

# MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)

Remotely VIA Google Meet

May 19, 2020

6:30 PM

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

**Others Joining Remotely:** Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Jay Hartman, MVU Principal, Dan Palmer, MVU Co-Principal, Kosha Patel, Dir of Curriculum, Dena St. Amour, Principal of Swanton, Justina Jennett, Assistant Principal of Swanton, Joyce Hakey, Principal of Franklin and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

**Call the Meeting to Order-** Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

**Agenda Review-**None

**Correspondence**

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the Minutes**

*Action: Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to approve the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on a 9-0 vote.*

**Presentations**

**Administrative Updates**

Dena St. Amour reported that the Central Office and Julie Regimbal have been amazing. We should be proud of our teachers; they are working hard. She thanked Kosha Patel, Director of Curriculum, Swanton Coaches, Joan Lumbra and Deb Boucher, for providing great leadership. Dena is very proud of the teamwork, and of everyone for stepping up. She thanked the board for their support.

Joyce Hakey agreed that Central Office has been very supportive and commended the tech team for their incredible support every day to everybody. Joyce wanted to highlight some things from March and commented on how glad she was that they were able to have Senior Dinner. They had 70 Seniors attending and the grade six class was incredible. She wanted to thank everyone who helped especially Nancy Wilson. The local VFW recognized Heather Digby as the Citizenship Education Teacher of the year at a dinner in Swanton. On the same night, two kids were recognized for the Patriot's Pen Writing Contests. Joyce reported that the first two weeks of remote learning were like the first two weeks of a new school year

except everything needed to be done in a different format. They welcomed phone calls from parents and students and did not want families to have to struggle but preferred that they call. Initially calls were about routines, then about technology and now questions are going deeper about the content of the work. Everyone has established regular communication schedules with all students/parents. We are really thrilled that as time has gone, parents and kids have become more comfortable about accessing the teachers. The teachers have started online videos and conferencing. The teachers are working harder than ever.

Teachers/students/families are all getting settled into routines with "new" learning beginning the week after vacation. Every other Friday, they have curbside pickup for new materials and drop-off completed work. Joyce feels that there has been an amazing amount of teamwork. They are proud of the teachers and staff, the families and the students. She also highlighted the team work with the food preparation, the bus drivers, the people riding the buses, and people preparing the food. She has highlighted the teamwork amongst staff including how to do different things with technology, preparing for Friday night pick-up etc. She was excited about teamwork with parents and kids. Every pick-up has had 80 of the 85 families come on Friday evenings. Joyce said that children do best when there is a true partnership with home and school and that is very much in evidence right now. She is thankful of all the support and proud of everyone. Working together, we will continue to provide the best education we can under these circumstances.

Julie reported that she wanted to highlight the Highgate learning parade. It meant a lot to the kids. The bus company organized the routes by students' homes and about 40 cars with teachers followed the buses.

Peter Magnant noted that he saw Joyce Hakey and the staff working until late on Friday night for the curbside pickup and thought it was amazing dedication.

Julie remarked that she has been incredibly fortunate to work with such dedicated principals who are leading their schools during these tumultuous times along with their staff. Chris Shepard gave Kudos to the entire staff; he is so proud of everyone.

#### **Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP Plan)**

Julie Regimbal stated that every year, the school board must approve the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) plan. She sent it to the board ahead of time so that they have an opportunity to review it prior to this evening. Kosha will present the information to the board.

Kosha Patel reported that they started working on the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) in February, but everything changed with school closure in March. The objective is to review the Continuous Improvement Planning Process, review the CIP for each school and the MVSD District. They need to obtain board approval for

submission to Agency of Education (AOE). Every year the district and each school have to submit the CIP into the AOE.

The CIP planning process includes establishing a team of stakeholders including School Board members, administrators, teachers, parents, students, and community members. These plans are approved and submitted to the AOE in order to guide them in approving the spending of federal grant funds by the district.

Based on data collected through the Data Inventory Tool on a district-level and school-level, goals are established around two broad areas of focus:

Academic Proficiency

Safe and Healthy Schools

The CIP is based on measures- How will we know when a change is an improvement?

MVSD CIP 2020-2021 has the following goals

Goal #1: Academic Proficiency: A majority of students will maintain their achievement in literacy and math as measured by local assessments from the previous year.

Goal #2: Safe, Healthy Schools: 100% of teachers at MVSD will become familiar with the PK-12 SEL competencies in 2020-2021 through professional development to teach their students life skills and resiliency including regulating emotions and behavior related to school and life success.

The Plan also includes:

- Identifying changes, we will make for improvement.
- Measures we will use to determine if the changes resulted in an improvement.

These guide the development of school/district initiatives around student support, professional development, and assessment tools.

Each school has customized their CIP with the following emphasis:

Swanton-trauma informed practices, Highgate-Restorative Circles, Franklin-Executive Functioning, MVU-Literacy, Math, Science, Developmental Designs, Collaborative Problem Solving

The relationship between the CIP and CFP (Consolidated Federal Program) is the CIP is a requirement under the Vermont Education Quality Standards and the CFP is the federal requirement under the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act.)

Our successes and challenges are summarized as:

- Our CIPs help us focus on specific areas of improvement for the year.
- They help us secure funding for the work we need to do.

- They help us pilot new ideas and evaluate their success.
- They build coherence across the district and yet support the work of each individual school.
- We face new challenges this year and will provide our teachers and students the very best tools we can to succeed.

Joyce and Dena explained the focus of their CIP. Peter Magnant asked why we don't set a higher goal. Kosha said originally, they did set a higher goal but now that we went into school closure, and there are no assessments, with some students not having internet access, they needed to make the goal as realistic as possible. There will be a six-month gap with students not being in school when we already see an academic loss during the summer. They do not know how long it will take for students to get back to where they were this fall.

**Action:**

*Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the presented CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan). The board approved 9-0 vote.*

**Superintendent's Updates**

**New Business**

**Graduation**

Julie Regimbal stated that they received guidance on May 8 regarding graduation and the MVU committee made plans based on that guidance. The initial MVU plan was to have people come into the gym one at a time with their family not exceeding ten. She spoke with Secretary French and he said there were too many issues with bringing people in the gym. Since then, new guidance requirements have come out with such things as the following: Vehicles must be spaced a minimum of six (6) feet apart; Attendees, including parents, families and guests must remain in cars; Graduates may, one at a time, leave their vehicle in order to pick up a diploma. The students should wear masks. The diplomas should be in bags, and there should be no physical contact (handshakes, hugs, etc.) between students and platform party. Staff conducting the ceremony should be kept to the minimum number possible, and those individuals should wear masks and observe six-foot distance at all times. It is permissible to have a staff member taking photos or video. Graduates may not line up or otherwise congregate, even if distancing. Students not picking up a diploma should remain in their cars. Jay Hartman reported that the committee met again and are planning on having graduation outside under a tent following the requirements. They are on hold until they hear more expected updates from the Agency of Education. Julie Regimbal felt good that the Administration was trying so hard to do a great, memorable graduation for Seniors who really wanted to go on the stage. They now

think that they will have graduation take over two days in a tent. The Rotary is making a banner for the graduation. Chris Shepard received suggestions from Jay Comings via Terri O'Shea regarding graduation and after reviewing the requirements, most would not be allowed. More information will be coming out of the Governor's Press Conference on Friday. Jen Chevalier asked if the students will be wearing their caps and gowns and can we broadcast? Dan Palmer stated that they intend to stream it through Facebook live and yes they will wear the caps and gowns. They are getting a 40-foot-long tent and on the far side there may be an opportunity for photography. Don Collins was pleased that the administration was working so hard on the approach and hoped that after Friday, it can be finalized. Julie said that Dan French is working with Department of Health safety and health protocols such as taking temperatures etc. Julie said that they have approval to do this outside. Meaghan Conly supports the administration in doing what they can within the parameters that are set. Julie said that they are working within the parameters set by Dept of Health and the Agency of Education.

### Summer

Julie stated that they are still working on summer programming, summer care and childcare requirements. They are being told that prescreening will need to occur with temperature checks, everyone wearing PPE, teacher must wear gloves, eyewear and masks. No commingling of children. The same pod of children must stay together all day with no more than 25 within the pod. The busing transportation seems to be extremely prohibitive. So many questions such as what can we do in person, and what can we do virtually? They will attempt to have in person programming/tutoring for students where remotely is not working out for them. The emphasis is they will prioritize students with the highest needs that need in person help and have to work through having staff provide in person services. They have a lot of hours in planning and still do not have a final plan. Highgate is under construction so cannot use the Highgate campus. There will be likely a hybrid of summer services with some in person services and some provided remotely. Joanne Dandurand asked about some students who are not feeling 100% challenged. Will there be a program available for them? Julie said that there are kids who need more such as camps or social experiences. There may be some online opportunities for extension of learning. They still do not know what Fall will look like. The Superintendents did provide the Agency of Education with timeline questions such as contracts, budgets, summer and what will Fall look like. They have very little control over the timeline, as they are getting guidance from the Health Department and they are not sure at this time. Things could look different if there is a vaccine or treatment. Children will need to be kept 6 feet apart but if someone becomes ill or there is a regional flareup, it could cause schools to close again. Meaghan asked about families that do not want to send their children back. Julie responded that they have an obligation to teach students from age 6 and up so home schooling is an option and if there is a medical reason, then there may be a different option. We don't know if there will be any Fall sports.

## **Other Business**

### **New Hires**

Julie Regimbal has a folder of new hires in the board drive. She is meeting with the new teachers. Swanton has filled their positions except for a long-term one-year substitute in Special Education. There are three special education positions at MVU one math position and a seventh grade Language Arts teacher opening that need to be filled.

### **Support Staff**

Julie would like to talk about the support staff contracts and a side letter regarding issuing support staff contracts.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The next school board meeting has been scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm to be held virtually. The board discussed possibly meeting in person, but they do not have the new guidance yet so will continue with virtual for now.

### **Other Business**

Don Collins asked about getting a financial update at the June meeting. He would like more time on this agenda item to get a bigger view of where we may end up on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Peter Magnant mentioned that the Governor talked about re-voting on the budgets. Chris said there was push back on that as it may even drive up costs. Lora will prepare a report and stated that they may not get the Cares Act funding until next year.

### **Executive Session**

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Don Collins to enter executive session for support staff contracts and side letter and invite Julie Regimbal and Lora McAllister into executive session. The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote to enter executive session at 7:58pm.

The board exited executive session at 8:12pm.

### **Action after Executive Session**

*Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Don Collins that the board chair is authorized to sign the side letter of agreement. Motion carried 9:0*

Terri O'Shea thanked the superintendent and the board chair for all their work during this time.

### **Adjournment**

#### **Action**

*Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to adjourn at 8:15 PM. The board approved on an 9-0 vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary