

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)
MVSD Central Office and Remotely VIA Google Meet
April 7, 2020
6:30 PM

Present: Board members: Board Chairperson, Chris Shepard (Highgate), at MVSD Central Office, Other board members joining the board meeting remotely: Vice Chair Devin Bachelder, (Franklin), Don Collins (Swanton), Steve Scott (Highgate), Peter Magnant (Franklin), Joanne Johnston, (Franklin), (Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly (Swanton) and Jen Chevalier (Highgate)

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools at MVSD Central Office. Others joining remotely: Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Jen Desorgher, MVSD Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Jay Hartman, MVU Principal, and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Agenda Review-

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Action: Terri O'Shea *moved, seconded by Don Collins to approve the March 17th, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on an 9-0 vote.*

Presentations

MVU Administrative Updates

Julie reported that the administrators have reported in writing to the board.

Superintendent's Updates

Food Service Updates

Julie Regimbal submitted a written report to the board. The food service site at MVU is the biggest site in the State of Vermont. Franklin is excited about making food in their location. It is impacting everyone, and they are proud that the team is working together to make this happen. Everyone is on board to deliver food over April break.

Distance Learning

As regional Superintendents, we are keenly aware of the challenges facing our families and community members. We submitted a letter to the newspaper editorials outlining the work that is being done by our school staff. A crisis such as this one impacts the whole community and shows how interconnected and

dependent we are on one another. Our teachers and staff are so important in the lives of our communities' children and their families. This extended closure of school has clearly demonstrated this dedication. We are immensely grateful to our entire school staff for their tremendous efforts, generosity and kindness to our students.

Grades K-12 educators are collaborating and planning on continuous learning. The elementary and high schools are aligning, and the plan is going to the State tomorrow. The Math and Literacy teams are meeting with Kosha Patel (Director of Curriculum) to prioritize learning for the remainder of the year. The second big task was to determine how we would provide learning remotely for students with Internet access and for those without. Meaghan Conley asked about the progression of grades and online learning. Julie responded that they have had no conversations about grade progression, and they are shifting on what do they want the kids to focus on. They do not want to overwhelm parents with this added learning at home along with parents' work. Joanne Johnston asked about summer school. At this time, Jen Desorgher stated that they are planning to proceed with summer school like they normally do. Chris Shepard asked about student access to the internet at home. Julie replied that they are surveying parents and are keeping in touch with families to make sure that they are ok.

Childcare

Julie Regimbal reported that they put together a classroom in Swanton for childcare with very few students attending. The last day of childcare was last Friday. Wendy Cunningham made arrangements for them to attend a childcare center nearby. Everybody has been working in their area and doing a great job.

Julie explained that everyone has been doing maintenance of effort learning activities for students and making sure everyone has access to technology prior to moving on to continuous learning. They will begin online learning after spring vacation.

New Business

Facility Plan Update

I and II. Overview of Process and Prioritized Project

Lora McAllister developed a spreadsheet for the board to review divided up in columns. The columns are divided by the annual Repair/Maintenance cycle column along with an estimated, FY 21 Short Term Capital Estimates, 1-5 Year Capital Project Consideration Estimates, 5-10 Year Capital Project Estimates and Other Items for Consideration Estimates, Capital Projects in FY21.

The Columns are broken down by school, they are taking separate plans and streamline them in the categories. They also would to take short term capital maintenance and include them in the repair/maintenance cycle because bonding items could no longer be a viable option. They are working within the

constraints of the budget and prioritize the needs of each school. The items in red are non-negotiable and are top priorities for that school. The following are the top priority in each school: MVU, the kitchen access rear door/window unit and frame and air handler replacement, Swanton-the garage storage upgrade/renovations are a priority, Highgate-the parking lot resurfacing, HVAC Controls, and boiler low water cutoffs, Franklin-HVAC Control System Retrofit and Boiler Valve Shutoffs replacement. Lora explained that she is providing this as informational for the board and stated that they are working together with all the facility directors within the budget and as things come up, shifts may have to be made. These projects will not start until July 1st. They are issuing contracts to vendors contingent upon if the business can come to work as essential workers. Lora is doing the best she can to move forward while protecting the district and the staff. Sometimes the priority changes as other things become more urgent and will re-evaluate as a Facility Director team. Chris Shepard expressed concern on the Stormwater grant that was awarded last week. They will not sign the grant agreement right now. Chris Ruggiano has reviewed the plans that Stormwater put together and they are not confident that this is the best plan. They are concerned that the water chambers are not large enough and may not be able to absorb a large water event. They have talked with the Stormwater Representatives and have not received a straight answer. They may have to postpone the parking lot until next year and may have to re-evaluate if they can't get the grant due to COVID 19. Chris Shepard thanked Lora for all her work.

Finance Committee

Old Business

Warrants

Steve Scott read the following breakdown of the check warrants for the month of March: Accounts Payable \$748,950.48, Payroll Checks \$60,627.84, Payroll Disbursement \$1,430,881.60, Payroll Deductions \$854,005.30 totaling \$3,094,465.22.

Action: Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the check warrants totaling \$3,094,465.22. The Board voted to approve the motion on a 9-0 vote.

New Teacher Hires

Julie Regimbal has a list of newly hired teachers along with contracts to recommend to the board. Prior to the interview process, the principal/administration must complete a position requisition for her approval and then she has been meeting the final candidate via Google Meet or some other virtual platform as the board has requested. They are recommending Jessica Bourbeau as the Math Coach for Swanton, Veronique Krohn as the Agriculture Teacher at MVU and Mark Stanzione as the MVU Business Teacher. Marcella Daley will be the new first grade teacher and Alex Eskra-St.Louis as the Kindergarten teacher in Swanton. The teacher contracts are due back on

April 17th, and they will then find out who is not returning. Julie has been meeting with the new teachers and most have had a few years of experience as the administration wanted to get going early to get the best pool of candidates that they can.

Other Business

Lora McAllister stated that after the continuity of learning plan is approved, then revised requests for purchases may come in.

Administration Contracts

Julie Regimbal wanted to review the administration contract negotiations and because they are contracts, she believes the board will have a finding to enter executive session.

Executive Session

Don Collins moved, seconded by Steve Scott to enter executive session for administrators' contracts/negotiations and invite Julie Regimbal. The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote to enter at 7:30pm. *Devin Bachelder left the executive session during the negotiations update.* The board exited executive session at 8:09pm.

Future Meeting Dates

The board's next regular meeting is April 7th at the MVU School Library at 6:30pm. The professional negotiations are postponed. They have scheduled a Support Staff Negotiations' session for April 14th at 6:30 PM virtually (The board meets at 5:30 PM in the MVU Conference Room) The April 21st board meeting has been changed to April 16th.

Adjournment

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to adjourn at 8:20 PM. The board approved on an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary