

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
1050 WESTMINSTER STREET
FITCHBURG, MA 01420
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

Members present

Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Scott Carignan, William Brassard

Members absent

Barbara Reynolds, Tamarah Estes, Whitney Marshall, Ashby-Vacant, Harvard-Vacant

Officers of the School Committee present

Thomas Browne

School district personnel present

Dayana Carlson, Principal, Tammy Crockett, Business Manager, Kathryn Schmidt, Assistant Principal, Ryan Rege, Director of Vocational Programs, Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator, Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs, Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology, Michael Gormley, Facilities Director, and Julie Marynok, Recording

Legal Counsel

Garrett Gee, Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP

Student Representative

Jayda DeCarlo

Meeting called to order at 7:02 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 3, 2024, AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Eric Olson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Scott Carignan, William Brassard

Abstain: Christina Smith, John Mollica

2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- Monty Tech received a \$133,000 grant from the Commonwealth Corporation. The grant will allow for a program that will provide hands on training and professional skills training culmination in paid internship experiences and job placement. Monty Tech will collaborate with community service agencies CAPS Collaborative and The Arc.
- MVP Academy Updates - Monty Tech has its permit in hand and renovations have begun throughout the facility at 270 Westminster Street. In addition, our sending district partners are starting their efforts to promote the MVP program.
- The acting Fitchburg Building Commissioner has approved the installation of our proposed spray booth equipment. We would not trigger the requirement of fully installing sprinklers across the building. We will reissue a RFP for design and installation. We hope to have the results at the April School Committee.
- Superintendent Browne met with Representative Jon Zlotnik (2nd Worcester - Ashburnham, Gardner, Templeton and 2 districts of Winchendon) to discuss several topics, including admissions and our efforts to develop MVP Academy as an alternative. He was very intrigued by our plan and mentioned that he would share it with his colleagues to see if there might be consideration for initiating legislation.
- As required by the Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education completed its assessment of our special education services. Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical earned 30 out of 30 possible points on the rubric or 100% and will not require any intervention from DESE.
- Monty Tech is working with DESE to update the skills and credentials earned in our Chapter 74 Career and Technical Education Frameworks. We have encouraged our industry partners to participate in the employer survey and summit offered by DESE. First potential opportunity is with Masonry and Tile setting. This information was provided directly to all members of Monty Tech's Masonry Program Advisory.
- Superintendent Browne made the committee aware of a parcel of unused land on the east side of our existing campus. A neighboring business has inquired about the possibility to purchase the parcel.

Action, Information: B. Out-of-State Field Trip

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP FOR HOUSE CARPENTRY AND CABINETMAKING TO THE JLC LIVE TRADE SHOW ON MARCH 22, 2024 IN PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

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

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP FOR 18 AUTO BODY SOPHOMORE STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE TO ATTEND THE NEW ENGLAND DRAGWAY NHRA YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES PROGRAM ON MAY 31, 2024, FROM 7:45 AM TO 2:15 PM AT NO COST TO STUDENTS.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

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

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP FOR 12 JUNIOR CULINARY STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, TO TOUR THEIR CULINARY PROGRAM ON APRIL 5, 2024, FROM 7:45 AM TO 2:15 PM AT NO COST TO STUDENTS.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Scott Carignan, 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/New Entry Report/Waitlist - In the packet for perusal

Action, Information: D. Vote to Approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Diane Swenson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Michael Robichaud, Computer Aided Design and Drafting Instructor, will retire in June of 2024, after 27 years.

Information: B. Resignation

Information: C. Appointment

Colleen Tucker, Leominster, has been hired as Administrative Assistant to Student Support Services at a salary of \$31.65 per hour.

5. Meeting Recording

Action: A. Discussion

Action, Discussion: A. Motion

MOVE THAT THE REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE MONTY TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE, COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER OF 2024, BE RECORDED, AND THOSE RECORDINGS BE MADE ACCESSABLE FOR VIEWING ON ONLINE MEDIA PLATFORMS.

Motion by John Columbus, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Olson, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan

Nay: Eric Commodore, Melanie Weeks, William Brassard, Sara Dilg

Action, Discussion: B. Motion

Motion to bring back to the table the motion from the last meeting to allow consideration of the quote from AVI-SPL.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Christina Smith.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Nay: William Brassard

Abstain: John Mollica

Not Present at Vote: Robert Campbell

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE QUOTE FROM AVI-SPL WITH THE ESTIMATED COST OF \$31,494.00.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by Michael Hurley.

So Voted

Aye: Calvin Brooks, Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Scott Carignan

Nay: Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, William Brassard

Abstain: Sara Dilg

6. Reports by Subcommittees

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

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A SECOND READING, EFC - UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND EFD - SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM CHARGE POLICY, AND REMOVAL OF OUTDATED, REDUNDANT, OR DIFFERENTLY INCORPORATED POLICY: EFCA

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Eric Olson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

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

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A SECOND READING, GDB - SUPPORT STAFF CONTRACTS AND COMPENSATION AND GDBA - ADMINISTRATIVE FRINGE BENEFITS

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Action, Information: C. Policy 3 - Diane Swenson Chair

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

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Christina Smith, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jada McConologue, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Sara Dilg, Scott Carignan
Abstain: William Brassard
Not Present at Vote: Calvin Brooks

Action, Information: D. Policy 4 - Diane Swenson Chair

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

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Information: E. Capital Improvements - Diane Swenson Chair

Information: F. Workforce - Eric Olson Chair

Information: G. Student Advisory - Melanie Weeks Chair

Information: H. School Committee Graduation Gift Subcommittee (Ad hoc) - Ronald Tourigny Chair

Information: J. Financial Planning - Eric Olson Chair

7. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Information: B. Acceptance of Grant - ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program
MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE EXXONMOBIL EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 TO USE IN STEM PROGRAMS.

Motion by Jeffrey Raymond, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Action, Information: C. Acceptance of Donation - Community Health Connections
MOVE THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT A DONATION FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH CONNECTIONS OF MISCELLANEOUS PPE WITH A VALUE OF \$36,495.00.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Action, Information: D. Acceptance of Grant - CommCorp
MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT A WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,000.00.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

8. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Information: B. School Committee Chairman Report
Mr. Peter Capone, Ashby, has resigned from the committee.

Information: C. School Committee Information or Proposals

Information: D. School Committee Comments

Information: E. Correspondence/Reports

9. Executive Session

Action: A. Executive Session - Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)
MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21(A)(2) TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL OR TO CONDUCT

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Action: B. Exit Executive Session

MOVE TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by William Brassard, second by Robert Campbell.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Exited regular session at 9:16 PM

Entered executive session at 9:16 PM

Returned to open session at 9:28 PM

10. Closing Items

Action, Information: A. Adjournment

MOVE TO ADJOURN

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Diane Swenson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM