

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)

MEETING MINUTES

SWANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

February 4, 2020

6:30 PM

Present: Board members: Board Chairperson, Chris Shepard (Highgate), Vice Chair, Don Collins arrived at 6:45pm (Swanton), Steve Scott (Highgate), Jen Chevalier (Highgate), Devin Bachelder, (Franklin), Peter Magnant (Franklin), Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly, (Swanton) Eric Beauregard, (Franklin) Absent from the meeting: Terri O'Shea (Swanton)

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Jay Hartman, Principal of MVU, Dan Palmer, Principal of MVU, Robert Gervais, Director of Technology, Kosha Patel, Director of Curriculum, Wendy Cunningham, Director of Early Childhood, Patrick Hartnett, Principal of Highgate, Northwest Access Cameraperson and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Agenda Amendments- None

Correspondence and Public Comments

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Action: *Eric Beauregard moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the January 20th, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on an 7-0 vote. Steve Scott moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the January 21st board minutes as presented. The board approved on an 7-0 vote.*

Presentations:

MVU Administration

Dan Palmer reported that the registration process has begun for the 20-21 school year. Students will be meeting with their guidance counselors and the high school students have visited the elective fair and are reviewing their course options and make selections. During the week of January 14th, instructors from Northwest Technical Center visited the ninth and tenth grade students to share their programs. The STEM Fair was held on January 16th. This year the fair had over 120 students from grades 7-12. Ella Partlow was the top winner at the high school and was interviewed by NBC local news. They held their annual Title I Math and Literacy Night on January 23rd. They had several stations that included high interest texts that were turned into movies, multiple math-based games using regular playing cards and a cooking station which incorporated math and literacy. The faculty and staff took part in their annual end of semester in-service on January 21st. The morning was devoted to teachers' professional goals and then they selected 2-hour professional development sessions including the effects of vaping, tracking student progress, formative assessment, engagement etc. Dan provided an overview of upcoming events including Feb. 21st is History Night, Feb. 10th Middle

School Sports Awards, March 9th High School Sports Award, March 10th Sixth Grade Registration, and March 18th Middle School Concert.

Central Office Administration

Julie Regimbal reported that they are preparing to share information with the community for the budget vote. Kosha Patel reported that they continue to train K-12 math/literacy coaches and interventionists to use a universal screener, Star 360, a computer adaptive assessment that adjusts questions for students based on their pattern of responses. All schools are piloting this program. They are expanding it for math as well as reading and it is aligned with Vermont State Standards. They are continuing the monthly meetings with the Stern Center coaches in Highgate and Franklin. The focus is on teaching early literacy skills which are the foundational skills needed for students to become successful readers. Last year they launched the new teacher evaluation model. The administration has been trained on the online platform. They can look at the data globally and provide professional development around areas of weaknesses. They have provided after school workshops for teachers so that they can understand the model. Kosha and Heidi Mosher have provided the training. They provided consultant Jennifer Patenaude work for a half day with the multi-tiered systems of support in each school on refining and strengthening their Educational Support teams.

Dan Palmer handed out information on the Vermont Youth Project that stems from Icelandic Prevention model. The Vermont Youth Project is a community driven collaborative process designed to embrace youth development at the local level. The project uses the Icelandic Model of Prevention and it is designed to support the great efforts happening in our communities. They have gathered data and a number of our kids are using tobacco, drinking, and using drugs. It looks at the risk factors guiding our local prevention and intervention strategies. The goal is to put our resources together to provide after school and evening activities to keep our kids engaged.

Wendy Cunningham reported that they have provided recent training to ECP faculty and staff in the FLIP IT curriculum for addressing challenging behaviors. They have worked with NCSS to learn about the type of services available to young children and how to access them. Next month they will be going through the registration process for new pre school students and transitioning pre school into kindergarten.

New Business

Highgate Principal Search Update

Julie updated the board on the Highgate Principal Search. They completed a survey of leadership skills that are most important in the next principal with community and staff. They did a virtual site visitation in the finalist candidates' schools and offered the position to a candidate.

Highgate Bond Document Consideration

Lora McAllister reported that the Highgate Bond application has been approved. The board will need to sign commitment and resolution documents along with the loan agreement. The resolution needs to be formally approved.

Action: Don Collins moved, seconded by Steve Scott to adopt the resolution for the Highgate Bond with the Vermont Bond Bank. The board approved the motion 8-0 vote. Lora explained that the funds are being used for capital improvements and these documents have been reviewed by legal counsel.

Old Business

Warrants

Steve Scott expressed his concern on a contract issue regarding a specific vendor. Julie Regimbal explained that NCSS is the designated mental health agency for MVSD school district. They provide a lot of student-based services such as behavior consulting, CAT Programs, and clinician services. They are also the umbrella organization for SOAR Learning services providing therapeutic services for students. These are large cost drivers for individual student needs. There are individual teams making decisions on whether a student needs a higher level of special services especially in the area of mental health and behavioral services. Steve Scott commented that the board wants to watch the purchased services. Don Collins stated it is extremely important to review if our schools can do it as effectively in house instead of tuitioning the student elsewhere. Lora explained that with the holidays in December, some of the accounts payable invoices were paid in January causing a higher accounts payable in this month. Steve Scott read the breakdown of the check warrants for January totaling \$3,434,536.69.

Action: *Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to approve the check warrants totaling \$3,434,536.69 for the month of January. The board approved on an 8-0 vote.*

Central Office Lease Agreement

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

Negotiations Update

Julie Regimbal stated that the attorney has reviewed the lease and made some suggestions. The landlord and Julie will get together prior to the next board meeting to go over the revisions.

Budget Information Next Steps

Julie Regimbal reported that Lora has worked tirelessly with the ballots, post cards, budget informational meeting. The principals have submitted their letters. Devin Bachelder and Chris Shepard will present the budget information at the February 7th taping with Northwest Access at 2pm. This video should be on our website in about a week. There was an issue with our website and Robert Gervais, our technology director, had to put in some malware to repair it. This should help when someone does a search of our website. Lora will prepare one page summaries for the school website.

Other Business

Negotiations Update

Julie Regimbal stated that they have had negotiation sessions with the professional and support staff. The board should have a possible finding for executive session as it falls under premature public knowledge would place the board or other party under a substantial disadvantage.

Public High School Choice Annual Caps

Julie reported that the board should set caps for public high school choice for the number of students who may transfer into our school. If the students are accepted, there is no money transferred to the public school of choice. The student is counted as part of the home school's student daily attendance. School choice applications must be submitted by March 1st deadline.

This public school choice does not include Alburg and Sheldon who pay to tuition their students to their high school choice. Jay Hartman reported that in 2019-20, there are 21 students that left MVU for another high school and 4 attending our school from other public schools. Julie recommended a cap of 20 students being accepted by MVU. Jay Hartman feels that MVU can accommodate this number of students without impacting classrooms and increasing staffing. Don Collins recommended a student cap of 12 with no funding for students and possible impact on sports programs and classrooms. After a short discussion, the board agreed to 12 student cap.

Action: *Don Collins moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to set the high school cap to 12 students coming in to the high school choice program. The board voted 8-0.*

Re-Scheduling March 3, 2020 school board meeting

Julie recommended changing the March 3rd board meeting as it falls on the same evening as Town Meeting and the budget voting. After a short discussion, the board agreed to re-schedule the board meeting to March 5, 2020 at the Highgate Elementary School at 6:30pm.

Future Agenda Items

Policies, Negotiations

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

Future Meeting Dates

The board's next regular meeting is February 18th at the Franklin School Library at 6:30pm. February 6th is 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 March 4th at 6:30 PM in the MVU School Library. (The board meets at 6 PM in the MVU Conference Room)

The MVSD Annual Budget Informational Meeting is scheduled for February 25th at 7pm at the MVU Middle/High school.

Other Business

Peter Magnant inquired about the Elementary School choice that has been approved. Julie stated that they are writing school procedures and preparing an application to give to the Administration team for their review. They will have it on the school website by March 1st. Applications will be due to the MVSD Office by April 1st.

Anticipated Executive Session:

Steve Scott moved, seconded by Eric Beauregard to enter executive session for negotiations update and contracts inviting Julie Regimbal and Lora McAllister at 8:05pm. The board approved 8-0. The board exited executive session at _____

Action:

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary