

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
1050 WESTMINSTER STREET
FITCHBURG, MA 01420
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2025

Members present

Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Members absent

Tamarah Estes, Harvard-Vacant

Officers of the school committee present

Thomas Browne

School district personnel present

Tammy Crockett, Business Manager, Dayana Carlson, Principal, Katie Schmidt, Assistant Principal, Brian Williams, Vocational Director, Christina Favreau, Academic Programs Director, Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services, Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology, and Julie Marynok, Recording Secretary

Legal Counsel

None

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

1. Opening Items

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Information: C. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Information: D. Public Comment

Action, Minutes: E. Approval of Minutes

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2025, AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Eric Commodore, second by Calvin Brooks.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Robert Campbell

Not Present at Vote: Ashley Hadmack

Action, Information: F. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2025, AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Eric Commodore, second by Calvin Brooks.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Diane Swenson, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Eric Commodore, Robert Campbell

Not Present at Vote: Ashley Hadmack

2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- Superintendent Browne recognized seniors Lily Mom-Uch (from Athol) and Jahdalynn Manigat (from Fitchburg) as the recipients of the Worcester County Superintendents' Award.

Additionally, Olivia Kennedy, (a CAD senior from Westminster) was a recipient of the MassCTE Secondary Student Award.

- On March 21st, Monty Tech was proud to host Rep. Lori Trahan, who led a regional roundtable of educational leaders to discuss the potential ramifications of the closure of the federal Dept. of Education and any potential loss of federal funds.
- Superintendent Browne shared the struggles that many of our sending communities face due to local budget limitations caused by local aid issues.
- On March 24th, in an effort to support our colleagues in MASS and MASBO, as well as our fellow school districts in MARS and MA Rural Schools. Monty Tech administration attended the Joint Ways & Means Committee held at UMass.
- Superintendent Browne shared information about a launch of a statewide K-12 Statewide Graduation Council. The council will study and make recommendations on how Massachusetts can ensure that all students graduate with the skills necessary to succeed in college, careers, and civic life.
- Superintendent Browne shared information about the proposed vocational admissions weighed lottery including the criteria to be used, the process for the lottery, sending districts responsibilities, and the essential concern with the proposal. He further explained that there is a DESE Public Comment opportunity available until April 18, 2025.

Action, Information: B. School Choice

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO ACCEPT SCHOOL CHOICE STUDENTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR FOR GRADES 10, 11, AND 12 ONLY.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Scott Carignan.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Calvin Brooks, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Barbara Reynolds

Action, Information: C. Out of State Field Trip - Auto Body

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE TRIP FOR 36 AUTO BODY STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE TO ATTEND THE NHRA STUDENT CAREER DAY ON MAY 30, 2025, FROM 7:45 AM TO 2:15 PM AT NO COST TO STUDENTS.

Motion by Eric Commodore, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Action, Information: D. Out of State Field Trip - Advanced Manufacturing

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE TRIP FOR 5 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO ATTEND THE CNC TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS DAY ON MAY 15, 2025, FROM 7:45 AM TO 2:30 PM AT NO COST TO STUDENTS

Motion by Eric Commodore, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney

Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Calvin Brooks

Action, Information: E. Out of State Field Trip - CAD/Drafting

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE TRIP FOR 16 CAD/DRAFTING AND DESIGN STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, TO ATTEND THE MANSIONS TOUR ON MAY 5, 2025.

Motion by Eric Commodore, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

3. Principal's Report

Information: A. Student Representative's Monthly Report – In the packet for perusal

Information: B. Principal's Monthly Report – In the packet for perusal

Action, Information: C. Student Handbook

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES FOR THE 2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK AS SUBMITTED.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Shelly Jones.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall

Abstain: William Brassard

Information: D. Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report – In the packet for perusal

4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Brenda Dufour, Cafeteria Worker, will retire on June 13, 2025, after 32 years.

Information: B. Resignation

Information: C. Appointment

Nick Zbikowski, from Ashburnham, has been hired as an Evening Custodian/Maintenance at a rate of \$24.81 + \$1.00 differential per hour.

Meghan Caribo, from Jaffrey, N.H., has been hired as the Program Assistant for Continuing Education, at \$27.45 per hour.

Lynn Chiasson, from Athol, has been hired as a Part-time Childcare Center Teacher, at \$19.00 per hour.

Angie Moux has moved from Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students to Administrative Assistant to the Principal, at a rate of \$36.15/hour.

5. Reports by Subcommittees

Action, Information: A. Policy - Diane Swenson Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE REMOVE POLICY CBA-E - SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S JOB DESCRIPTION, AS THIS CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Eric Olson

Action, Information: B. Policy - Diane Swenson - Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE DELETE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES: CBH - SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSULTING ACTIVITIES, CBI - EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR, CBJ - SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR'S TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT, CBK - SUSPENSION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR, AS THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT AND MGL.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: Motion Failed

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall

Nay: Barbara Reynolds, Christina Smith, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, John Mollica, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, William Brassard

Abstain: Ashley Hadmack, Jada McConologue

Action, Information: C. Policy - Diane Swenson - Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE DELETE POLICY JKA - CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, AS STATE LAW COVERS THIS TOPIC.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Nay: Ross Barber

Action, Information: D. Policy - Diane Swenson - Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE POLICY JJF-A - EXCESS FUNDS: SENIOR CLASS FOR A FIRST READING.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall

Nay: William Brassard

Information: E. Capital Improvements - Diane Swenson Chair

Information: F. Workforce - Eric Olson Chair

The Superintendent Evaluation Timeline is in the packet for perusal.

Information: G. Student Advisory - Ross Barber Chair

Information: H. School Committee Graduation Gift Subcommittee - Ronald Tourigny Chair

Information: I. Financial Planning - Eric Olson Chair

Information: J. Fundraising Dance Subcommittee (Ad Hoc) - Ronald Tourigny Chair

6. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Information: B. Surplus Items

MOVE THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE CONSIDER THE ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS TO BE DISPOSED OF AS LISTED.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Eric Commodore.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

7. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Robert Campbell nominated John Columbus for Chair; Ronald Tourigny seconded.

Motion Unanimous

Diane Swenson nominated Eric Commodore for Vice Chair; Ronald Tourigny seconded.

Michael Hurley nominated Jeffrey Raymond for Vice Chair; Evelyn Bosworth seconded.

Roll call vote required:

Ross Barber - Eric Commodore

Michael Hurley - Jeffrey Raymond

Whitney Marshall - Eric Commodore

Jada McConologue - Eric Commodore

Diane Swenson - Eric Commodore

John Columbus - Eric Commodore

William Brassard - Eric Commodore

Calvin Brooks - Eric Commodore

Eric Olson – Abstain

Jeffrey Raymond - Jeffrey Raymond

John Mollica - Eric Commodore

Ronald Tourigny - Eric Commodore

Christina Smith - Eric Commodore

Shelly Jones - Eric Commodore

Eric Commodore - Eric Commodore

Ashley Hadmack - Eric Commodore

Robert Campbell - Eric Commodore

Barbara Reynolds - Eric Commodore

Scott Carignan - Eric Commodore

Evelyn Bosworth - Jeffrey Raymond

Final resolution: Eric Commodore - 16
Jeffrey Raymond - 3
Abstentions - 1

Barbara Reynolds nominated William Brassard for Assistant Treasurer; Eric Commodore seconded.
Motion Unanimous

Action, Discussion: B. Reorganization of School Committee

MOVE THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR AND ELECT THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS, JOHN COLUMBUS, CHAIR, ERIC COMMODORE, VICE CHAIR, THOMAS BROWNE, SECRETARY, JULIE MARYNOK, RECORDING SECRETARY, JEFFERY GALLANT, TREASURER, WILLIAM BRASSARD, ASSISTANT TREASURER.

Motion by Calvin Brooks, second by Barbara Reynolds.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Information: C. School Committee Chairman Report

Information: D. School Committee Information or Proposals

Information: E. School Committee Comments

Information: F. Correspondence/Reports

8. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair Forty-Eight Hours Before the Meeting

9. Closing Items

Action, Information: A. Adjournment

MOVE TO ADJOURN

Motion by Calvin Brooks, second by Barbara Reynolds.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Barbara Reynolds, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM