MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD (MVSD)
HIGHGATE SCHOOL LIBRARY
March 5, 2020
6:30 PM

Present: Board members: Board Chairperson, Chris Shepard (Highgate), Vice Chair Devin Bachelder, (Franklin), Don Collins (Swanton), Steve Scott (Highgate), Jen Chevalier (Highgate), Peter Magnant (Franklin), Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly, (Swanton) Joanne Johnston, (Franklin) Absent from the meeting: Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly (Swanton) (Terri and Meaghan were connected electronically to participate in the meeting but unfortunately the connection failed within a few minutes.)

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Jay Hartman, Principal of MVU, Jennifer Desorgher, MVU Director of Teaching and Learning, Wendy Cunningham, Director of Early Childhood, Tania Hayes, Director of Student Services, Patrick Hartnett, Principal of Highgate, Richard Ballard, two MVU students, Northwest Access Cameraperson and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

Call the Meeting to Order- Julie Regimbal called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Agenda Review- Julie Regimbal requested to allow the STEM Fair presentation to be first on the agenda and have the board reorganization after. Don Collins requested to add a debriefing of town meeting day.

MVU Presentation

Richard Ballard, director of the MVU STEM Fair, explained that they held an MVU Stem Fair back in January. He showed a short video of the 2019 MVU Stem Fair with 150 participants. Sixteen students went to the State STEM Fair in March 2019. He introduced Ella Partlow (grade 10) who took first place in the last three years in the MVU STEM Fair. She provided a short presentation on the effectiveness of contact lens solutions. Rich introduced Amelia Partlow in grade 7 who presented on the testing of acidic soil in Swanton, Vermont. Rich is enthusiastic to have 15-20 middle school students participate in the STEM Fair. He will be excited to see how the MVU students perform at the State STEM Fair at the end of March.

Correspondence, Visitors and Public Comments

None

Meeting Organization

Board Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk

Julie Regimbal explained that this is an organization meeting and sought nominations for the board chair. Don Collins moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to nominate Chris Shepard as the board chairperson. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote. Don Collins moved, seconded by Peter Magnant to nominate Devin Bachelder as the vice chair of the board. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote. Steve Scott nominated Meaghan Conly, seconded by Devin Bachelder for board clerk. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Date and Time of Regular Board Meetings

Don Collins moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder moved to stay with the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Jen Chevalier suggested changing the start time of the board meetings to 6:00pm so that they can get done earlier at night. Devin Bachelder and Chris Shepard indicated their preference to keep the meetings at 6:30pm. Don Collins suggested 6:15pm as a compromise. After a short discussion, Don amended his motion. Don Collins amended the motion, seconded by Jen Chevalier to stay with the first and third Tuesday of the month with a start time of 6:00pm. The board voted 5-2 to approve the motion. Peter Magnant expressed concern that if the start time does not work for two board members that we should go back to the 6:30pm time. Terri O'Shea and Meaghan Conly are not present and would like their feedback on whether or not they could make an earlier time. They also thought that perhaps they should finish the 19-20 school year at the 6:30pm time. Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to go back to the 6:30pm time until the full board was present to discuss. The board voted 7-0 to approve the motion.

Board Committee

Finance Committee

Jen Chevalier moved, seconded by Peter Magnant to nominate Devin Bachelder, Meaghan Conly and Steve Scott for the finance committee. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Professional Negotiations Committee

Julie Regimbal noted that Don Collins and Chris Shepard are on the professional negotiations committee. Eric Beauregard was also on it and is no longer on the board. Don Collins suggested that Joanne Johnston could be on the committee as an observer and to learn. Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to nominate Don Collins, Chris Shepard and Joanne Johnston on the professional negotiations committee. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Support Staff Negotiations Committee
Julie reported that Jen Chevalier, Peter Magnant and Terri O'Shea are on the support staff negotiations committee. Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Steve Scott to nominate Jen Chevalier, Peter Magnant and Terri O'Shea for the support staff negotiations committee. The board approved 7-0 vote.

Designation of a Newspaper
Julie Regimbal stated that as part of the boards' annual motions, they should be designating a newspaper that is being used for warnings, board meetings, and notices in addition to posting on the website and face book pages. Steve Scott inquired if there is another newspaper that can be used. Peter suggested using the County Courier in addition to the St. Albans Messenger. Julie Regimbal explained that the St. Albans Messenger is the only regional daily paper and with the County Courier only printing once weekly, it is hard to meet the deadlines necessary to get it in that week's distribution. Also, time sensitive notices may need to be printed sooner than the only day that the Courier prints. Don Collins recommended that the board designates only one newspaper as this could add challenges to printing notices by having two newspapers.

Action: *Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to designate the St. Albans Messenger as the Missisquoi Valley School District newspaper. The board voted 7-0 to approve the motion.*

Approval of the Minutes
Action: Steve Scott *moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the February 18th, 2020 board minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on a 7-0 vote.*

Presentations:
MVU Administration
Jen Desorgher reported that Kathy Pfaendler from Teachers Development Group visited on February 10 and 11th for the second time this year. She worked with our high school math teachers in Math Best Practices. Between her visits, data teams met with her virtually to share their progress, specifically around using worked examples to uncover student thinking and press for mathematical justification. On February 12 and 13, MVU received equity literacy training along with administrators and teachers from Swanton and Sheldon School. This was made possible by a competitive AOE grant. On February 20th, MVU held its annual History Night with eighth grade students and teachers. The eight grade social studies teachers worked for several weeks to help prepare students who presented their projects to their peers, teachers, parents and community members. Jen provided the board with a state assessment calendar with a pilot field PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) testing scheduled for sixty students. They will also conduct the following assessments: VTPEA= VT Physical

Education Assessment (grades 7 and 9) VTSA= VT Science Assessment (grades 8 and 11), SBAC for literacy and math in grades 7, 8 and 9. They have scheduled as 6th grade transition night for parents and current grade 6 students on March 10th starting at 6:30pm in the theater. The evening is dedicated to making the transition from the elementary schools to MVU middle school as smooth as possible for both students and caregivers. They are having their second annual cabaret evening for students who perform selecting their own music. In addition to the aforementioned the following upcoming events are scheduled:
March 9 - High school Sports Awards, March 13 - Mr. Thunderbird 7:00pm in the Trahan Theatre, March 18 - MS Concert 6:30pm, March 27 - Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Highgate School Presentation

Chris Palmer shared the progress they have made in Highate on student behavior. They have different sources of data over the last three years (2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020) cited that demonstrates this improvement. There has been a dramatic decline in time spent out of class especially at the end of last year and this current year. When Chris was hired, this was a goal set for him to improve student behavior and decrease the time spent out of the classroom. The number of referrals to the office has decreased. They would still like to decrease the student suspensions. They credit the success with the hiring of highly skilled people, their partnership with NCSS who provides Highgate with highly trained Behavior Specialist and school based clinicians along with a significant investment of extensive training with the staff. They have also created a school wide response to their behavior policy. Julie Regimbal that the positive student behavior has had an impact on the school climate and she commends Chris Palmer for that change.

Central Office Administration

Julie Regimbal reported that Robert Gervais has made E911 compliance progress. A grant proposal has been sent today. Julie provided an update on the corona virus. If you have travelled to China, Iran, and Italy, you must contact the Department of Health. If a staff member or student is ill, please stay home. You should follow hand washing etiquette, properly disposal of tissues, cough into your sleeve/tissue, and continue to disinfect our schools at high levels. She has received the latest information from the Governor's press conference and there is a webpage that is school specific for information and updates. They are working on procedures of instances in the future should they have to close schools. There will be a webinar on Friday on the latest information from the Agency of Education. She will keep everyone informed should we have to restrict public events or close schools. There is no documented case in Vermont.

New Business

Annual Motions

Julie Regimbal provided an explanation of annual motions that authorize the board chair/administration to administer and sign grants, the designation of the newspaper, the board offices and committees, authorizing the board chair to sign contracts and new signature cards with the new election of a treasurer. Peter Magnant commented that annual motions did not mean anything to him and feels it needs to be properly warned on the agenda prior to taking any action. Devin Bachelder asked what the impact is on doing business. Lora's only concern is that they need to add the new treasurer to the checking account. Chris suggested that they table the grants authorization and take action on adding the treasurer to the account. Julie stated that they do a better job of adding more specifics to the warning.

Action: *Don Collins moved, seconded by Steve Scott to accept the Peoples United Bank Omnibus Resolution and signature cards for MVSD which reflect the new treasurer, Georgette Roddy and authorize the board chair to sign. The board approved the motion on a 6-0-1 vote. (Peter Magnant abstained from the vote)*

Highgate Principal Contract

Julie Regimbal has brought a contract for Yeshua Pastina. If the board would like to discuss the details of the contract, then it would meet the requirement finding to enter executive session. Julie reported that Yeshua is excited to come to Highgate and join the leadership team.

MVSD Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy for Adoption

Julie Regimbal brought the alcohol and drug policy for the board for their review and possible adoption. The only revision is they added "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." Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Steve Scott to adopt the policy Student Alcohol and Drugs. The board approved on a 7-0 vote.

Debriefing of Town Meeting Day

Don Collins wanted to follow up on suggestions made at the informational meetings on additional information in the school annual town report. He would like to review this in September or October when they are looking at building the budget. Some of the suggestions made were to add a page from each school on the accomplishments highlights in addition to the principal's report. He would like to add the salary schedules not individual salaries to the town report. He also thought that the FTE should be included in the sections to give people more of an idea it broken down at each level. Julie Regimbal thought it is a good opportunity to communicate and provide a picture of each of our schools. Don had an additional suggestion of having a Director of Buildings and Grounds report page that might indicate how many rooms painted, carpet replacement or removal / building

maintenance updates for each school. Peter thanked the board for being open to the idea on having a question and answer period in Franklin. He thanked Julie Regimbal, administration and Don Collins for coming to Franklin. He appreciated everyone's effort. He did get asked why the Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile was taken out of the budget. Julie will follow up with Peter to respond.

Old Business

Warrants Steve Scott read the breakdown of the check warrants for February with Accounts Payable $1,076,132.86, Payroll checks $65,085.56, Payroll-Other disbursements $1,484,186.01, Payroll deductions $157,875.02 totaling $2,783,279.45.

Action: *Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to approve the check warrants totaling $2,783,279.45 for the month of February. The board approved on a 7-0 vote.* Devin inquired about if the pause on spending was over. Lora said that they will continue for one more week and then it will be lifted. She appreciated everyone's support during this time.

The board and administration introduced themselves for the new board member and the community.

Other Business

Negotiations Update

Julie Regimbal stated that they met with the ESP Support staff last evening and has scheduled an additional meeting for April 14th. Attorney has reviewed the lease and made some suggestions. The professional negotiations committee will be meeting on March 19th.

Employment Contracts issue for executive session

Re-scheduling April 21, 2020 school board meeting

Julie explained that the April 21st board meeting falls during school vacation and asked if the board would like to reschedule the meeting. The board re scheduled the meeting for April 16th, 2020 in Franklin.

Future Agenda Items

Policies, Negotiations, Administrators' contracts and Teachers Contracts, Stormwater project and building maintenance.

Future Meeting Dates

The board's next regular meeting is March 17th at the Swanton School Library at 6:30pm. March 19th is scheduled for Professional Negotiations at 6:30pm in the MVU School Library. (The board will meet at 5:30pm in the MVU Conference Room.) They have scheduled a Support Staff Negotiations' session for March 24th at 6:30 PM in the MVU School Library. (The board meets at 5:30 PM in the MVU Conference Room)

Anticipated Executive Session:

Action: Jen Chevalier moved, seconded by Steve Scott to enter executive session for negotiations update and contracts inviting Julie Regimbal and Lora McAllister at 8:20pm. The board approved 7-0. The board exited executive session at 8:47pm.

Action:

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Steve Scott to authorize the board chair to sign the contract for Yeshua Pastina as the Highgate Principal. Motion carried 7:0

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Don Collins to accept the superintendent's recommendation for the non renewal of three probationary teachers. Motion carried 7:0

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Peter Magnant, seconded by Steve Scott. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk
Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary