

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER – JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MEETING DATE MARCH 26, 2009 7:00 P.M.**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**26 MARCH 2009**

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Richard Jordan, Richard Niederberger, Debbie Bush, Sharon Salsman, Maureen Shelp, Jim Shelp

Board Members Present: Karl Wimmer, Kathy Mordovancey and Mary Homan

Administration Present: Greg Adams

Guests Present: William Host, Chris Tripp (District Energy Manager), Christine Brown (Summer Program Coordinator)

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

**Items Discussed:**

I. Greg Adams took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above.

II. Old Business: The following item was presented under Old Business

- **Update of Current School Calendar:** Greg Adams distributed a copy of the current school calendar that reflects the board approved change of Easter Monday as a full day of school for teachers and students. That change will remain in effect even if there are no future snow days for the year.
- **Energy Ad Hoc Committee Update:** Chris Tripp presented the latest update from the Energy Ad Hoc Committee. His presentation discussed the discussion items held the previous evening at the Energy Ad Hoc meeting in Mr. Ognosky's office and listed in the minutes of that meeting.

III. New Business: The following items were discussed under New Business:

- **2009-2010 School Calendar:** Mr. Adams distributed a copy of the final approved calendar for the 2009-2010 school year and reviewed the information with those present. The calendar closely mirrors this year's calendar with 7 snow

days built into the end of the year and a graduation date of Saturday, June 12, 2010. Mr. Adams reviewed the change in the opening week of school from the original calendar. Originally, teacher in-service days were scheduled for Friday and Monday with school beginning for students on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. That has been changed to in-service days on Friday and Tuesday with students beginning school on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. That change was suggested by the primary grade teachers asking for a three day opening week for their young students in order to ease their acclimation to school.

- **Montrose Area School District Elementary Summer Day Camp:** Mr. Adams introduced Christine Brown, Coordinator of the Summer Day Camp held at Choconut Valley Elementary School, and she presented an overview of the program through a power point presentation. The program is open to students of both elementary schools and runs for six weeks (Monday through Thursday) until noon at Choconut Valley. She reviewed many of the events held during the first year and the process she is now working on as she readies for the second year of the program. Members present were very impressed and had many favorable comments.

IV. Open Forum: The meeting was then opened for discussion on any item by members of the committee: **Information in bold red is supplied by Mr. Ognosky. He was not in attendance at the meeting due to a prior commitment and Mr. Adams passed those questions on to him asking that they be addressed in the minutes.**

- Mr. Niederberger asked a question regarding the Governor's proposed Pennsylvania school district consolidation and if it was gaining any support in Harrisburg from the legislature. **The Governor has proposed that the current 501 districts in the state be reduced through consolidation to 100. That proposal has met with tremendous opposition from the legislature and various educational groups (including PSBA, PSEA, etc.) across the state. The plan as proposed is unlikely to be approved. Consolidation will continue to be a hot topic and the issue will not go away over the next few years with a move toward the consolidation of districts were it is convenient to do so and has the support of the local constituents to do so. The issue of consolidation is on the agenda of two conferences that Mr. Ognosky will be attending at the end of April – that information will be disseminated to the Board and this committee at future meetings as an update on the issue.**
- Mr. Neiderberger also asked a question regarding the potential of a school tax rebate as a result of the state gambling revenue such as the one received by qualified homeowners last year. **The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has not yet released that information as of this date. They will analyze the data presented to them by the gambling commission and establish a rebate number for each school district. Last year that information became available in late spring.**
- Mr. Niederberger asked a question regarding the potential economic stimulus monies to be received from the federal government and any restrictions that are

placed on those monies. **The Department of Education has provided information to each school district on the economic stimulus monies allocated for each district. The money is in a number of different accounts with each account having specific restrictions and usages available. The Department of Education has informed our district that the potential allocation for the Montrose Area School District is close to \$1.2 million. The district has also received information from the leaders of the General Assembly cautioning districts about planning to spend the allocation amount they potentially may receive as all amounts have to be approved by the legislature. The caution regards the current debt, etc. and the fact that the money may not be released to school districts. It will be an integral discussion during the course of the state budget process. When final details are released regarding the allocations to districts it will be disseminated to the Board.**

- Mrs. Salsman asked a question regarding information presented to the Board at its public meetings by the public. At the February meeting she provided the board with information regarding the poor conditions of the bath rooms at Choconut Valley and felt that she was dismissed and not believed by the board. A conversation ensued regarding how each topic presented in those public forums is treated differently but all areas of concern are addressed.
- Mr. Jordan asked if the district has a procedure by which they track the results of student performance on AP exams – how many students take the exams and how well do they score. **Mr. Ognosky will discuss this with guidance and have them built a report from the information they have regarding this date from the last few school years. In the time he was the principal, a number of students scored at a level that allowed them to receive college credit in the institution that they attended.**
- Mr. Jordan asked if there is coordination by departments during the curriculum planning cycle as he feels that there is a redundancy of topics in many departments citing the fact that his sons have had some of the same materials four years in a row in certain curriculums. He asked that the district focus on this concern. Mr. Adams explained the curriculum cycle and how grade levels in the same department are required to hold those types of discussions during that process.
- Mrs. Salsman explained that her granddaughter had turned in her paper for her senior project in January and had not yet received a graded paper back. All three board members present shared their own information on senior projects from personal experience. Mrs. Salsman questioned whether the students have mentors and again the board members present affirmed that students did in fact have mentor teachers to help them with the process.
- Mrs. Shelp raised a concern regarding the varying temperatures in the class rooms at the high school explaining that some rooms are freezing while others are hot. Mr. Tripp explained that rooms are logged when there are concerns raised and the problem is addressed through the energy manager. Mr. Tripp also explained that the vents at the high school have been a concern of the Energy Ad Hoc Committee as well and a plan is being developed that will

recommend to the Board a process for renovating and updating those univents. Mr. Jordan asked if economic stimulus money has been earmarked for renovations such as this and, yes, certain amounts of stimulus money have been targeted for building upgrades. A discussion was also held regarding the regulation of the parking lot lights in the evening. **Mr. Ognosky has discussed this recently with Mr. Clapper, Director of Buildings and Grounds, in order to provide security lighting in the evening around the buildings.**

- Members present raised a concern regarding the updating of the information in the MMS system by teachers. A number of teachers are not updating their grading information in a timely fashion. This concern will be addressed with Mr. Tallarico. Also, Mr. Jordan complemented Mr. Tallarico on the great job he has done addressing the issues in the Latin classes.
- Mr. Shelp explained that the Montrose students involved in the Choconut Valley CYO program continually received high praise for their deportment as other teams in the league continually commented on how well behaved the students were and how fantastic the parent support for their efforts was.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> (please not it is a Wednesday, not a Thursday) in the Faculty Room of the Choconut Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.**

Submitted by *Mike Ognosky* – *with a big thank you to Mr. Adams for supplying the information and attending the meeting.*