

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting – December 2, 2015

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-642 on Wednesday, December 2, 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. John P. Mollica	Princeton	(arrived at 9:10 pm)
Mr. LeRoy Clark	Fitchburg	
Mrs. Diane B. Swenson	Ashburnham	
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston	
Mrs. Helen A. Lepkowski	Gardner	
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby	(arrived at 7:28 pm)
Mr. Burton E. Gould, Jr.	Winchendon	
Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams	Sterling	
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner	
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston	
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston	
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol	
Mr. James M. Gilbert	Templeton	

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. James Cournoyer	Holden
Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg
Mr. Brian Walker	Fitchburg
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 (left at 9:45 pm)
Tammy Crockett	Business/Human Resources Manager
Thomas Browne	Principal
James Hachey	Director of Vocational Programs
Christina Favreau	Director of Academic Programs
Victoria Zarozinski	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 AND VISITORS

Gary M. Porter, Jr., was introduced. Gary has been appointed Marine JROTC Instructor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 28, 2015

Mrs. Lepkowski moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 28, 2015 as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Mr. Olson moved to suspend the rules to take up Item 10 – Legal Matters – Executive Session.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

LEGAL MATTERS – EXECUTIVE SESSION'

Mr. Olson moved to go into executive session to

- a. Pursuant to M.G.L. c 30A, S21(a)(2), to discuss strategy/conduct collective bargaining with the teachers' union (hear and consider grievance)
- b. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, S21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation by a teacher before DLR, MCAD and in arbitration on dismissal

and to reconvene in open session to complete the agenda.

Seconded by Mr. Commodore.

Roll Call Vote: Airoldi, yes; Barber, yes; Barclay, yes; Clark, yes; Commodore, yes; Gilbert, yes; Gould, yes; Lepkowski, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.

Count – 14 yes.

Note – Mr. Capone was not present when the roll call was taken. He entered executive session at 7:28 pm.

The Committee went into executive session at 7:13 pm.

The Committee reconvened in open session at 9:05 pm.

Note – Mr. Mollica arrived at 9:10 pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Monthly Report

Emily Repaal, Student Representative, reported on the many student activities at the school:

- National Honor Society – having a food drive for a family in need.
- NEADS graduation was held.
- A Christmas Party for underprivileged children is being planned.
- A Veterans' Day ceremony was held.
- All fall sports are coming to a close. The football team has been very successful.
- The Drama Club has started rehearsals for their next production.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

District and School Improvement Plan

Superintendent Harrity presented a PowerPoint of the District & School Improvement Plan for the three year period 2015 – 2018. It contained the Vision and the Theory of Action for the period. Smart Goals were presented giving the action step, the responsible party, financial resources, performance/assessment measures and the timeline. The Smart Goals are: Goal #1, Vocational Curriculum; Goal #2, Articulation Agreements; Goal #3, Dual Enrollment Programs; Goal #4, Advanced Placement Offerings; Goal #5, Technology; Goal #6, Chapter 74 Programs; Goal #7, School Safety; and Goal #8 a-c- Writing Across the Curriculum.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee endorse the District and School Improvement Plan (2015-2018) as presented.

Seconded by Dr. Williams.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

PARCC

Superintendent Harrity reported that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will still require students to pass MCAS for graduation. DESE is planning a new version of MCAS and Superintendent Harrity will keep Committee members updated as information is received.

Dedication of Plaque

A mock-up of the plaque to be dedicated to Robert K. Saccone, Chef Instructor from 1970 to 2001 was presented. His family requested that the dedication be held in March 2016.

Workers' Credit Union School Bank

Grand Opening. There will be a Grand Opening of the Workers' Credit Union School Bank on Friday, December 4, 2015. School Committee members were invited to attend. The Bank is making a donation of \$500 to the Drama Club.

Bank Safety Protocol. A copy of the Bank Safety Protocol was presented to Committee members.

Superintendent's Update

Mr. Thomas Kingston, coach for Superintendent Harrity, was present. She attended a full day session on the Superintendent Induction Program on November 18, 2015.

Activities in November included:

- Keynote speaker at the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Event
- Attended a round table discussion regarding Women in STEM Education with Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Joseph Kennedy III
- Finalized the draft of the 3-year District and School Improvement Plan
- Had an exploratory meeting with Lamoureux and Pagano Associates to discuss exploring renovation and/or construction of facilities
- Met with Roy Nascimento, President of the North Central MA Chamber of Commerce. He is going to co-author a letter inviting their 900 members to join the Monty Tech Program Advisory Committees and encourage the members to support the cooperative education program.
- Met with President Asquino, MWCC, and his administration team to develop the next steps in strengthening our high school to college partnership

Superintendent Harrity updated the members on the Vet Tech Project. At the January 6, 2016 School Committee meeting the full proposal for the project will be presented to the members.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Thomas Browne presented a written report on November events.

- The National Honor Society held their Induction Ceremony on November 3. In addition to the students inducted, many seniors were recognized for achieving a second year as a member of NHS.
- The MCAS ELA/Math Retest was held on November 4-6 & 9-10. Two students completed the ELA retest which was due to medical absences, not failures, on the date of the original test. Six students participated in the Math retest.
- The annual Monty Tech Veterans' Day Recognition Ceremony was held on November 10. Rather than focusing on an outside speaker, the JROTC cadets were front and center in leading the ceremony.
- The annual Parents' Nights were held on November 19 and 24. A new online system for scheduling Parent-Teacher Conference appointments was used and more than 1800 appointments were scheduled over the two conference days.

Principal Browne listed upcoming events for December.

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

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report through November 20, 2015 and the Discipline Report for the month of October 2015 was presented for information. The attendance percentage for October was 96.4%.

Program Advisory Committee

Reports from the Program Advisory Committee meetings held on September 30, 2015 were presented. Mrs. Airoidi asked if feedback on recommendations in the reports were given back to the Advisory Committees. Mr. Gilbert asked that the School Committee members also be kept informed. Mr. Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs, reviews all the reports and provides feedback.

Special Education Program Advisory Committee

Report of the Special Education Program Advisory Committee meeting held on September 30, 2015 were presented for review.

Practical Nursing Program Advisory Committee

Report of the Practical Nursing Program Advisory Committee meeting held on September 30, 2015 were presented for review.

PERSONNEL

Appointments

- Laura Storm Social Studies Teacher
- Gary M. Porter, Jr. Marine JROTC Instructor

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, said that the Financial Planning Subcommittee will meet on December 28, 2015. Mrs. Crockett plans to have information from the departments relative to the FY16 budget.

Policy

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee met tonight prior to the full Committee meeting. A calendar for future meetings was set up. At the January meeting the state regulations relative to the Program Advisory Committees will be discussed.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Swenson, Chairperson, said that the Capital Improvements Subcommittee met but did not have a quorum present so the meeting was informational. The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2015.

Workforce

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

Student Advisory

Mrs. Lepkowski, Chairperson, said that the Student Advisory Subcommittee met with the students on October 29, 2015. Mrs. Reynolds chaired the meeting for Mrs. Lepkowski.

Some of the students' concerns were: need more than one book for summer reading, would like more languages to be offered, lunch line is still an issue, AP classes are doing well, would like to have music, arts and public safety courses introduced, and locker access.

Legal Services (ad hoc)

Mr. Clark moved that the School Committee vote to dissolve the Legal Services (ad hoc) Subcommittee.

Seconded by Dr. Williams.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Technology (ad hoc)

Mr. Olson, Chairperson, said the Technology Subcommittee met on November 24, 2015. The Subcommittee reviewed the draft of the 3-year Technology Plan and the survey results from parents and students regarding technology and will review this survey again. The Subcommittee plans to create a comprehensive plan to present back to the School Committee.

Mr. Olson invited School Committee members to join the Subcommittee.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Acceptance of Donation

Dr. Williams moved that the District Committee accept a donation from the George Hanson Trust in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used toward the Vet Tech Program.

Seconded by Mr. Clark.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Marine JROTC Jeep

Dr. Williams moved that the District Committee declare the Marine JROTC Jeep as surplus equipment.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Financial Statements

The October 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 reminded members to send in their reservations for the Holiday Party. She attended the MCAS/MASS Conference and presented written reports. She said the tone of the conference was on measuring the social and emotional behavior of students and educators.

She reminded Subcommittee members to call their Chairperson if they cannot make a meeting so that there is assurance that there will be a quorum present at the meeting. She thanked Superintendent Harrity and Principal Browne for their written reports.

School Committee Comments

Members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Adjournment

Dr. Williams moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary