

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Monty Tech Drive, Fitchburg, MA 01420
Regular Meeting No. 130-643 – January 6, 2016

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School held regular meeting No. 130-643 on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 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	
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay	Royalston	
Mrs. Helen A. Lepkowski	Gardner	
Mr. Peter B. Capone	Ashby	
Mr. Burton E. Gould, Jr.	Winchendon	
Mr. Brian Walker	Fitchburg	
Ms. Claudia Holbert	Fitchburg	
Dr. Kenneth I. H. Williams	Sterling	
Mr. Eric Commodore	Gardner	
Mr. Eric Olson	Phillipston	
Mrs. Kathleen Airoidi	Hubbardston	(left at 10:10 pm)
Mrs. Toni Phillips	Athol	

Members of the School Committee absent:

Mr. Edward Simms	Petersham
Mr. James M. Gilbert	Templeton
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/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
Chad Snyder	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.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER – Helen Lepkowski

Mrs. Helen Lepkowski was recognized for 22 ½ years of service on the Monty Tech School Committee. She is retiring as one of the City Gardner's representatives. She has served on many of the School's Subcommittees. She especially enjoyed being Chairperson of the Student Advisory Subcommittee and working with the students. She was presented with several gifts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 2, 2015

Mrs. Swenson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 2, 2015 as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay.

Vote – so voted.

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

Minutes of the executive session of December 2, 2015 were circulated at the table and 12 approvals, 1 disapproval, and 2 not present at the meeting were recorded.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Football Team Recognition

On December 3, 2015 Monty Tech's Football Team won the title of 2015 State Vocational Large School Championship. Athletic Director Dave Reid, Head Coach Matt Sallila, Assistant Coaches Tim Roy, Anthony Secino, Kevin Anderson, Dan Roy and Brandon Graves and many members of the Football Team were present. They received a standing ovation for their successful year.

Presentation of "Certificate of Academic Excellence"

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) "Certificate of Academic Excellence" was presented to Taylor Sadowski and Julia Pfeifle. They were joined tonight by their parents.

Taylor is from Fitchburg and ranks #1 in the senior class. She is in Health Occupations.

Julia is from Winchendon and ranks #2 in the senior class. She is in Dental Assisting.

Out of State Travel for Plumbing Students

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee approve the out-of-state trip for 38 students and 3 chaperones to the Viega Education Center, Nashua, NH, on January 25, 2016. This field trip will provide the required training and certification on Mega-Press Gas piping systems.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Vet Tech Project – Vote on Design Services

Superintendent Harrity presented a PowerPoint for the proposed Monty Tech Veterinary Science Training Program. The MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development released long-term projections for veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers in North Central Massachusetts which reflect a 10% increase in these positions from 2012-2022.

The proposed Monty Tech Veterinary Science Training Program could subsidize veterinary services for clients with limited financial means. Many families and senior citizens have pets and the financial cost of caring for them exceeds their ability to pay. The proposed program would provide a necessary community service.

Becker College would provide a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine to head up the program. This would be a donation of \$100,000. The Monty Tech Veterinary Clinic would serve as a teaching clinic for Becker College students. Becker College is #1 in New England and #15 national among four-year private institutions in awarding undergraduate animal studies degrees. Monty Tech would be a model high school to college partnership with Becker College.

It is projected that there will be three phases to accomplish the construction and provisioning the Vet Tech Program.

Phase I: Design and Construction
Total Projected Cost: \$1,016,317
Presently we have almost \$800,000 in financial commitments
(\$200,000 pending from an anonymous donor)

Phase II: Equipment, Supplies and Materials
Total Projected Cost: \$502,797
Presently we have almost \$310,000 in financial commitments
(\$200,000 pending from an anonymous donor)

Phase III: Staffing
Total Projected Cost: \$358,100
To date we have \$250,000

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee approve the submission for an RFP to complete the facility design for the Vet Tech Program at an expense not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

After discussion, Mrs. Lepkowski moved the question.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Barber and Mr. Mollica voted no. Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Mr. Mollica questioned the roll out and on-going costs for the program. Superintendent Harrity will address these costs and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

Vote on motion to submit an RFP to complete the facility design for the Vet Tech Program - so voted.

