

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Call to Order and Flag Salute: Director Otos called to order a regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. on April 21, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom call and in person at Madison Elementary School, 907 E. Fir Street. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Members present included Directors Otos, Ragusa, Samora, Cailloux, and Coffey. A quorum was present. Also, in attendance was Superintendent Vivanco, and student representatives A. Grechishkin and B. Conde-Martinez. Many staff and community members were present in person and by zoom.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board set the regular and consent agendas as presented.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, items in the consent agenda were approved as follows:

Agreements

- Memorandum of Understanding; Page Ahead Children’s Literacy Program; 05/01/21 through 08/31/23

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Classified: Employment; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Extra/Co-Curricular Stipends and Supplemental Contracts
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa said she is excited to hear the report about the return of secondary students.
- Director Otos congratulated the administrative professionals for their hard work and district contributions.

Superintendent’s Report

Little Mountain Elementary: Host School Presentation: Susan Husband, Ashleigh Moe, and staff presented a video presentation of their goals and actions for this school year. They noted the school has high expectations and powerful teachers to support students as they reach those expectations. The staff shared information on the Little Mountain gardening project.

Director Otos thanked them for the information presentation and said he is enthused about the gardening project. Director Cailloux said it was exciting to hear student voices and the social emotional connection to

equity is exciting. It provides a good foundation.

National Board Certificated Holders 2021: J. Ronngren: Human Resources Director, was pleased to present information on the 2021 successful National Board Certificated holders. He thanked Alexia Bautista, staff specialist, for her preparation of the presentation. He shared that Nikki Klinger has been the program cofacilitator for 12 years and encouraged and supported staff through the rigorous process. The district now has 88 NBC Teachers in the district and the district has received national recognition for having more than 20% of certified staff be NBCT. The staff that earned recognition this year include:

- Kara Buckalew
- Melinda Bowen
- Nina Hansen
- Rebecca Krueger
- Ali Lilly
- Tanita Tilbury
- Rachel Wulff

Reopening Update: B. Nutting/I. Vivanco: Superintendent Vivanco and Assistant Superintendent Nutting presented a report on the return in person of secondary students. At the high school, approximately 50% of students are participating hybrid and remotely, at the middle schools, about 75% of students are hybrid and 25% are learning remotely. Mr. Nutting said the construction team at the high school has been very supportive of the learning process this year, checking continuously, and ensuring student safety. They welcomed the students back and displayed a very large welcome banner. Dr. Vivanco and Mr. Nutting met with classified supervisors including the departments of nutrition, transportation, technology, and maintenance. They have done a tremendous amount of preparation to ensure the return would be successful and school staff could work with the students instead of worry about food service, air handlers, or transportation. Director Ragusa asked the status of sporting events; Mr. Nutting replied they are in the middle of the second season and have two windows for practice. The transition for athletics has gone well. Boys soccer, track and field, baseball, girls softball, and golf are all in action. May 10 starts the last season to the end of the school year, which includes basketball.

Old Business

Director of Equity & Inclusion; David Rodriguez; effective 07/01/2021 (1.0 FTE) Superintendent Vivanco shared there was a robust interview process, the reference checks were positive. He noted that Mr. Rodriguez is coming to us from Ferndale School District, but also worked at Burlington Edison School District. He is excited to be a part of the team. Director Ragusa said she is anxious to learn his first priorities.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved the placement of David Rodriguez as the Director of Equity & Inclusion for a 1.0 FTE effective July 1, 2021.

Revision to Policy 2410: High School Graduation Requirements, second read: S. Thomas: Director Cailloux inquired if this policy revision will allow the return to 30 credits in future years or bind the district to 24 credits. Director Thomas commented this extends the 24-credit requirement through the class of 2022. If no additional action is taken by the board, it will revert to the 30-credit requirement after that time.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved the revision of policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements.

Resolution #18/20-21 Asset Preservation Program: C. Johnson/T. Theisen: Mr. Theisen said he was excited to hear about the garden at Little Mountain Elementary. He is certified to perform and possesses the security clearance in the ICOS review system through OSPI.

The process is to examine the schools and compare building and mechanical condition with the previous year. Typically, due to usage, the scoring is dropped slightly each year. This year was an anomaly in that many of the scores were improved or remained the same. This is largely due to the maintenance work that was provided while students were either out of the buildings or the numbers were reduced. This allowed access to systems that are unable to be worked on when school is in full session to be upgraded or to receive extensive maintenance.

Director Ragusa thanked Mr. Theisen and his maintenance team for their work. Mr. Theisen shared that since OSPI uses the report as a tool for future project funding, it is good for them to know that we maintain the structures. It was reported that the maintenance department, headed by Chris Johnson maintains the buildings with twelve staff members and approximately 500,000 million square feet of buildings.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved Resolution #18/20-21 for the Asset preservation Program.

New Business

Request to Surplus books: Jefferson Elementary School Superintendent Vivanco said Jefferson has requested approval to surplus obsolete books with no value to the district.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved surplus of books from Jefferson Elementary School.

Public Comments: There were no comments.

- **Student Comments**

Student Grechishkin said Mount Baker used to have a small garden and it was nice and very hands on. She said that she is remaining with virtual learning through the rest of the school year. Her sister is attending in person and it seems not to be safe. She appreciates the support of the teachers in making sure the virtual students have what is needed.


- Student Conde-Martinez said he attended Little Mountain and enjoyed the report. The garden allows many memories for the students. He also appreciated hearing the teacher development portion of the report. The teachers need to continue to encourage students to have passion and to become leaders. He said he is attending hybrid and feels very safe. Some of the classes only have four or five students so it feels very safe. The teachers are working very hard to accommodate hybrid and remote students.

Director Ragusa asked Student Grechishkin how her sister feels the experience is. She replied she mostly socializes with her friends from middle school. She has met new friends through sports. The extra curriculars are an important way to meet new people.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board