

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)
MEETING MINUTES
Highgate School Library
September 17, 2019
6:30 PM

Present: Board members: Board Chairperson, Chris Shepard (Highgate), Vice Chair, Don Collins (Swanton), Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk, (Swanton), Steve Scott (Highgate), Eric Beauregard, (Franklin), Peter Magnant (Franklin)

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Dena St. Amour, Principal of Swanton, Jay Hartman, Principal of MVU, Chris Palmer, Assistant Principal of Highgate, Justina Jennett, Assistant Principal of Swanton
Community Members: Connie Beyor, Channel 15/16 Cameraperson and Tamara J. Kelley, School Board Secretary Sub

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Agenda Amendments- School choice was brought up due to it not being on the agenda. Julie Regimbal stated that the Admin team was able to take a look at it last Thursday and will put something together to bring to the board in October.

Correspondence and Public Comments- Connie Beyor spoke about VSBA and that she feels their services are extremely valuable and that the board hasn't had the opportunity to see exactly what VSBA can offer for support. She may not always agree with VSBA, but they have a lot of resources, especially with the Act 46 merger, negotiations, access to data, superintendent searches and VSBA offers conferences and workshops. In her opinion the VSBA is very important and she thinks the board she be a member.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes- The September 3rd minutes were tabled until the October 1st, 2019 board meeting. There were few updates regarding bond language and other topics. Pierrette was not present, so it was decided to table them until she was able to look at them.

Highgate Administrators Report

Chris went over the benefits of the August Parent Conferences, which gives the parents an opportunity to get acquainted with their child's teacher before the school year starts. A 30-minute conference provides ample opportunity for parents and teachers to come away feeling as if they've made a connection. Mr. Palmer also wanted to hit on the importance of the home-school communication platform, SeeSaw and what a great power tool it was. August conferences provide the best chance of ensuring that the parents are connected. Another highlight was the Restorative Practices that Highgate School has been working on integrating with PBIS to support social, emotional and behavioral growth of their students. Restorative Practices, as practiced in schools, is based on the premise that students will learn more and behave better when they perceive high levels of safety, belonging, respect, and student voice in their learning communities. Highgate teachers and para-educators have received four full days of professional development in Restorative Practices over the past 18 months. Highgate has also received \$15,000 in grant funding to support the work that they are doing to integrate Restorative Practices with PBIS. Highgate was in fact, the only single school awarded the grant funding. They are planning to use the grant funding for imbedded coaching, surveys, SEL curriculum, 1 hour modules on a monthly bases and other programs. The last topic Chris wanted to touch on was ALICE, Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Highgate is two years in to its transition to ALICE school safety protocols. All staff has received training with the ALICE protocols. This summer, each classroom and office space received an enhanced lockdown device for their classroom that can be quickly put into place and taken down. Intercom hubs were installed as well as each classroom having a walkie talkie. There will be a drill in September.

Swanton Administrators Report- Justina talked about the new Swanton Community Playground at the Swanton School, Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that was on Saturday. There was a great turnout, a well received event, with a BBQ. There were lots of volunteers and donations. A special thank you to their visionary, Debbie Winters who took charge of the year and a half fundraising program, as well as Jason Butler, Meaghan Connly, Julie Regimbal and Lora McAllister. Dena wanted to thank Justina Jennett and Jason Butler for all their incredible work on the project all the while maintaining their full-time jobs and personal lives. Thank you to EVERYONE!

New Business- Julie Regimbal talked about the board wanting to get negotiations going and offered to draft a letter on behalf of the board stating that they were ready to open negotiations for professional and support staff. She also wanted to see if everyone was ready to schedule meetings for strategy.

Action: Meaghan Conly made the motion to authorize Julie Regimbal to draft a letter for the board to start negotiations and have the board chair sign. Terri O'Shea seconded the motion. The motion passed 7/0.

Old Business- Julie let the board know that there is an ELL (English Language Learner) teacher whose FTE is .75 that was brought down from an FTE of 1.0 due to the merger. Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union approached asking if MVSD would offer her full time FTE contract and bill them the difference. It's a benefit to MVDS, since they already pay for the insurance. With this offer, MVSD can bill 25% of insurance to FNESU.

Action: Terri O'Shea made the motion to increase the ELL position to an FTE of 1.0, contingent with the contract of 25% with Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union. Peter Magnant seconded the motion. The motion passed 7/0.

Discussion about being fully staffed, and the Ag Department position. Very hard to find candidates to full the position. The programs with the lowest enrollment have been dropped. There is no Mechanics 2 but everyone that had been enrolled will be eligible next year if the position is filled. There has been an ad since March, and the posting will stay open, hoping to fill the position.

Lease on Robin Hood Drive, Julie is waiting for the landlord to drop the written lease off and she will bring it to the board. They have met and have a verbal agreement. Should be a 3-5 year lease with options in the third year.

Financial Report- Lora McAllister handed out the first MVDS financial report, which is a work in progress. There is a new chart of accounts, a new budget, merging of \$37 million dollars etc. Also, Lora wanted to let the board know that is now a different format then everyone is used to seeing at the local levels. The revenue report is first, followed by the expenditure report. The account codes are now broken down by funds. Lora was able to walk to board through the new set up with the new column headings, setup and descriptions. Everything is going okay, things are being tracked by location.

Terri O'Shea mentioned she would like an Admin Report with updates. Julie said they now have a full Admin team meet and work together twice a month. They are working on a 5 year plan, and there is a lot of working being done amongst the team.

Superintendent's Updates- Julie mentioned there is a fall conference, November 7 & 8, 2019 with VSBA. There is also an opportunity to vote on resolutions, which are supposed to provide direction to the staff on positions taken with legislation. Julie has reached out to the Vermont Alliance of School Boards. She has an email, she will share, the gist of the email is that they have focused on litigation more than becoming an organization and supporting schools. They want to be an organization, but they aren't there yet, they have bylaws but no services.

Upcoming Events

Spirit Week for the Highschool, Homecoming on Friday with a parade through Swanton @ 6:00, Dance followed by Fireworks @ 9:00
1:15 Induction Ceremony to the Hall of Fame
September 28th, Powder Puff.

BOARD TOUR OF THE HIGHGATE FACILITY

***Note** Highgate School closes the school on Election day, due the set up for the gymnasium and the public vs. students.

Don Collins wanted to add that he would like to suggest inviting all the maintenance people in to hear what they are planning in the next 3 years so everyone is on the same page with their facilities.

Next Meeting Date

The board's next meeting is on October 1st @ 6:30 at MVU.

Adjournment

Action: *Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Eric Beaugard to adjourn at 8:45pm.
The board approved 7-0 vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Tamara J Kelley, School Board Secretary Substitute