

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD (MVSD)

MEETING MINUTES

HIGHGATE SCHOOL LIBRARY

January 16, 2020

6:30 PM

Present: Board members:

Board Vice Chair, Don Collins (Swanton), Steve Scott, Highgate, Jen Chevalier (Highgate), Devin Bachelder (Franklin), Peter Magnant (Franklin), Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Absent from the meeting: Meaghan Conly, (Swanton), Eric Beauregard, (Franklin), Chris Shepard (Highgate)

Others Present Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary, Northwest Access Cameraperson, and Ty Choiniere attended from the community.

Call the Meeting to Order Don Collins called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Public Comments

Ty Choiniere requested that the school district puts on their website information about running for the school board. He asked about the board agenda on the website. Pierrette Bouchard responded that it is on the website under school board information.

Budget Discussion

Lora McAllister handed out Draft 2 of the FY21 MVSD School Budget. She explained the revisions made based on the board's recommendation at their last budget meeting. She moved all transportation, technology expenses, under their respective categories. She has all behavior management personnel and accompanying expenses under a Behavior Management category. Two Technology Integrationist positions that were not filled were eliminated. Travel and mileage as is related to professional development was moved to that category. The internet and telephone expenses as related to office expenses were moved to the principals' office. There has been an increase to student tuition for off site placements. Devin Bachelder requested that an FTE count for staffing by school would be good information for the community. Terri O'Shea suggested ratios instead of FTE. Julie Regimbal responded that ratios can be misleading because they do not take into account contracted services that some schools have and other variations that may be in the different schools. Ty Choiniere inquired about when would the public know what the staff numbers are and what has been eliminated. Julie explained that they intend to eliminate positions mostly through attrition, however, until the individual has resigned or been notified, it can not be announced publicly yet. Lora stated that there has been no changes in Special Education expenses but she have been conservative with items purchased for Special Education that the State is deeming as not reimbursable impacting the revenue. They went over the Plant Expenses where she has adjusted the expenses for wood chips, natural gas, fuel, electricity, water and sewer to more closely reflect the actual expenses. Based on past expenses, they have not budgeted enough to meet the repair and maintenance needs in the buildings. She has added a category for grounds upkeep and maintenance and has only the purchased services for MVU outdoor grounds expense in that line at this time. Don Collins requested that the business office provide the board with more detail on the repair & maintenance expenses in preparation for the budget informational meeting to the community. She has moved the inter-scholastics transportation as well as general education students' outside placements and homeless transportation so that it is all under Pupil Transportation category. Peter Magnant asked about elementary/high school

coaches being paid for other schools and covering this expense for Franklin. Julie responded that they felt that the fair way is that an amount will be calculated per student and then it could be invoiced to MVSD so that Franklin will benefit like the other schools for athletics expenses. Eric Beaugard inquired about the second Drivers' Ed teacher and the vehicle. The district did not fill this position and has eliminated it from the budget. The car already belongs to the district so it was re-purposed to transport special education students as part of their plan. This was more cost effective than contracting the transportation.

Lora McAllister went over the estimated tax rate calculation explaining the factors affecting the rate. The proposed expenses, projected revenues (still not final at this time), result in \$28,785,761 net spending. The equalized pupil went up 2.32 resulting in an estimated spending of \$15,648 per equalized pupil which is far below the state average of \$17,138. The state property yield went up to \$10,883 (an increase of \$235) which before the CLA results in a .01 tax rate increase. The CLA went down 4.23% in Franklin, 3.38% in Highgate and 2.05% in Swanton impacting the tax rate .

Warning Review

The board received a draft copy of the warning that should be approved at their next meeting on January 21st. Lora McAllister said that MVSD will be printing their own annual reports much like we did for MVU and they will send out postcards to all the residents letting them know when the MVSD District's annual report book will be available to the residents. The budget informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 7pm at MVU School Library. There will be a recording of the budget presentation on February 7th at the Northwest Access building studio at 2 PM. Julie explained that Highgate and Franklin will have a question and answer before the town meetings held in the individual towns. Swanton has not responded yet as whether or not they would like us to do the same before their town budget informational meeting.

Anticipated Executive Session

Action: *Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to enter executive session for negotiations and contracts inviting Julie Regimbal and Lora McAllister at 8:05 PM. The board unanimously approved the motion.*

The board exited executive session at _____

Adjournment

Action: _____ moved, seconded by _____ to adjourn at _____ pm. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary