

**Missisquoi Valley School District Special Board Meeting**  
**MVU School Library**  
**Tuesday May 14, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

**Location:**

The MVSD Board and Administration participated in the Missisquoi Valley Union Middle/High School Library for this meeting. The meeting was held hybrid with remote access for the community and other interested persons.

**Date: May 14, 2024**

**Board Members Present**

Jen Chevalier, Renick Darnell-Martin, Don Collins, Joanne Johnston, Meaghan Conly, Stephanie Gagne, Pierrette Bouchard, Peter Magnant, Elaine Nester (joined in person at 6:35 PM)

**Absent Board Members**

None

**Administration and Visitors Present**

Julie Regimbal, Superintendent, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Bonnie Moulton, Director Human Resources, School Principals Dan Palmer and Christie Martin, Jason Butler, Facilities Director, Beth Ann Miller, After School and Summer Programs Director, Central Office Administrators and staff Kosha Patel, Tania Hayes, Wendy Cunningham, JR Cox participating remotely, Derrick Garceau, Technology Director along with the Northwest Access Cameraperson. Representatives from the Abbey Group and Swanton Selectboard were also present. Additional visitors joined remotely.

**1. Call Meeting to Order (6:00)**

Jen Chevalier, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Correspondence, Visitors, and Public Comments**

None

**3. Agenda Review**

Julie Regimbal informed the board that there is a two-minute video provided by Richard Ballard highlighting the Stem Fair participants that will play following the administrative reports.

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**4. Approval of the minutes (Action)**

a. April 23, 2024

A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Don Collins to approve the April 23, 2024 minutes. Motion carried 7-0-1 (Meaghan Conly abstained).

b. Budget Informational Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Stephanie Gagne to approve the Budget Informational Meeting minutes. Motion carried 8-0.

**5. Property Line Adjustment Update and Right of Way Request: Swanton Selectboard: (Action)**

Swanton Selectboard members (Earl Fournier and Joel Clark) presented information on land redistribution of a parcel of property owned by the town of Swanton that abuts MVU property and Brian Rowell's property. They are asking the board to make a motion to move forward in the planning stages and agreement in principle and for the school district to share in legal and surveying costs. The board shared concerns over right of way and road maintenance. The selectboard indicated that those concerns could be addressed in the final contracts.

A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Don Collins authorizing the superintendent and administration to move forward with a proposal letter of agreement based on the math and the survey with the intent to share the cost of the survey with the town and Mr. Rowell. Motion carried 8-0.

**6. Administrative Reports: District Newsletter, MVU, Stem Fair Video**

a. Jen Chevalier asked for questions or comments on the district newsletter.

Comments on legislative updates, school choice final numbers (elementary students 17 total moving between MVSD schools, 1 – coming into MVU, 9 – attending elsewhere). Kosha Patel discussed district literacy night held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Beth Ann Miller provided updates on summer programming, stating programming can still be offered due to ESSER remaining funds so students still have opportunity, and discussed collaboration with Swanton recreation on other programming.

b. Jen Chevalier asked for questions or comments on the MVU report.

Comments on Facebook sharing of seniors, discussion on senior walk June 12<sup>th</sup>, senior banquet, building trades at MVU continuation, which will not continue as a satellite class at MVU in the 2024-2025 school year.

c. Stem Fair Video

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**7. Discussion Items (Action)**

a. Budget Revote Survey Results

- From finance committee meeting feedback, survey sent out to determine where people are looking for budget cuts. Low interest in cutting instructional programs and special education. Results are mixed in the principals' office and general administration and district services line. Plant operations and capital are not calling for high cuts. Student Support, Student Transportation, and Interscholastic and Athletics had low interest in making cuts.
- The most information is received from emails from the school and Facebook page.
- Voters are most motivated by providing students with quality education.

b. MVSD Revised Budget Proposal and Adoption (Action)

- Visitor, Chevon Cooper, joined remotely to share questions and concerns over the survey and how the grouping occurred. The chart of accounts and the need to have the community understand what falls under those lines was explained. Additional questions regarding district administration, health insurance guidelines, yield and cost per pupil, and legislative bills on alternative school budgets were also answered.
- Renick Darnell-Martin presented slides for the third budget revote.

The slides highlighted law restrictions. Lora McAllister shared Yield and Revenue Considerations. Budget considerations and proposed scenarios were shared and discussed. The \$835,000 reduction breakdown was explained. Discussion ensued on cuts versus increases and explanations on the needs that drove adding increases back in. The impact to the tax rate with new yield was discussed, increase after CLA 6, 13, 16 cents (Highgate, Swanton, Franklin) which is a decrease from vote 2 of 11, 18, 22 cents (Highgate, Swanton, Franklin).

- Don Collins raised questions about special education change and indicated he believed this action could create confusion.
- A motion was made by Renick Darnell-Martin, seconded by Meaghan Conly to adopt the revised budget of \$48,909,437. Motion carried 9-0.

c. Budget Warning (Action)

The budget information meeting was discussed and will be held on Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> in the MVU Library. The third budget revote was discussed and will take place on Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Julie Regimbal read the Revised Budget Warning.

A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Elaine Nester to approve the Budget Warning as read. Motion carried 9-0.

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d. Budget information/promotion (Discussion)

The board discussed mailing all voters absentee ballots, it is the board consensus of in person voting and absentee ballots as town rules apply. The board discussed budget promotion and will plan for Swanton board members to do a Saturday morning info session. A Q & A will be developed in 'layman's terms', not school language and with explanation of specific line-item changes (cuts and increases). The Swanton selectboard offered an invitation to come to a meeting, Stephanie Gagne has offered to go. Renick Darnell-Martin will plan to attend a Highgate selectboard meeting. Jen Chevalier and Renick Darnell-Martin will prepare a short presentation for the informational meeting.

**8. Policy Adoption (Action)**

a. [F37 Investments and Borrowing](#)

A motion was made by Don Collins, seconded by Meaghan Conly to adopt the policy as written. Motion carried 9-0.

**9. Business Office (Action)**

a. [Warrants](#) (Action)

Renick Darnell-Martin read warrants for a total of \$3,673,939.05. A motion was made by Jen Chevalier, second by Pierrette Bouchard to approve warrants as read. Motion carried 9-0.

b. [Food Service Management Contract Award](#) (Action)

Lora McAllister explained the RFP process for food service and notes the Abbey Group is the recommendation for the bid, total bid price 1.4 million. A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Elaine Nester to award the Abbey Group the Food Service Management Contract. Motion carried 9-0.

c. [MVSD FY24 Surplus Capital Facility Task Force Proposals](#) (Action)

A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Stephanie Gagne, to use \$655,027 of surplus for recommended projects (as indicated in proposals). Motion carried 9-0.

**10. New Professional Hires (Action)**

Julie Regimbal presented nine new professional hires. A motion was made by Jen Chevalier, seconded by Don Collins, to approve new teacher hires. Motion carried 9-0.

**11. Request for continued enrollment (Action)**

Julie Regimbal referenced a parent letter requesting a student enrollment through the school year-end. Motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Meaghan Conly, to approve continued enrollment. Motion carried 9-0.

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**12. Future Agenda Items:** Guidance End of Year Data, Continuous Improvement Plan, Wellness Policy

**13. Future Board Meeting:**

- a. MVSD Board Meeting Tuesday May 28 in the Highgate Elementary School Library at 6:00 PM.
- b. Student Success Committee May 29 Central Office Conference Room at 6:00-7:30 PM.

**14. Adjourn Meeting**

A motion was made by Peter Magnant, seconded by Stephanie Gagne to adjourn. Motion carried 9-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.