Monty Tech on October 28, 2015.

**Monty Tech's MCJROTC Battalion Designated as Honor School**

First Sgt. Paul Jornet and the cadets of Monty Tech's Marine Corps JROTC program were informed by the Commanding General, Training and Education Command, of the United States Marine Corps, that they have been designated as a MCJROTC Honor School. This award is in recognition of exemplary performance by the unit during the previous 12 months.

**Approval of Overnight Event for JROTC**

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee approve the overnight camp-out at Monty Tech on October 9-10, 2015 requested by MCJROTC.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

**Student Representative's Monthly Report**

Emily Repaal, Student Representative, reported on the many student activities including – Spirit Week, raising funds for NEADS, and sports events.

**Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report and Discipline/Attendance Report**

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from 9/28/15 – 10/2/15 was presented for information.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment**

The City-Town Enrollment by Grade/Gender as of 10/2/15 was presented. The report shows a grand total of 1436 students enrolled. The Freshman class is evenly divided between male and female – 179 students each.

**Principal's Monthly Report**

Principal Thomas Browne presented a written report on September events.

- All Staff did an online PowerPoint Mandated Training created by Ms. Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services, Mr. Bozicas, EP Term Leader, and Mr. Browne.
- A Nurses' Emergency Procedures presentation to faculty was presented by Lori Reppucci, Lead Nurse, Rene Paine, School Nurse and Jean Liddy, School Nurse.
- At the ½ Professional Development Day
  - Freshmen & New Student ALICE Training was presented by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Paul Jornet and Officer Dean Romano, SRO
  - Legal Insight – Teachers Responsibilities and How to Avoid Potential Pitfalls presented by Colby Brunt, Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP

- Faculty & Staff ALICE Training presented by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Paul Jornet and Dean Tom Porter

Other events were: Back to School Night, “Go Higher” Assembly, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual College and Career Fair, Fall Vocational Advisory Dinner, and Principals and Counselors Day. Upcoming events for October were listed in the report.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Appointments**

- Allison Durling EEC Certified Lead Teacher for Childcare Center
- Gregory Bergeron Director of Postgraduate & Continuing Studies

### **Retirements**

- Walter Handy Maintenance – effective August 8, 2015
- Noella Laitinen Cafeteria Worker – effective the end of this school year

**Mrs. Swenson moved that letters be sent to Mr. Handy and Ms. Laitinen thanking them for their years of service to Monty Tech and wishing them well in their retirement.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

## **REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **Financial Planning**

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, said that the Financial Planning Subcommittee did not have a quorum for their meeting. It is being rescheduled.

### **Policy**

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that a Policy Subcommittee is scheduled for October 14, 2015.

### **Capital Improvements**

Mrs. Swenson, Chairperson, said that the Capital Improvements Subcommittee met on September 17. They received a report on needed repairs to the old gym. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2015.

### **Workforce**

Mr. Walker, Chairperson, said that the Workforce Subcommittee met tonight prior to the full School Committee meeting. They reviewed the Superintendent's evaluation tool. A vote was taken on a new evaluation tool and it will be finalized at the next Subcommittee meeting. It will be presented to the full Committee at the next meeting.

**Strategy**

**Mrs. Barclay moved for discussion that the District Committee vote to support the recommendation of the Strategy Subcommittee to dissolve the Strategy Subcommittee.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Lepkowski.**

Mr. Clark suggested that the School Committee entertain a replacement subcommittee to the Strategy Subcommittee.

Mr. Cournoyer suggested that strategy would be better in the hands of the Superintendent and Administration.

**Vote on motion – so voted.**

**Mr. Mollica voted no, and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

**Student Advisory**

Mrs. Lepkowski, Chairperson, said that the Student Advisory Subcommittee will meet with the students on October 29, 2015 at 11 am. There will be a wonderful group of students to work with this year.

**Legal Services (Ad Hoc)**

Ms. Crockett, Business Manager, said that the Subcommittee approved the contract at their last meeting. The contract will be included in the packet for the October 28<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting for a vote.

**Technology (Ad Hoc)**

Mr. Olson, Chairperson, said the Technology Subcommittee has not met. A charter is needed for the Technology Subcommittee.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Acceptance of Grants (2)**

**Dr. Williams moved that the District Committee accept a grant (IDEA/Federal Special Ed Grant) in the amount of \$336,830 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the 2015-2016 school year,**

**AND**

**that the District Committee accept a grant (Perkins-Secondary Allocation) in the amount of \$225,531.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the 2015-2016 school year.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mr. Clark voted no and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

**Acceptance of Donations**

**Mr. Walker moved that the District Committee vote to accept the following donations:**

- **DRS Power Tech      \$500.00 for Student Space Experiment Program**
- **Ramsey Rehab        \$100.00 for Student Space Experiment Program**

- **Fitchburg Youth Wrestling Team \$11,500.00 for a wrestling mat for the Monty Tech Wrestling Team.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

### **Financial Statements**

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Teachers Information or Proposals**

No report this evening.

#### **School Committee Chairperson's Report**

Mrs. Reynolds asked members to submit ideas for a possible Holiday Party. Suggestions will be welcome for consideration at the November meeting. Several members have spoken to Mrs. Reynolds about having a workshop for School Committee members perhaps having someone from MASC as facilitator. She will have this item on the next agenda.

Mr. Mollica requested data from the past ten years regarding the number of applications.

Mr. Clark expressed concerns regarding the cost of recruiting and marketing for students. Presently the school has not been able to fill quotas for some of the cities and towns.

Mrs. Swenson said that SkillsUSA has approved a new competition at the National level - Community Action Project.

Mrs. Lepkowski suggested a plaque be placed in the Tea Room in honor of Bob Saccone.

### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Walker moved to adjourn.**

**Seconded by Dr. Williams.**

**Vote – so voted.**

**Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity  
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary