

**MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)
MEETING MINUTES
FRANKLIN SCHOOL CAFETERIA
December 3, 2019
6:30 PM**

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

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Dena St. Amour, Principal of Swanton, Jay Hartman, Principal of Joyce Hakey, Principal of Franklin, Patrick Hartnett, Principal of Highgate, Jennifer McConnell, Music Teacher and music students with their parents, Bridgette Denault, Stephanie Ho and Dawn Fournier from the Franklin Recreation Program, Channel 15/16 Cameraperson and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Agenda Amendments- None

Correspondence and Public Comments

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Action: *Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Steve Scott to approve the November 5th, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on a 7-0-1 vote.*

Presentation Information

Franklin Central School Presentation

Joyce Hakey welcomed everyone to the school. She introduced Jen McConnell, as the music teacher at Franklin School, and the students performing in the music program. Jen McConnell led the students in several choral and instrument performances for the school board. Jen McConnell provided an overview of the district wide music curriculum and framework. They have been using the National Core Music Standards. (They left at 7:00pm)

Update from Principals/Administration

Joyce Hakey reported that the Franklin Spelling Team represented the Missisquoi Valley School District incredibly well scoring at 122 with the winning teams tying at 126 each which is a bonus word or two spelling words away from the winning score.

New Business

Franklin Recreation Department

Bridget Denault, Board of Directors Chair of the Franklin Recreation Department, explained that in 2016, they created the Franklin Recreation Department in an effort to collaborate, utilize and discover resources for recreational activities for the children and residents of Franklin. Franklin has no Athletic Director and Dawn Fournier has been hired as the coordinator to fill this need. They have started activities such as "Chase around the Lake" triathlon, the winter carnival, tree lighting and the Polar Express. They work to coordinate programs with Highgate and Swanton. Peter Magnant commended the Franklin Recreation on the outstanding job they have done.

Old Business

Check Warrants

Action: Steve Scott read the MVSD check warrants totaling \$4,680,011.65 for November 2019. They have been reviewed by the finance committee. **Action:** *Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the check warrants totaling \$4,680,011.65. The board approved on an 8-0 vote.* Devin commended the business office in doing such a good job keeping all of this organized.

First Reading Policy In-District Elementary Transfer

Action: *Don Collins moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to accept the first reading of the policy.* Discussion: Peter Magnant asked regarding the younger siblings entering school will be given priority and should it change to any sibling. The board agreed to change this wording. Peter also commented that once accepted students do not need to re-apply for continued enrollment in their school of choice but will need to reapply to go back to their home school. Julie Regimbal explained that this is in the procedure. Julie asked the board if they are interested in a mid-year school choice policy? Would we want this policy available for a mid-year transfer? Patrick Hartnett suggested that he would like to survey parents to see how many would take advantage of it while expressing concerns regarding the impact of class sizes if there is a large number. Peter felt that we should roll out now. Julie will do a survey to see if there is interest in mid-year. The board approved the first reading on 8-0 vote.

Budget Next Steps

Schedule special Meeting

Julie stated that they have a special budget meeting scheduled for December 5h at 6:30pm. They would like to schedule an additional budget meeting. The board scheduled a meeting for December 16th at 6:30pm and January 16th at 6:3pm. Pierrette will try to schedule them to take place at MVU. Peter Magnant suggested that voters are used to seeing the board on town meeting day and wanted the school board to have a time to answer any questions the voters would have. Chris Shepard would like to continue having a budget video presentation like they did last year that will be available on the website and Channel 15/16. Julie will look into the logistics.

Superintendent's Newsletter

Julie Regimbal reported that she attended the annual Vermont School Board and Vermont Superintendent's Conference with Don Collins. Of primary interest was a presentation by Tammy Kolbe on the UVM "Weighing Study" that will be shared with the legislature during the upcoming session. The focus is to reconsider how Vermont's equalized pupils are calculated. This study could substantially change the way we calculate student need.

We are finalizing input by our directors of facilities to help with the data and accuracy around facility maintenance and construction. The current system does not support the maintenance of our buildings.

There was a wonderful flag raising ceremony in each of our elementary schools on November 18th. Jeff Benay introduced tribal elders and discussed the symbolic importance of raising the Abenaki flag at our elementary schools. The Circle of Courage drummers did an amazing job and the students were very respectful at all the ceremonies.

Julie announced a holiday festival will be held at MVU on December 7th from 10 am-4 pm.

There are two Stormwater Projects that the Northwest Regional Planning Commission applied for and received funding from VT DEC on behalf of each school to work through a design process and identify feasible solutions to treat and manage stormwater at the Highgate and the Swanton School. The stormwater system designed for each school is intended to meet the current VT DEC stormwater standards. Swanton's project requires very minimal financial match and it has very little impact on other projects. Swanton will need to apply for a permit and when the money is awarded, it can move forward. Highgate's project impacts the parking lot so there is still some research that needs to be completed and they want to move forward in a way that will be effective.

Future Agenda Items

Truancy, Policies, Negotiations, Budget, Stormwater Design, Northwest Technical Center

Next Meeting Date

The board's next meeting is on December 17th at the Highgate School Library at 6:30pm.

Anticipated Executive Session:

Chris Shepard stated that there is a finding to enter executive session for a contract. Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Eric Beauregard to enter executive session at 8:12pm for contracts and invited Julie Regimbal and Jay Hartman to join them. The board approved 8-0 vote.

The board exited executive session at 8:37pm.

Adjournment

Action: Eric Beauregard made the motion, seconded by Jen Chevalier to adjourn at 8:38pm. The board approved the vote unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary