

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**HIGHGATE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**January 7, 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 6:45pm*) (Franklin), Peter Magnant (Franklin), Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Meaghan Conly, (Swanton), Eric Beauregard, (Franklin)

**Others Present:** Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Becky Hart, Fiscal Manager, Dan Palmer, MVU Principal, Jay Hartman, MVU Principal, Jennifer Desorgher, MVU Administration, Chris Palmer, Asst Principal from Highgate, Channel 15/16 Cameraperson and Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary, Lee Ann Wright, Lisa Durocher, Jennifer Konrad, Neveah Beyor (student) from Northwest Tech Center, Autumn Beyor, Ty Choiniere, Jim Sullivan, David Beyor, Dawn Beyor, Jeff Benay, Director of Indian Education

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

**Agenda Amendments-** Chris Shepard requested to add a confidential letter for executive session.

**Correspondence and Public Comments**

Chris Shepard requested a moment of silence in remembering David Roddy, a long-time school board member, who recently passed away. He thanked MVSD Staff, the Highgate Fire Department, Highgate Elementary School Staff and friends who took the time to send a card, food, time, and set up during the days of service for David Roddy.

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Action:** Don Collins moved, seconded by Steven Scott to approve the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The board approved the minutes on a 7-0-1 vote. Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Steven Scott to approve the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes with revisions. The board approved on a 6-0-2 vote.

## **Presentation Information**

### **Northwest Technical Center Presentation**

Lisa Durocher and Lee Ann Wright were present to provide an overview of the Northwest Technical Center offerings and participation from students. They offer automotive, cosmetology, public safety, human services, culinary arts nursing/medical professions, digital arts and digital video programming for students. The Technical Center provide students with a rigorous curriculum that seamless blends instructional time with hands on learning. Core academic subjects such as math, science and reading are integrated with the Career Technology Instruction. Many programs offer students the opportunity to earn college credits during class time. They also offer industry recognized credentials for career opportunities. Jennifer Konrad works with the coordinators to get students out in the community such as area schools, partnerships with NCSS and Voices against Violence. They conduct middle school tours along with a tech and engineering day open to all seventh and eighth graders. Their enrollment from MVU has gone down from a high of 41 in FY2015 to 19 in FY2020. They are working in getting the students excited about taking advantage of this opportunity. Aveya Beyor (MVU Student at the Tech Center) explained that she was very excited about the human services learning opportunity. She has had the opportunity to participate in work-based learning. She has enrolled in the dual enrollment classes and has been able to earn two college credits. This prepares you for the real world or for college. (The presenters left the meeting)

### **Truancy Presentation**

Jeff Benay serves on the truancy intervention panel. He explained that truancy refers to students who repeatedly miss school for any reason. Research shows that truancy and chronic absenteeism can lead to school drop-out and academic failure. Truancy is an issue at both the high school and the elementary schools. Truancy often results from lack of parent involvement and interest to send the students to schools. MVU has a truancy specialist in the high school to work with absence. The schools look to prevention initiatives which include sending a letter after 5, 10 and 15 days of absence which may emphasize the importance of attending school every day, any issues that the school needs to know about and possibly a meeting with the parents. If the absence continues, the school will meet with the educational support team, bring in some outside agencies such as social services and mental health professionals to create a coordinated service plan. The school wants to see kids in school. They let the parents know after 15 days about the legal ramifications of not sending the student to school. When the school needs assistance in resolving the issue, they make a referral to the county truancy intervention panel. The panel includes educators, special education coordinator, a principal, a DCF, Restorative Justice and NCSS representative along with the state's attorney. They meet to work on the most challenging truancy issues in the county and look at all the interventions that have been tried and try to put a plan in

place to help resolve the issue. NCSS is funding a truancy specialist and have not been able to fill the position thus far. *(Jeff Benay left the meeting)*

### **MVU Administrative Update**

Jen Desorgher reported that they received a visit from a group of educators from the South Pacific to learn about MVU's STEM Fair, Independent Research Projects, IDEA Lab and Research Methods Course. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, they continued their work with Partnerships for Literacy and Learning. These consultants provide ongoing coaching and professional learning for grades 7-9 English Language Arts Teachers especially in the area of writing. Dan Palmer reported that MVU hosted their annual holiday concert for the middle school with choir performing several songs along with the strings program and the middle school band. They had the high school concert on December 19<sup>th</sup> with both the choir and the band performing. MVU participated in the annual food and clothing drive during Operation Happiness. They collected  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a bus full of food and clothing and brought to the Village Complex for distribution. MVU will have five UVM student teachers this coming semester providing instruction in our school. They will be working either in the English/Language Arts or Social Studies classrooms. The MVU Middle School Student Council visited the Franklin County Rehab Center. Thanks to Laurie Kilbury, 49 students visited the residents, sang holiday songs and gave blankets to brighten their holidays. Jen stated that the following are participating in the MVU Flexible Pathways with 9 in Early College, with 40 enrolled in dual enrollment courses, 18 in Level II Agri science courses, 15 in work based learning, 19 at the Northwest Technical Center, 18 in the Connect Program, 15 in Field Studies, 7 in Vermont Adult Learning and 2 in the Cold Hollow Career Center Forestry Program. n announced the upcoming events including the STEM FAIR on January 16<sup>th</sup>, Dance Competition on January 16<sup>th</sup>, All State Music Festival on January 18<sup>th</sup>, with a faculty in-service on January 20<sup>th</sup> and Registration classes for next year beginning on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

#### **Side Letter**

Julie Regimbal has a side letter regarding supplemental pay for military that she would like to discuss in executive session as it pertains to an employee matter.

#### **Central Office Lease Agreement**

Julie reported that they received the lease agreement and reviewed it with the board chairperson. It is a three-year lease and there is an increase of \$250.00 a month. If there are future rent increases, it will commensurate with property tax increases. Don Collins asked if the landlord has been willing to work with us on the parking lot. Julie explained that he does not have the funds and we would have to bear the cost of paving it which would be prohibitive. Don suggested that he add more gravel to the parking lot area. Julie said that he is going to work on getting more parking spaces however he must work with keeping enough green space and have proper drainage.

Peter Magnant feels that the burden falls on the tenant and he would like to have our legal counsel review the lease. Chris suggested that we table the lease until the next meeting and have the attorney review the lease.

## **Old Business**

### **Check Warrants**

Steve Scott recommended that the board approve the following payments: Accounts Payable \$843,884.01, Payroll Checks \$67,342.14, Payroll-Other Disbursements \$1,452,926.18, Payroll Deductions \$514,329.87 totaling \$2,878,482.20.

*Action: Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Terri O'Shea to approve the check warrants totaling \$1,452,926.18. The board approved on a 9-0 vote.*

## **Financial Report**

Becky Hart reported that they have received 75% of the revenues with 2/3 of the State Aid and all of the property taxes. They are working on getting account codes with the definitions for the board. We will have a better carryover number once we get the auditor's report. They are still working on encumbering expenditures and they have concerns on what may come in for Special Education revenue.

## **Other Business**

### **Superintendent's Report**

The legislative session began this week and we can expect another active session. The House Education Chair Kate Webb has stated that it will be "a year to stabilize initiatives." Topics that they will tackle will be: Act 173, the special education funding law and as a part of that, they will be examining the UVM Weighting Student Study that examined how Equalized Pupils are calculated. Some adjustments may be made on the implementation of Act 166 Universal Preschool Law. They may be bringing back school construction aid. Don Collins urged everyone to contact their legislators and stay on top of the weighted student funding formula as this could have potential for a lot of changes to state aid in how this is determined. Julie will reach out to board members if an item of importance comes to light and they need to contact their legislators.

## **Future Agenda Items**

Negotiations, Budget, and policies

## **Next Meeting Date**

The board's next regular meeting is on January 21st at the Swanton School Library at 6:30pm. There is a special budget meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Highgate Elementary School. January 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup> are scheduled for

Professional Negotiations. There is a board only professional negotiations committee meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Superintendent's Office. There is a support staff negotiations committee meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Highgate Elementary School at 5:00pm and Support Staff Negotiations Committee with the Association on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at MVU.

**Anticipated Executive Session:**

*Eric Beauregard moved, seconded by Steve Scott to enter executive session at 8:50pm for negotiations, side letter and parent letter inviting Julie Regimbal. The board approved on a 9-0 vote. The board exited executive session a 9:35pm.*

*Action: Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Don Collins to authorize the board chair to sign the side letter regarding military leave pay. The board approved the motion unanimously. Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Steve Scott to authorize the board chair to sign the professional contract. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjournment**

*Action: Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to adjourn at 9:38pm. The board approved the motion unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan Conly, Board Clerk

Submitted by Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary