

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)
MEETING MINUTES
SWANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
January 21, 2020
6:30 PM

Present: Board members: Board Chairperson, Chris Shepard (Highgate), Vice Chair, Don Collins (Swanton), Steve Scott (Highgate), Jen Chevalier (Highgate), Devin Bachelder (*arrived at 6:50pm*), (Franklin), Peter Magnant (Franklin), Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly, (Swanton) Eric Beauregard, (Franklin)

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Dena St. Amour, Principal of Swanton, Justina Jennett, Assistant Principal of Swanton, Joyce Hakey, Principal of Franklin, Patrick Hartnett, Principal of Highgate, Channel 15/16 Cameraperson and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:43pm.

Agenda Amendments- None

Correspondence and Public Comments Consent Agenda Approval of the Minutes

Action: *Eric Beauregard moved, seconded by Steve Scott to approve the January 2nd, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on an 8-0 vote. Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to approve the January 7th board minutes as presented. The board approved on an 8-0 vote. Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to approve the January 16th board minutes. The board approved a 6-0-3 vote.*

Presentation Information Art Presentation

Dena St. Amour introduced the Swanton Art Teacher, Jenny Jacobsen. She explained how she has really grown the Art Program in Swanton. In Grades 3-6, they do a rotation when they have music twice a week with no art, and the following week, they have art twice a week and no music. They are able to complete more by having the music and art back to back. Jenny Jacobsen explained how proud she is of her students. She sits on the board of the Art Teachers' Association which helps bring professional development to the art teachers in the State of Vermont. She tries to inspire the kids to problem solve and create an expression of themselves. She looks for them to think outside the box. She goes beyond painting and drawing and she has mural painting competitions. She covers many art forms such as making things out of clay, ceramics, fiber arts, and maker space which is the most popular room in the school. She uses Google Maps so that the kids can choose a building in Swanton and build a circuit around the house they made. They paint on floors and walls and sometimes it is messy but they must clean up as part of the process. Dena expressed a strong thank you to the board for supporting these programs for our schools. Terri O'Shea commented that she has always been impressed with the art skills at the high school and after seeing this strong foundation, it is really worth the investment.

Update from Elementary School Principals

Joyce Hakey handed out the school report information to the board last month and sample state assessment questions and she welcomed the board to contact her with any questions/comments they may have. Joyce said since they have been asked to highlight one thing in their reports as the board already has their written reports, she hoped the board would read about all the good things happening since the last meeting including the concert, "hour of code", food shelf donation, and the school's work with the Stern Center. She highlighted the work Franklin had done the previous day for in-service. The work they did on in-service included reviewing their action plan to see what they have already accomplished half way through the year and what they have remaining to do the second half of the year. They also reviewed data from block assessments they had given to look at strengths, needs, and next steps. Joyce feels it's important to look at this data school wide. They also double scored writing pieces and calibrated on their scoring of reading assessments to ensure they are all scoring similarly. Teachers shared their Smart Goals for the second half of the year. They talked about a new tool, like a graphic organizer, for math problem-solving and how it is working in each grade level. They also discussed the implementation of "Number Talks". She is inspired after spending the day with the teachers and excited about the work ahead. She really appreciates the In-Service day time.

Pat Hartnett handed out his principal's report. He reported that they did not have an in-service day yesterday because they have an additional day in August for parent conferences/getting to know the parents. He appreciates that the board allows them to have different in-service days to fulfill their unique needs. Jen Patenaude is coming on January 28th to review the school's existing MTSS structures and practices to consider how to best grow their capacity to meet the needs of all learners. They are using a continuous improvement team which was an overhaul of the educational support team. He thanked Kosha Patel for working with Echo Aquarium to bring a STEM Fair to Highgate School on the same evening of their annual Title I Math and Literacy Night which will be May 7th, 2020. He thanked their talented Special Educator Isaac Ryea, for organizing the Penguin Plunge Team at Highgate. They also raise money for Vermont Special Olympics through their annual Penny War. Krista Tatro organizes the Ski Program allowing the fifth and sixth grade students to travel to Smugglers Notch for the first of four consecutive Thursday downhill skiing days on January 23rd. Thanks to the Highgate PTKO for covering the cost of busing to the mountain. The Sixth-grade class will be travel to the Patrick Gymnasium of the University of Vermont to meet with members of the varsity women's basketball team and attend a UVM women's basketball game on January 29th. Thanks to Krista Tatro, the Highgate Physical Education Teacher, for organizing this opportunity.

New Business Central Office Lease Agreement

Julie Regimbal suggested that this is a contract finding and should be discussed in executive session.

Old Business Budget for Possible Adoption

Lora McAllister handed out Draft 3 of the budget. She tried to put in all the FTEs that the board requested, identified the cell phone stipends. Julie explained that they will support the grade 5 and 6 athletic program in Franklin via a contract. Lora continued to review line items where she made small shifts in the categories such as shifting some support staff from instructional

programs to student management, explaining although the Cat Program is a large expenditure, it is offset with Special Education revenue funding at least for now. They continue to evaluate the costs with the facilities, increased supplies based on actuals and short-term issues. They are starting the process to incorporate some funds for projects in the schools such as asbestos abatement projects, air handlers etc. Unless the board would like to do a separate article, they have begun to put some things that are necessary in the budget. She is trying to right size line items and get the issues handled proactively. There are issues that need to be addressed in each school. Don Collins thinks that this is a good start and hope that we can continue to do this. Lora said that the Building Directors are putting together 3, 5- and 10-year plans. It will be easier to explain to the needs to the voters if there is a plan. She has budgeted enough to address the needs of the buildings for the short term. She referred to the calculation of the tax rate page and went over the breakdown of the changes. The total budget is \$37,906,229 minus the projected revenues for a net education spending of \$28,745,003. The equalized pupil numbers went from 1,843.59 to 1,839.61, with spending per equalized pupil from \$15,233 to \$15,626. The state property yield has increased by \$235 to \$10,883. The equalized tax rate went from FY20 1.431 to FY 21 1.4358. They requested that the approval of the budget be tabled until after executive session due to contracts.

Negotiations Update

Julie Regimbal suggested a finding to discuss this in executive session.

Future Agenda Items

Policies, Negotiations

Julie Regimbal said they will be reviewing the Student Conduct Policy, Facility Use and Enrollment of non-resident pupils

Next Meeting Date

The board's next regular meeting is February 4th at the Missisquoi Valley School Library at 6:30pm. January 28th and February 11th are scheduled for Professional Negotiations at 6:30pm in the MVU School Library. (The board meets at 6 PM in the MVU Conference Room.) They have scheduled a Support Staff Negotiations' session for January 30th at 6:30 PM in the MVU School Library. (The board meets at 6 PM in the MVU Conference Room)

Anticipated Executive Session:

Steve Scott moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to enter executive session for negotiations update and contracts inviting Julie Regimbal and Lora McAllister at 7:55pm. The board approved 9-0. The board exited executive session at 8:43pm.

Action: Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Steve Scott to grant the employee the unpaid medical leave. The board approved 9-0. Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to adopt the FY 21 Budget as presented totaling \$37,906,229. The board approved 9-0 vote.

Chris Shepard read the beginning of the warning with the date of the vote as being March 3rd on Town Meeting Day and the informational meeting on February 25th at MVU at 7pm.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to adopt the warning as presented. (see below). The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote.

**WARNING
ANNUAL MEETING
MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District, consisting of the Towns of Franklin, Highgate and Swanton, are hereby notified and warned to meet to transact the following business by Australian ballot in their respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above referenced towns on March 3, 2020 at the polling places and times hereinafter listed.

ARTICLE I To elect from the legal voters of said District the following officers:

- A. A Moderator for a term of one (1) year,
- B. A Clerk for a term of one (1) year,
- C. A Treasurer for a term of one (1) year,
- D. A MVSD School Director for a term of three (3) years from Franklin,
- E. A MVSD School Director for a term of three (3) years from Highgate,
- F. A MVSD School Director for a term of three (3) years from Swanton.

ARTICLE II Shall the voters authorize the Board of School Directors to make available school facilities and equipment for specified public purposes if those purposes appear to be in the best interest of the residents of the District, due consideration being given to efficient, economical and appropriate use of the facilities and equipment?

ARTICLE III Shall the voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District approve the School Directors to expend \$37,906,229 which is the amount the School Directors have determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,626 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.6% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE IV Shall the voters of the Missisquoi Valley School District authorize the Board of Directors of the said School District to borrow money to pay the current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?

Said persons and voters warned are further notified that voter qualification, registration, absentee voting and voter procedures shall be in accordance with Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17 VSA.

The legal voters of the School District are further notified that an informational meeting will be held at the Missisquoi Valley Union High School on **February 25 at 7:00 p.m.** for the purpose of explaining the budget items to the voters.

POLLING PLACES and TIMES

FRANKLIN—Franklin Elementary School, 15 School Street, Franklin; from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

HIGHGATE—Highgate Elementary School, 219 Gore Road, Highgate Center; from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

SWANTON—Swanton Village Municipal Complex, First & Elm Streets, Swanton; from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

All polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Terri O'Shea thanked the administration, principals, and Central Office for working so hard on the budget. Chris announced after the February 7th video taping of the budget, that the community can see the presentation about mid-February 14th through Northwest Access and under MVSDSchools.org website. The MVSD Annual Report should be available for the community on February 14th. The community is invited to the MVSD Informational Meeting on February 25th at the MVU School Library at 7pm. Terri O'Shea thanked the administration for organizing the dinner and cake board appreciation. Julie Regimbal thanked the board for serving on the board, she recognizes that this is a tremendous commitment and she thanked everyone for their help.

Adjournment

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Steve Scott to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm. The board approved 9-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary