

**MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)**

**Remotely VIA Google Meet**

**September 1, 2020**

**6:30 PM**

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

**Others Joining Remotely:** Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Dan Palmer, MVU Co-Principal, Jay Hartman, MVU Principal, Jennifer Desorgher, MVU Director of Teaching and Learning, Kosha Patel, MVSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Wendy Cunningham, Director of Early Childhood Programs, Steve Messier, MVU Director of Student Affairs, Lisa Hango, State House of Representative and Community Person, and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary.

**Call the Meeting to Order-** Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**Agenda Review:** No revisions

**Public Comments** None

**Correspondence** None

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the Minutes**

*Action: Steve Scott moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to approve the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on a 9-0 vote.*

**Presentations (Information)**

**Social Emotional Learning Competencies**

Julie Regimbal introduced Steve Messier from MVU Middle/High School who spearheaded the Social, Emotional Learning (SEL) work collaboration with CASEL (the collaborative for academic, social and emotional learning). Steve reported that they needed to develop a comprehensive document for all students and adults to process in order to be successful. There is participation across all of the schools including Pre-K. Every kid and adult should have functioning strategies, ways we want students to feel confident, hopeful, safe, comfortable, happy, relaxed and competent. There are five

domains of SEL: 1) Self Awareness, 2) Self-Management, 3) Relationship skills, 4) Responsible & Ethical Decision Making, and 5) Social Awareness. These domains were used as the over-arching learning goals we want to drive towards. The format of the MVSD Learning Guide starts out with a learning goal, sub goal, and then a benchmark skill. A sub goal is what is most important to learners outlined in the benchmark skills broken down by age bands. They have developed age appropriate age bands broken down by Prek-K, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, Grades 7,8, and 9, Grades 10-11-12 and adult groups.

Steve provided a brief description of the five domains: **Self-Awareness:** The ability to accurately recognize one's emotions and thoughts and their influence on behavior. **Self-Management:** The ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations. **Relationships Skills:** The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. **Social Awareness:** The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to understand social and ethical norms for behavior, and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports. **Responsible and Ethical Decision-Making:** The ability to make constructive and respectful choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on consideration of ethical standards, safety concerns, social norms, the realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and the well-being of self and others. The following are key ingredients of the district wide SEL adoption to take hold and grow roots: Shared vision, Administrative support and guidance, every adult in the building must be doing the work, embed SEL into existing practices and curriculum and for Adult SEL to focus on self-care. So far, the district has done the following: 1) held a district wide key note representative from CASEL, 2) provided all the faculty and staff with a copy of the MVSD SEL Guide and (3) teacher planning time to embed SEL skill development into the existing curriculum. The next steps being planned and recommended are: the faculty should initially focus on SEL, community-building and routines/procedures for 90% of each day and content for 10% during the first one to two weeks. A gradual and continued shift throughout September and October should occur as student needs become evident; asking that every adult in our schools identify one or two specific sub-goals to focus on during the 2020-21 school year. We should continue to provide professional development especially to new staff, continue to use Panorama SEL Universal Screening and survey results to help inform Tier II and III intervention and direct resources as needed as well as create community home partnerships. Julie said that CASEL has our SEL Competency Guide on their website as a model. She said that the process they went through was powerful including a cross section of educators participating.

### **Wall of Honor Update**

Jay Hartman explained to the board that MVU would like to enact a Wall of Honor that would recognize the MVU graduates who have lost their lives serving their country or

their community. The small group which includes alumni, former staff and Jay started meeting in the summer of 2019 and began to contact local individuals and community organizations for financial support in July of this year. Their goal is to complete the financing by the end of 2020 and to follow with a dedication ceremony in early 2021. The wall will be a stainless steel frame containing sixteen 12"x6" removable granite pavers that will be engraved with the name of the honoree, year of birth and death, year of graduation from MVU, and their area of service at the time of their death. He provided examples of a graduate who passed away while serving in the military or while serving their community in the fire department or the rescue squad. At this time, they have only two individuals that they know of that they would honor. They are seeking donations from organizations and individuals and hope to have this completed in 2021. They plan to have news releases throughout schools' websites and social media.

### **New Business**

#### **Task Force Update**

Chris Shepard reported that the facilities task force met last night and discussed how to move forward and how they would like to meet. An issue was discovered in the Highgate white building classroom and will be worked on this week. They will meet in October and find out what the building directors want to put in the budget. They will also discuss how to fund future projects and look into performance contracting as a possible option. They also discussed the HVAC systems in the schools to get them where they need to be. They need to be replaced in lots of the buildings. Peter Magnant said that they were able to get into depth of what is going on in each building. This will help them with communication to the community about individual building needs. Don Collins said that they will be able to look into performance contracting in greater detail. Terri O'Shea said that the board goals and Superintendent job description task force also met last night. They talked about the process and the product. They will work in subgroups with Devin and Joanne working in the turquoise section, Meaghan and Terri working in the Green section and Terri will work with Devin and Julie in the yellow section. They will place their progress in the board drive so other board members can see them and if they have suggestions, they can email them to the task force committee.

#### **Side Letters of Agreement**

##### **Side Letter for VTVLC Teachers**

Julie Regimbal explained that the Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative (VTVLC) online teacher specialist working with VTVLC will need some flexibility in their eight-hour workday. The master agreement currently has the teacher hours set from 7:30am to 3:30pm. The eight online teachers and the coordinators will need to have flexible eight-hour workdays so that they can have reasonable and appropriate accommodations for

MVSD Virtual Academy students and families when providing instruction to students or provide communication with families.

#### **Action**

*Don Collins moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to approve online teacher flexible hour work-day side letter. The Board approved on an 8-0 vote. (Jen Chevalier was temporarily disconnected and not present to vote.)*

#### **Old Business**

##### **Warrants**

Steve Scott read the check warrants as follows: Accounts Payable \$379,470.94, Payroll Checks \$23,880.16, Payroll-Other Disbursements \$1,388,789.61, Payroll Deductions \$451,022.08 totaling \$2,243,162.79.

#### **Action**

*Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the check warrants totaling \$2,243,162.79. The board approved the motion on an 8-0 vote (Jen Chevalier was temporarily disconnected and not present to vote.)*

#### **Other Business**

##### **Leave Request**

Julie Regimbal had a paraeducator leave request, but it had not been placed on the agenda. She will grant a temporary unpaid leave request until the board can address it at the next board meeting.

##### **Superintendent Newsletter**

Julie reported that schools are sharing information with families in a variety of ways; including videos, weekly mailings, orientations and calls to families from teachers. There are several videos available on the website for parents and the community to view. Jennifer Gagne presented the daily home screenings video for parents to use on their child/children prior to sending them to school. going over if they show signs of COVID such as cough, shivers, shortness of breath, etc. and/or a temperature of 100.4 or over, they should not send them to school. The opening guidance has been updated due to a strong healthy start dated August 11th. The teachers and support staff were really pleased with the board's decision to clean the HVAC ductwork in all the schools and purchase the air purifiers and they thank the board profusely. The USDA extended free meals to students until December 31, 2020. They have seen an increase of 23 students enrolled in home study over last year. This change in enrolled pupils is the reason our educational agencies are supporting some legislative action that would "Hold Harmless" our Average Daily Membership numbers from last fiscal year.

Rise VT has awarded local schools the following funding to support the health, physical activity and wellness of students: Franklin Central School \$2,000, Highgate Elementary School \$3,000, MVU Middle and HS \$5,000, and Swanton Elementary School \$6,000.

Additional awards were made to programs at MVU in response to specific requests: MVU Physical Ed. Dept. \$3,600 for a GAGA pit and the MVU Field Studies Program \$5,000 for a canoe trailer. Julie thanked RISE Vermont for their generous donation.

Julie thanked everyone including the Missisquoi Administrators, teachers, staff and parents who worked tirelessly this summer to prepare for return to school in the fall.

Kosha Patel reported that the in-service days went well. They spent half a day with the keynote speaker and then had break-out sessions and worked with the SEL Curriculum Document. On August 20th, Sarah Ward presented her passion, expertise, and resources on executive function skill challenges in children. She talked about how we can support these students by changing the layout of our classrooms, using visuals, and other simple non-verbal techniques. She also spent a lot of time talking about time management and helping students build working memory. The strategies Sarah presented were applicable to classrooms from Pre-K to high school. Many said it was the best training they had received in many years and she will be inviting her back again for a  $\frac{1}{2}$  day follow up in-service training.

Wendy Cunningham stated that Early Childhood had two new teachers join the program. The Early Childhood program staff joined the district wide in-service, and oriented to the re-occupancy plan and began working on their spaces in their own school buildings. The week of August 25th was a time to truly connect as a program. They had time to meet in building-level teams as well as special education teams and look on how the Strong and Healthy Start guidance would look in their classrooms. They began to set up their spaces and work through the day-to-day routines for students and families. Each day they are finding creative solutions to make preschool a safe and exciting place for our youngest learners to be.

### **Legislative Update**

Julie highlighted what the VSA and VSBA are seeking in the mid-session Legislative report. They are requesting a reduction of student days from 175 to 170 student days to make up for the late start. They also want the General Assembly to proceed with its original plan for the 100 million dollars which were set aside for K-12 education. They are also recommending that the legislators establish a one year hold harmless protection against declines in equalized pupils in order to stabilize budget development for FY2022.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The next school board meeting is scheduled for September 15th, 2020 at 6:30pm to be held virtually. Don Collins requested that the auditors come to a board meeting to update the board regarding the audit.

**Adjournment****Action**

Terri O'Shea moved to adjourn, seconded by Peter Magnant. The motion passed 9-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary