

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
1050 WESTMINSTER STREET
FITCHBURG, MA 01420
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Members present

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

Members absent

Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Barbara Reynolds, 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, Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator, Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services, Michael Gormley, Facilities Director, Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology, and Julie Marynok, Recording Secretary

Legal Counsel

None

Meeting called to order at 6:30 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 JANUARY 8, 2025, AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Calvin Brooks, second by Tamarah Estes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Abstain: Ross Barber

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

2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- Once again, Monty Tech has been informed by SkillsUSA that one of our students, junior Nadia Martowska, has been chosen the winner of the 2025 Massachusetts Trading Pin Design Contest. This is the fourth year in a row that Monty Tech has won the state Trading Pin contest.
- On January 22nd, members of the Monty Tech administrative team met with Steve Pettit from Blue Spruce Technologies to discuss the development of a policy that addresses the use of Artificial Intelligence by students. In developing a policy, it was suggested that the essential framework should consider three primary elements – Student Safety, Student Ethics, Teacher Empowerment
- STEP Explore Program, Spring – 2025 – Monty Tech is proud to announce our second year of targeted career training, serving young adults with disabilities.
- Monty Tech is ready to move forward on the renovation to replace the existing spray booths in the Auto Body & Collision Repair Program. Poulin Construction of Sterling, MA earned the bid with a proposal of \$739,900. Funds will be distributed from the following accounts: Previously Accepted Anonymous Donation - \$180,330, WCTF – Donnelly Grant - \$340,100, Perkins Grant - \$100,000, and #1378 Instructional Equipment - \$119,470
- On January 30th, Assoc. Commissioner Bennett visited MVP Academy with her team from DESE to tour the facility in order to determine if there was a foundation for success to move forward on the plumbing program. The overall sense is that the visit went well, and we look forward to hearing from her soon.
- BESE/DESE/MAVA Admissions Policy Update
 - During the January 27, 2025 BESE Vocational Admissions Subcommittee meeting, DESE provided an analysis of the “disparate impact” of the typically used selective criteria. In presenting that data, DESE offered a conclusion that Academics and Student Interview demonstrated a “significant disparity”. Then, during the January 28, 2025 Monthly BESE Meeting, the Chair of the subcommittee suggested that BESE & DESE begin to work to develop a new admissions policy to be presented at the Feb. 25th monthly meeting.
 - MAVA is currently soliciting input from the membership and meeting with officials at the State House and Executive Office of Education to see where a “new policy” would land.
- Superintendent Browne shared information regarding a variety of FY26 proposed vocational-related legislation.
- Additionally, Superintendent Browne provided the Committee an overview of DESE suggested responses regarding ICE activities related to schools.
- Save the Date to Support our Students – The Monty Tech Foundation Superintendent’s Casino Night, Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Colonial Hotel, Gardner.

Action, Information: B. Out of State Field Trip

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP FOR 22 JUNIOR CULINARY STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, TO TOUR THEIR CULINARY PROGRAM ON MARCH 10, 2025, FROM 8:00 AM TO 2:20 PM AT NO COST TO STUDENTS.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Tamarah Estes, 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.

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

Action, Information: D. Approval of the 2025-2026 School Calendar

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Diane Swenson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Susan Wilson, Mathematics Instructor, will retire on April 4, 2025, after 14 years.

Ellen Kelly, Cafeteria Worker, will retire on June 30, 2025, after 24 years.

Information: B. Resignation

Melissa Wilber, PN Part-time Faculty, has resigned as of January 24, 2025, after 1 year.

Information: C. Appointment

Mary Roth, Athol, has been appointed Director of Continuing Education with a salary of \$85,000.00, effective February 3, 2025.

5. Reports by Subcommittees

Action, Information: A. Policy 1 - Diane Swenson Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A FIRST READING, AC - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACA - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF GENDER AND REMOVAL OF OUTDATED, REDUNDANT, OR DIFFERENTLY INCORPORATED POLICIES ACB - HARASSMENT, ACD - DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF GENDER, AND ACDF - RESPECTFUL INTERPERSONAL/HUMAN RELATIONS AS THESE THREE POLICIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATED POLICY AC.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Shelly Jones.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Ashley Hadmack, Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Evelyn Bosworth, Jada McConologue, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan, Shelly Jones, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall

Abstain: Eric Olson, John Mollica, William Brassard

Information: B. Capital Improvements - Diane Swenson Chair

Information: C. Workforce - Eric Olson Chair

Information: D. Student Advisory - Ross Barber Chair

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

Information: F. Financial Planning - Eric Olson Chair

6. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Discussion: B. Award of Bid #2025-03 Furnish and Install Automotive Spray Booth
MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING AND INSTALLING AN AUTOMOTIVE SPRAY BOOTH TO POULIN CONSTRUCTION, STERLING, MA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$739,900. FUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS: ANONYMOUS DONATION \$180,330, WCTF DONNELLY GRANT \$340,100, PERKINS FY \$100,000 AND #1378 INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT \$119,470.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Action, Information: C. Acceptance of Donation

MOVE THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT A DONATION FROM TAYLOR RHOADES OF SOCKETS, WRENCHES, PNEUMATIC TOOLS, ETC. WITH AN ESTIMATED VALUE OF \$300 TO BENEFIT THE AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Shelly Jones.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

7. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Information: B. School Committee Chairman Report

Information: C. School Committee Information or Proposals

Information: D. School Committee Comments

Information: E. 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 Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:37