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

Vet Tech Project – Vote on Approval of Commemorative Gifts and Naming Rights

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee approve the Vet Tech Program commemorative gifts and naming rights as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

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

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Harrity presented a written report of her activities in December.

- Continued meeting with her coach, Tom Kingston.
- On the State level, attended the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee meeting.
- For the District, attended the Liaison budget priorities meeting, the SkillsUSA Local Awards Ceremony, spoke at the Faculty meeting, secured Burt Jacobs, Founder of "Life is Good" to be the motivational speaker on Friday, March 4, and attended the WCSA Scholars' Luncheon at WPI with Mr. Browne and students, Taylor Sadowski and Julia Pfeifle.
- The ribbon cutting for the Workers' Credit Union Bank was held on December 4, 2015. Two seniors are working on co-op every other week and the bank will be hiring two juniors.
- Met with Win Brown, President & CEO of Heywood Hospital, to discuss school business partnership.
- Presented a list of people contacted to discuss potential funding for the Vet Tech Project.

Superintendent Harrity said that 105 Monty Tech students from the class of 2016 have qualified to receive the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. She outlined what the students must do to be eligible for this scholarship.

Superintendent Harrity said that the Superintendent's Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016. The Monty Tech Foundation has established a fundraising subcommittee to solicit corporate sponsorship for the dinner.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Representative's Monthly Report

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

- SkillsUSA local competitions were held in December and more than 200 students were awarded medals.
-
- The JROTC raised money for food, and toys for families in need during the Christmas season.
- The JROTC Color Guard participated in the Mayoral inauguration in the City of Fitchburg.
- The National Honor Society is preparing a fund drive for the Cancer Society's Daffodil Days.

Principal's Monthly Report

Principal Thomas Browne presented a written report on December events. The report included the names of all the students who were awarded medals for their outstanding performances in the Local SkillsUSA Competition.

Other December events:

- The cafeteria staff provided bountiful amounts of holiday cheer for faculty, staff and administration.
- After months of intensive reviews of data, policy and practice, the faculty has completed its work on the NEASC Self-Study in preparation for the decennial accreditation review in April 2016.
- Upcoming events for January 2016 were listed.

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

The Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report from November 21, 2015 through December 21, 2015, and the Discipline Report for the month of November 2015 were presented for information. The attendance percentage for November was 95.4%.

PERSONNEL

Retirement

Ms. Bonnie Heikkinen, Guidance Counselor since 1995, has submitted a letter of intent to retire effective August 27, 2016. A letter wishing her well will be sent to her on behalf of the School Committee members.

REPORTS BY SUBCOMMITTEES

Financial Planning

Mr. Commodore, Chairperson, said that the Financial Planning Subcommittee will meet on February 3, 2016. The Subcommittee plans to have a budget ready for the School Committee at the March 2, 2016 meeting.

Policy

Mrs. Barclay, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee will meet on January 12, 2016. Mr. Mollica requested that consideration of the addition of the Admission Policy be added to future policy subcommittee agendas and membership on the Advisory

Subcommittees be added to a future agenda of the Policy Subcommittee. In addition, Mr. Tourigny requested a legal interpretation of School Committee's jurisdiction with regard

to program advisory. He was advised by the subcommittee to make a formal request in writing to the School Committee Chair.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Walker said that the Capital Improvements Subcommittee met on December 17, 2015. The three main topics were - update on the bank, update on refurbishment of the gym floor and an update on the Vet Tech Program. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2016.

Workforce

Mr. Walker, Chairperson, said the Subcommittee did not meet in December. There are some items on the agenda and he will schedule a meeting.

Student Advisory

Mrs. Lepkowski, Chairperson, said that the Student Advisory Subcommittee should plan to meet in February or March depending on the students' schedules.

Technology (ad hoc)

Mr. Olson, Chairperson, said the Technology Subcommittee met on December 17, 2015. The Subcommittee discussed the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative.

Principal Browne presented to the full Committee a PowerPoint on Chromebooks in the Classroom. The 1:1 Chromebook Program aims to enhance student achievement by creating a student centered learning environment where every student has a school-provided personal device that will allow instant access to the internet, email, publishing/presentation tools and "cloud" storage whether at school or at home. The benefits of the 1:1 initiatives were presented.

Mr. Browne said the crux of the proposal would be to roll-out a school-wide 1:1 Chromebook Initiative beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year. If approved, the proposal will result in the District entering a three-year lease with Dell. The school would receive 1,435 Chromebooks for distribution to students in September 2016. The lease cost would be \$130,625 per year for the 3-year period.

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee accept the recommendation of the Technology ad hoc Subcommittee to approve a 3-year lease with Dell to fund a 1:1 Chromebook Initiative in the amount of \$130,625 per year for 1,435 Chromebooks funding to come from Account #1440 – Instructional Technology Hardware – subject to appropriation.

Seconded by Mr. Olson.

After discussion, Mr. Gould moved to table the motion.

Seconded by Dr. Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, no; Barber, yes; Barclay, no; Capone, no; Clark, no; Commodore, no; Cournoyer, no; Gould, yes; Holbert, no; Lepkowski, no; Mollica, yes; Olson, no; Phillips, no; Reynolds, no; Swenson, no; Tourigny, no; Walker, no; and Dr. Williams, yes. **Count: 4 yes; 14 no. Motion to table lost.**

Roll Call Vote: Airoidi, yes; Barber, no; Barclay, yes; Capone, yes; Clark, abstain; Commodore, yes; Cournoyer, yes; Gould, no; Holbert, yes; Lepkowski, yes; Mollica, yes; Olson, yes; Phillips, yes; Reynolds, yes; Swenson, yes; Tourigny, yes; Walker, yes; and Dr. Williams, yes.
Count: 15 yes; 2 no; 1 abstention. Motion to enter into lease passed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Statements

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

Acceptance of Donation

Mr. Gould moved that the District Committee accept the following donations:

- **from the Omnova Solutions Foundation in the amount of \$3,625 to be used to purchase EMT equipment for the certification program**
and
- **from Workers' Credit Union in the amount of \$500 to assist the Monty Tech Drama Club in making purchases for this year's performance.**

Seconded by Dr. Williams.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Award of Bid – 2016-02 Resilient Sports Floor

Mr. Walker moved that the District Committee award the contract to supply the resilient sports floor to Athletic Surfaces, Cambridge, MA, at a price of \$123,131. Funds are to come from Account #1860 – Capital Equipment.

Seconded by Mrs. Barclay for discussion.

After discussion,

Vote so voted.

Mr. Gould voted no and Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Award of Bid – 2016-03 – Bleachers

Mrs. Crockett explained that due to the exceptions contained with the bid by the low bidder, the bids were thrown out and the item will be rebid.

Award of Bid – 2016-04 – Gymnasium Curtain Wall

Mrs. Barclay moved that the District Committee award the contract to supply the gymnasium curtain wall to CB Seating, Somersworth, NH, at a cost of \$12,000. Funds are to come from Account #1860 – Capital Equipment

Seconded by Dr. Williams.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

Surplus Equipment

Mrs. Lepkowski moved that the District Committee approve the request to surplus the old purple wrestling mats and donate them to the Youth Wrestling Program in Keene, NH.

Seconded by Mrs. Swenson.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Teachers Information or Proposals

No report this evening.

School Committee Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Reynolds had no comments this evening.

School Committee Comments

Mr. Mollica asked for information about the makeup of Subcommittees and how the members are appointed. Attorney Bell will check on this.

Mrs. Lepkowski said she has enjoyed working with all the Committee members

Adjournment

Mr. Walker moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Gould.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Reynolds abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Sheila M. Harrity
Superintendent-Director

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary