

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**CHOCONUT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACULTY ROOM**  
**MEETING DATE NOVEMBER 24, 2009 7:00 P.M.**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**24 NOVEMBER 2009**

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Richard Jordan, Diana Bean and Jim Shelp

Board Members Present: Mary Homan and Chris Caterson

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky and Betsy O'Malley

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

**Items Discussed:**

I. Mike Ognosky took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above. He also welcomed Diana Bean to the Community Advisory Committee.

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

- **Concerns from the October Meeting:** Mike Ognosky reviewed the minutes of the October meeting and the concerns that were brought to the administration and board on that evening. He commented that a "walker" path for evening hours has been mapped in the high school and will be well lighted for the winter months. He also addressed the concern regarding the benches in the boys' team locker room and explained that Mr. Clapper has already attempted two remedies that have not been successful. Mr. Clapper will now research alternative pedestals for the benches that will enable the screws that hold them in place to be drilled down, rather than up, and eliminate the protruding segment of the screws as currently exists. The plan is to schedule that over the Christmas holidays. Mr. Jordan asked if Mr. Tallarico has worked on the communication process of distributing guidance information out to the students. Mr. Ognosky commented that there is currently an information piece on the front of the web page regarding "Financial Aid Night" in December. Mr. Tallarico will attend the January meeting with an update on a number of items including the Advanced Placement Program and this issue as well.

- **H1N1 Update:** Current information was provided regarding H1N1 news. Mr. Ognosky explained that the district is in line for student vaccinations, but at this time we don't know when, how much or what type. We do have a communication plan in place to get that word out to parents when it is received within 48 hours.

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

- **Presentation by Betsy O'Malley, Food Service Director:** Betsy O'Malley provided an overview of the Montrose Area School District Food Service Department. Information presented included the role of the Federal Government in providing food as well as meal requirements that must be included in each meal in order for the district to qualify for reimbursable meals. Our Food Service Department is financially self-sufficient and must pay for all supplies, salaries and benefits for employees, and food from their own budget. She also outlined how the "free and reduced" lunch program operates and how students qualify for the program. Currently, approximately 45 % of our elementary students and 28 % of our High School students participate in the program. It is important to the district that all qualified students enroll as many grant opportunities from the federal government are dependent on your free and reduced lunch number as a qualifier. We have attempted many avenues of communication in order to increase our High School enrollment figures and have met with limited success. Following a lengthy discussion, members present suggested that the District utilize the "Pennysaver" as a means of additional communication and the emphasis be placed on how the District and the taxpayers would benefit from the identification of more students as qualifiers for the program. Ms. O'Malley also discussed a number of other issues and questions during the presentation. In response to a question regarding the comparative size of portions for lunch for elementary and high school students, Ms. O'Malley responded that at both schools the meat selection portion is the same size at both levels, but at the high school the serving size of the complimentary items such as vegetables, salads, etc. is much greater as students are allowed to serve themselves. In response to the increased cost of the purchase of a second lunch on the same day, Ms. O'Malley explained that the government will only reimburse for the cost of one lunch per student per day so she can offer the first lunch to students at a lower cost, the second lunch is then a higher cost that more accurately reflects the actual cost of the meal. She also explained that the District closely follows the recommendations of the Federal Government in regard to healthy meal offerings and that has affected such practices as the offering of certain types of desserts, limiting the sale of ice cream, etc. Ms. O'Malley presented each person present with a packet of information that is included with the minutes in an accompanying file.

IV. Open Forum: Items of discussion during the open forum included the following:

- Jim Shelp asked a question regarding the sales procedures for Booster Clubs as they relate to the Food Service presentation on healthy food choices. Mr. Ognosky explained that Booster Clubs are allowed to continue with the sale of their traditional favorites such as Gertrude Hawks' candy, etc. as long as the product is not distributed during the school day.
- Richard Jordan asked if the District had received the payment of funds from Cabot for the High School lease. Mr. Caterson responded that we have not yet received those funds and that the lease called for payment within 90 days from the signing of the lease. There were some housekeeping delays in the final signing of the lease that delayed the process by about a week so the 90 day period extends into January. Mr. Jordan then asked how the District plans to spend the lease money when it is received and Mr. Caterson responded that the Board has discussed some potential uses, but for now the money (when received) will be placed in our INVEST account with the state. Mr. Jordan suggested the District consider placing the funds in the Community Foundation as they may be able to provide a better rate of investment than that which is currently available to the District.
- Mr. Ognosky explained that the District received a request this week for the conducting of seismic testing on the acreage at Choconut Valley. Mr. Jordan suggested that the District request that the work be conducted with foot traffic only (no vehicles on the grounds) and that it be limited to the utilization of 'receivers' only, rather than providing permission to set of charges on school grounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Community Learning Center of the Junior-Senior High School at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Tallarico will be our featured presenter and he will be addressing potential changes in the Advanced Placement Curriculum as well as providing an update on Guidance.**

Submitted by

*Mike Ognosky*