

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
1050 WESTMINSTER STREET  
FITCHBURG, MA 01420  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 6, 2024**

**Members present**

Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

**Members absent**

Barbara Reynolds, Jada McConologue, John Mollica, Robert Campbell, Scott Carignan, Ashby VACANT, Harvard VACANT

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM**

1. Opening Items

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Information: C. Public Hearing - Budget

Chairman Commodore called the Public Hearing to order at 6:32 pm.

Tammy Crockett, Business/Human Resources Manager, presented a PowerPoint explaining the budget process, the foundation budget, net school spending, and minimum contribution and explained the calculation of each community's assessment. She presented individual information on their city or town to all the School Committee members.

Chairman Commodore closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm.

Information: D. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Information: E. Public Comment

Action, Minutes: F. Approval of Minutes

**MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Christina Smith.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, William Brassard  
Abstain: Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall

Action, Information: G. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

**MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Christina Smith.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, William Brassard

Abstain: Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall

## 2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- Monty Tech will be using the Workforce Training Program for Young Adults with Disabilities Grant to establish the Monty Tech STEP Program.
  - The program will include 7 weeks of hands-on training, delivered by highly qualified, licensed vocational educators. In addition there will be 1 week of work readiness and professional skills training, delivered by our Professional Skills Instructor; 2 weeks of paid internship experience with employer partners. According to Commonwealth Corp., Monty Tech is the only vocational school participating in this important workforce training opportunity.
- **MVP Academy Updates**

It was reported that renovation work at 270 Westminster Street is fully up to speed. In addition the Business/Financial administrators from all partnership districts will have met to consider the systems that will be in place for tasks such as providing reimbursements for meal costs. Additionally, the sending districts are continuing their parent orientation meetings to introduce the program to current sophomores and juniors.
- **Vocational Teacher Testing Update**

Monty Tech is tentatively scheduled to host hands-on vocational teacher exams in the following areas, Early Childhood Education, Electrical, Health Assisting, House Carpentry, and Masonry on Saturday, April 6th at 8:00am.
- **Celebrating Our Student Leaders**

Eight cadets from our MCJROTC program were able to participate in the Women's Leadership Challenge weekend, a 45-hour, action-packed leadership training that showcased the cadet lifestyle at Norwich University.
- **SkillsUSA State Champions Already**

We are proud to share that two of our Graphic Communications students have already been named State Champions. Madison Perry, Class of '25 from Princeton, has won the National Pin Competition and Amber Greenwood, Class of '24 from Fitchburg, has won the National T-Shirt Competition. This means both students will be traveling to the SkillsUSA National Competition in June.
- **Another CTI Celebration**

On Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, the School of Continuing Ed. celebrated the graduation for the most recent round of CTI completers with a ceremony and dinner for the graduates and their families.
- **Admissions Response Update**

In response to a letter from Mr. Cronin to all Monty Tech School Committee Members and DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley, Monty Tech sent an opposing response to Commissioner Riley as well via email and USPS. Monty Techs response was shared with numerous state and local officials.

## 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/New Entry Report in the packet for perusal

Action, Discussion: D. Enrollment Quota for Class of 2028

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE SETTING THE ENROLLMENT QUOTA FOR THE CLASS OF 2028 AT 355 STUDENTS.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Information: D. Freshman Placement - Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services, gave a presentation on freshman placement.

#### 4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Information: B. Resignation

Theryn Blauser, Advanced Manufacturing Instructor, has resigned after 18 years.

Colleen Tucker, Administrative Assistant, Special Education, has resigned after 40 days.

Ryan Rege, Director of Vocational Programs, has resigned effective June 30, 2024, after 2 years.

Information: C. Appointment

Benjamin Burrows, Princeton, has been appointed to the position of Evening Security at a salary of \$25.00/hour

Jayden Valkavitch, Tyngsborough, has been appointed to the position of Evening Security at a salary of \$25.00/hour

A list of Spring Coaches in the packet for perusal

#### 5. Reports by Subcommittees

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

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A SECOND READING THE ATTACHED POLICIES FROM SECTION D - FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Action, Information: B. Policy 2 - Diane Swenson Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A SECOND READING BIA - NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ORIENTATION, AND BIA-E - NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE WELCOME PACKET

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Information: C. Capital Improvements - Diane Swenson Chair

Information: D. Workforce - Eric Olson Chair

Information: E. Student Advisory - Melanie Weeks Chair

Information: F. School Committee Graduation Gift Subcommittee (Ad hoc) - Ronald Tourigny Chair  
MOVE THE COMMITTEE ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ADHOC  
SUBCOMMITTEE TO PRESENT ONE OR MORE ANNUAL GIFTS AT SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT.  
THE AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF GIFTS TO BE DETERMINED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

Motion by Ronald Tourigny, second by Tamarah Estes.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

It was decided to dissolve the School Committee Graduation Gift Subcommittee (Ad hoc) and make it a standing committee that will meet twice a year.

Action, Information: G. Financial Planning - Eric Olson Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY FY 25 BUDGET AS  
FOLLOWS: TOTAL BUDGET - \$33,334,174 LESS REVENUES - \$20,887,984 WITH TOTAL  
ASSESSMENTS OF \$12,446,190

Motion by Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

## 6. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Discussion: B. Award of Design Service

MOVE THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE AWARD THE DESIGN SERVICES FOR ATHLETIC FIELD  
BLEACHERS AND RUNNING TRACK TO GALE ASSOCIATES, ROCKLAND, MA IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$109,000.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Tamarah Estes.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Action, Information: C. Acceptance of Donation

MOVE THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT A DONATION OF A 2002 DODGE DAKOTA WITH  
AN APPROXIMATE VALUE OF \$1,000 FROM TETREULT, GARDNER, MA TO BE USED BY  
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

Motion by William Brassard, second by Tamarah Estes.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

## 7. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Information: B. School Committee Chairman Report

Action, Information: C. School Committee Information or Proposals

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVES UP TO \$3000 FOR DIANE SWENSON TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL SKILLSUSA COMPETITION IN ATLANTA, GA IN JUNE 2024.

Motion by William Brassard, second by Eric Olson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Diane Swenson

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 Jeffrey Raymond, second by Eric Commodore.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM