

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)

MEETING MINUTES

Franklin School Cafeteria

February 18, 2020

6:30 PM

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

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Robert Gervais, Director of Technology, Joyce Hakey, Principal of Franklin, Northwest Access Cameraperson and Tamara J. Kelley, School Board Secretary Substitute

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Agenda Amendments- With the scheduled interviews it was decided to table the SRO discussion and the Central Office Lease Agreement.

Correspondence and Public Comments

Peter Magnant mentioned that in the St. Albans Messenger there was an article about Ruth Bruckner from MVU who won the state championship title for the women's 1500 meter race.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Action: *Eric Beauregard moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the February 4, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on an 7-0-1 vote.*

Presentations:

Annie Wagner and Students

Farm to Table

Annie Wagner and her students gave a wonderful, very thorough presentation on how the Franklin Elementary School's Farm to Table program worked, and handed out squash, chocolate chip muffins they made with squash grown in their garden. The program started 5 years ago and is grant funded. This program helps students understand where food comes from and the value of nutrition and building healthy eating habits. The program focuses on: Education, Gardening and Procurement. The

students took turns talking about how the program works and how important worms are. They are learning to try new foods from using vegetables and fruits grown in the garden and implementing them during snack time in the classrooms as well as in the cafeteria.

Joyce Hakey also wanted to mention how well the fourth graders and the school did with the school-wide walking program. The fourth graders were the "tour guides" and did a terrific presentation that included a slide show featuring information about the state's history and some "fun facts" about Vermont!

Nancy Wilson and Joyce Hakey kicked off the Chess Club for 2020 with almost 30 students from grades 3-6! Open invitation to anyone that wants to and play chess on Monday's from 3:00pm - 4:00pm.

New Business

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Julie Regimbal stated that Chris let her know that the board was looking to add a line to the policy Code C2 that states, A student who represents a substance to be an illegal drug, regulated substance or alcohol shall be found to be in violation of this policy.

Peter Magnant asked where vaping and tabaco fit in, but it was explained that it fits in the general policy.

Financial Report

Lora McAllister

Lora McAllister handed out the financial report and wanted to mention that she is meeting with Administration in every building to look at their current year finances and go over their proposed budget.

There is also a little hiatus, a break in spending for a few weeks. It's not a freeze, just a break in spending to allow the business office to work through some accounting issues with the new chart of accounts and merged budget. The budget is in good shape.

Future Meeting Dates

The board's next regular meeting is March 5, 2020 at the Highgate Elementary School Library at 6:30pm. MVSD Budget Public Informational Meeting is February 25, 2020 at 7pm in the MVU School Library. Support Personnel Negotiations Committee with the Association, March 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the MVU School Library.

Anticipated Executive Session:

Steve Scott moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to enter executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Highgate Principals position, inviting Julie Regimbal.

Discussion:

Devin Bachelder has reservations about holding the interviews tonight, concerned because there was a committee set up to provide the feedback. Devin is concerned that if the board goes into Executive Session and conduct interviews and come out with a decision, that it will short circuit the whole process. There was discussion about violating opening meeting law and no action for anything that wasn't warned. Julie and Chris discussed steps to take given the time frame with the first candidate that was offered the position, declining it. The committee did put forth two other candidates there were both qualified to fill the position of Highgate Elementary School Principal. Chris felt more comfortable interviewing both candidates then just making a decision. There is more to be discussed during executive session.

Amendment to the motion:

To enter executive session to discuss the superintendent's recommendation, and not conduct the interviews. Devin Bachelder, moved, Peter Magnant seconded. The motion failed, 3/5.

Anticipated Executive Session:

Steve Scott moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to enter executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Highgate Principals position, inviting Julie Regimbal. The board approved 6-2. The board exited executive session at 9:25pm.

Adjournment

Devin Bachelder made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jen Chevalier at 9:26pm. The Board approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Tamara J. Kelley, School Board Secretary Substitute