

Missisquoi Valley School District
MVSD Board Meeting Minutes
MVU School Library
February 6, 2024

6:00pm

Location: The MVSD Board and Administration participated at the MVU School Library for this meeting. The meeting was held hybrid with remote access for the community and other interested persons

Date: February 6, 2024

Board Members

Jen Chevalier, Chair, Devin Bachelder, Don Collins, Tobias Maguire and Peter Magnant, Kelly Badeau, Joanne Johnston, Meaghan Conly and Renick Darnell-Martin (*arrived at 6:17pm*).

Absent from the Board Meeting: None

Administration and Visitors Present

Lora McAllister, MVSD Business Manager, Tania Hayes, Director of Student Services, MVU Principals Dan Palmer and Christie Martin. Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary, Steve Messier, J R Cox, Philip Bauchan, Myriam Bouti, Director of MVU Musical and MVU Students. Participating remotely: Julie Regimbal, MVSD Superintendent of Schools, Wendy Cunningham and Tania Hayes, Co-Directors of Student Services Programs, Kosha Patel, Director of Curriculum, Beth Ann Miller, Director of After School Program.

Call the Meeting to Order

Jen Chevalier called the business meeting to order at 6:12PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence, Visitors and Public Comments

Agenda Review – Julie Regimbal stated that they sent out a revised agenda removing the stormwater contract and adding the special board meeting Jan 29th minutes.

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Approval of the Minutes

Jen Chevalier sought approval for the January 23, 2024 and the January 29th minutes. *Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the January 23, 2024 minutes. The board voted 8-0 to approve the minutes. Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the January 29th, 2024 minutes. The board voted 8-0 to approve the minutes.*

Administration Reports

Christine Martin clarified that the middle school teams announce who is on the honor roll and will do a posting on social media. Dan Palmer explained that personal finance day includes inviting local business leaders to answer questions and speak to students. They will talk about how to get a car loan and other loans. They will interview students and students will have an opportunity to interview the business leaders. Dan added that they have 11 students at MVU in the Building Trades I. They have helped to build a wall in the library. They are planning to help build a softball shed and a lean to as well.

Jen Chevalier congratulated Tania Hayes on the receipt of the Unsung Heroes 2024 Mental Health Advocacy Award from Vermont Care Partners. Julie reported that the legislators are looking at switching the 5% cap to a targeted cent off incentive. The law is targeted for larger districts who have lost tax capacity. They are considering a yield of 9700 which will benefit our district.

[MVU Administration Reports](#)

[MVSD Administrator Reports](#)

Presentation and Discussion Items

MVU Musical Update (Myriam Bouti and Students)

Myriam Bouti, Director of the MVU Musical, provided an update on the MVU Musical. MVU is doing Footloose in April. They have been rehearsing since January and have approximately 30 cast members, 8-10 stage members, and 6 kids in the booth. Danielle Turner works with the vocal music students while Aaron Garceau directs the band. Parent Volunteers help with choreography, fundraising, preparing stage props and scenes etc. They are planning a trip to New York City in April for three days with a planned walking tour of Times square, a musical theater workshop, seeing a musical, trip to Ellis Island etc. Three students participating in the musical explained their roles and the opportunities that the musical has provided for them. *(Myriam and students left @ 6:45pm)*

Behavioral Update Steve Messier

Steve Messier provided behavior data for grades 7-12. They have a social, emotional and behavior leadership team. They differentiate between behavior that is managed in the classroom and teacher focused and when the office personnel behavior staff gets involved. Major Behavior Referrals are entered into PowerSchool and then exported into Edu Climber. This allows necessary information to be tracked and included into end of year state-level reports via Power-school. All conduct resulting in in-school or out-of-school suspension, hazing/harassment/bullying, or alcohol or drug issues are included in the end of year report to the AOE. Minor referrals are entered directly in Edu-Climber and allow school staff to include discipline information and reports for team and parent meetings. He went over behavior response protocols and options. He compared 2022-2023 behavior data with 2023-2024 data thus far. Inappropriate language is trending downward and Incidents of physical aggression are on the decline. Over the course of the last several years MVSD has invested a great deal of time and resources towards our school's Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). This work, focused both on enhancing our adult skills as well as those of our students, is beginning to yield positive

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results. These outcomes are not only seen through a reduction of behavioral incidents, but also through student reports and self-assessment surveys. In concert with that work, MVSD's two new SEL Coordinators have had an incredible positive impact. Their proactive work and focus on relationships and skill- building with students has allowed students greater opportunities to work through various challenges and struggles. *(Steve left @ 7:25pm)*

Budget Promotion Discussion

Julie Regimbal reported that she went to a Swanton and Highgate PTO meeting. She provided information on the impact of the budget on the individual schools. They provided the one-page highlights of the budget prepared by J R Cox. Lora stated that they should have the annual report back the third week of February, and will put information in the newspaper, preparing mini videos, yard signs, and release of updated facility videos. They will have videos divided up in the three pillars of budget priorities, student success and facilities. They report that they are investing in instruction, new curriculum such as math and literacy, and retention of quality educational staff. JR has been placing on social media such positive things such as the cheerleaders getting first place. They will send out a flier to everyone in the community summarizing student success, the tax impact, the CLA and the Tax Rate. Meaghan Conly suggested that different information should be prepared for community members who do not have students in the system. When the school is successful, then the community attracts more families and taxpayers thereby expanding the tax capacity resulting in a reduction of taxes. Julie Regimbal stated that improved student outcomes and well-kept facilities increases the ranking of our schools and everyone benefits from a strong school system. Don Collins stated that we should encourage people to vote and exercise early voting. He stated that the legislators have dedicated funds based on income-based property tax relief and a lot of people qualify for this reduction on their taxes. Julie stated that the tax rate is lower than before the Covid Tax rate. The tax rate is close to being flat with the majority of the tax increase being a result of the CLA in each town. The videos are important for that messaging. Lora stated that they are getting out more communication to the towns and using their sites to provide information. They leave one-page fliers in the stores and libraries in each town. Devin will get together with Joanne, Meaghan and Jen to put together videos for the budget information night. The annual report will be on the website along with the budget.

Policy Adoption

F26 Security Cameras 1st Reading

Julie reported that the VSBA has updated the security camera policy and because we are putting them in the schools, we should adopt the recommended policies. Tonight is the first reading and then it will need to be warned for ten days and the board could vote on it at the next school board meeting.

Ag Advisory Committee Approval

Dan reported that MVU is revamping the Ag Advisory Committee to more diverse professions that directly or indirectly involve Agriculture. They want to involve industry experts in mechanics, animal science and horticulture. They invited local experts to join them at their next advisory committee. They would like to ask these experts to review the curriculum and what would they like MVU kids to know if they were to work in this field. Although it is not necessary, Julie thought that they would like the board to authorize the committee due to these changes.

Joanne Johnston moved, seconded by Don Collins to approve the Ag Advisory Committee. The board approved on a motion of 9-0 vote.

To view the full discussions and presentations, please follow the video link below:

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Warrants

Check Warrants

Renick Darnell-Martin read the check warrants as follows:

Accounts Payable:	\$	2,511,415.22
Payroll-Checks:	\$	44,239.61
Payroll and Other Disbursements:	\$	1,713,698.71
Payroll Deductions	\$	511,579.46
Total	\$	4,780,933.00

Renick Darnell-Martin moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the check warrants totaling \$4,780,933.00. The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote.

Financial Report

Lora reported that the Special Education Reimbursement creates a lot of the surplus that is being anticipated. There have been conversations about possible changes that may decrease the reimbursements, so this may impact the surplus.

Renick Darnell-Martin moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to accept the financial report. The board approved on a 9-0 vote.

Theater Seating Contract

Lora stated that they have received a quote of \$161,434 for 605 theater seats from Robert Lord.com. This quote does not include the removal of the existing seats. The maintenance staff will be removing them from the theater. The funding is coming from ESSER indirect funds.

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin moved to approve the contract of \$161,434 for 605 theater seats. The board approved on a 9-0 vote.

To view the full discussions and presentations, please follow the video link below:

[MVSD Board Meetings on Northwest Access TV](#)

Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items: VTCAP, Teen Leadership, Cyber Security, Stem Fair, Strategic Planning and CIP Planning

Future Meeting Dates and Sites

The next school board meeting will take place on February 20, 2024 in the Franklin School Cafeteria at 6:00pm.

Meeting Adjourn

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote.

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