

***MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320***  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 5, 2021 6:00 PM**

**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 May 5, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom call and in-person at Madison Elementary School, 907 E. Fir Street, Mount Vernon. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

**Roll Call of Members:** Board members present included Directors Otos, Ragusa, Cailloux, and Coffey. Director Samora was excused. A quorum was present. Also, in attendance was Superintendent Vivanco, student representatives Rochelle, Conde-Martinez, and Grechishkin. There were a large number of staff members and public present, both in person and via zoom. A Spanish language translator was present.

**Set Consent and Regular Agendas**

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

**Review and Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved items included in the consent agenda including:**

**Warrants**

- Numbers 570904 through 570926 totaling \$1,243,271.77
- Numbers 570766 through 570876, totaling \$705,441.51 and voids/cancellations totaling \$68,218.23
- Numbers 570877 through 570903, totaling \$52,545.38
- Numbers 570927 through 571124, totaling \$3,882.592.42 and voids/cancellations totaling \$1,063.27

**Agreements**

- Agreement; Center for Teaching for Biliteracy; 06/15/2021 - 06/15/2022

**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 was pleased to see the recognition event for Hannah Semba. She shared that due to Mrs. Semba being put in a concentration camp during WWII, she was unable to graduate with her class. She was given an honorary diploma and two exchange students took pictures and met with her. The high school did a nice job organizing the special event.

- Director Ragusa noted the Boys Soccer Team is undefeated and ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation. She would like to celebrate them at the next board meeting. She is grateful to the teaching staff and coaches/advisors who have supported these students. It is important to create the welcoming sense of belonging and keeping activities, athletics, and extracurriculars in place is important.
- Director Ragusa, regarding the P-EBT cards that provide \$861 for families to use for groceries, she appreciates the communication regarding these cards. There appears to be some confusion as to where they came from and how they can be used. Superintendent Vivanco replied the P-EBT cards are for food. There is no application process as all students in the Mount Vernon School District are eligible. The district falls under the CEP (community eligibility provision) because all of our students are qualified for free breakfast and lunch. If a family receives the card and doesn't want it, it can be returned to DSHS. The State of Washington issued the card, not the district. The office of Superintendent of Public Instruction said the P-EBT cards will be sent through the summer.
- Director Cailloux thanked Dr. Wattawa and her team for the wonderful ceremony and story behind Mrs. Semba. This was particularly poignant in light of the racial equity policy. Superintendent Vivanco said he will be working at the legislative level regarding the RCW regarding honorary diplomas.
- Director Otos appreciated the King 5 story on the Mariachi Band and instructor Ramon Rivera, and Tim Hornbacher, as well as the rest of the staff who were recognized for their work during teacher appreciation week.

### **Superintendent's Report**

David Rodriguez, Director of Equity & Inclusion: Superintendent Vivanco said it has been almost a year of looking for the right person to direct the equity plan. Mr. David Rodriguez was selected and effective July 1, 2021 will become our Director of Equity & Inclusion. Dr. Vivanco introduced Mr. Rodriguez to the board, who thanked the interview committee and board. He said he was a former migrant student with a rough background, faced poverty, learned English as a second Language, and understands the challenges children face. He will be bringing that perspective to his role in the district. He is very excited about what is happening in the district and looking forward to continuing that work.

Madison Elementary: Host School Presentation: Principal Juan Gaona and Assistant Principal Melissa Van Straten presented information on Madison. They reviewed their four pillars in dual education, noting that while there are currently three, they are looking at adding a fourth to include Critical Conscious to the dual language programming. It supports students to look at life through an equity lens including bilingualism/biliteracy, academic achievement, and social cultural competence. These four pillars are included in the school's improvement plan. They also reviewed how the pillars apply during the remote learning process. He also shared that students are happy to be back in school. Superintendent Vivanco thanked them for the presentation. He noted there is consideration at the state level to provide a continuation of remote learning since some students benefit from that method of learning.

Teacher Recognition/Nurse Recognition: Clint Carlton, Executive Director of Student and Support Services, was pleased to recognize the nurses in the district. He said they have a regular role in the district and are seeing increasing volumes and levels of complexity. While they manage the Covid related contact tracing for the district, they also navigate a myriad of regulations from all levels of government, as well as identify community resources for families and support the 504 teams. He is honored to acknowledge them.

Superintendent Vivanco was pleased to recognize certificated teachers, noting that staff is the backbone of the organization. They are key to student success. While the district was never fully closed to students, it presented a different kind of open; one which the teachers embraced and managed. Bill Nutting,

Assistant Superintendent, that the teachers have worked through an incredible experience the past 15 months. They are focused on equity, student and family basic needs, social emotional needs, and academic needs in difficult circumstances, particularly when teaching remotely, hybrid, plus services, and various kinds of in person services. The district has the good fortune to work with MVEA leadership. They provide wonderful leadership for the education association. Gracie Woolley, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Dual Language teacher, expressed her thanks for the kind words. She said she feels blessed to work at the district and Madison.

Reopening Update: B. Nutting/I. Vivanco: Superintendent Vivanco shared the Covid cases continue to climb. Our communications to staff are reassuring families that we are staying with the hybrid model. Assistant Nutting said the district has followed the Department of Health guidelines the full year. One of those related to metrics and in person learning. There had been two thresholds based on community case counts; for grades 9-12, that was 200 cases in a 14-day period, and for K-8 it was 350 cases in a 14-day period. After spring break, the DOH moved away from those thresholds, and the district reviewed our agreements with staff and plans. This brought us to a more realistic place. We will continually contact trace, as the case counts go up, contact tracing efforts go up as well. School nurses and district leaders feel we can maintain the safe and healthy environment. This has been communicated to staff and broader community. The mode of instruction remains the same even though the Skagit County case numbers have gone up. If the county transitions from Phase 3 to 2, it should not present significant issues because the implications directly to schools are not broad. Superintendent Vivanco said the district is planning for a full return for the 2021-22 school year. We are also researching interest in the addition of an online learning program. The Skagit County Public Health department is coordinating with county high schools to provide immunization services. Director Coffey thanked Mr. Carlton for his efforts and leadership. He hopes to see as many vaccinated before September as possible. Director Otos said he is interested at seeing the hybrid model as an additional way of learning for those families that would benefit.

### **Old Business**

#### Revision of Board Policy 1621 Mount Vernon School Board Operating Protocols, first read

Director Otos thanked Director Cailloux and Superintendent Vivanco for looking at this policy through the equity lens tool. Director Cailloux said reviewing it prompted conversation and the need to change a few things. One in particular is to allow time to hear from marginalized communities. She said they also looked at the last question of the equity lens tool, asking what insights have been gained from the process. While tasks are often rushed and the lens is complicated, it is time well spent. This document will be presented at a future meeting for board approval.

### **New Business**

Resolution 20/20-21 Recognizing Teachers & Nurses Director Cailloux said there have been many examples of the creativity and hard work by teachers and nurses this year.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution #20/20-21 to recognize teachers and nurses.

Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan, first read Executive Director Clint Carlton, Student Support Services, presented information relating to the state mandated academic and student well-being recovery plan. This is a first review and the document will be presented at a future meeting for board action. To receive ESSR funds, the district must provide documentation on how those funds are being utilized. Mount Vernon is far ahead of many other districts as we already have our equity policy in place, a required piece of the plan. This plan and process should help us support a more effective system to meet the needs of every student.

Resolution #19/20-21 Employment of Non-Supervisory Certificated Staff This is a routine resolution required every year to reemploy non-supervisory certificated staff, which includes teachers.

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #19/20-21 Employment of Non-Supervisory Certificated Staff was approved.**

Donation to the District; Glenda & James Hobbs, to the Mount Vernon High School Memorial Foundation; \$500 to benefit Mount Vernon High School Baseball Team Director Ragusa shared that Jim Hobbs was in the graduating class of 1954 and Linda taught home economics. It is a generous gift.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the donation from Glenda and James Hobbs was graciously accepted.**

**Public Comments:** there were no public comments.

#### **Student Comments**

- Student Grechishkin was impressed with how strong the bilingual program is, and it is good to see kids growing and learning in both languages. She also thanked teachers and nurses for their work.
- Student Conde-Martinez said it is fun to learn how much progress the district has made since he first began school. The cultural shift and action are important. He also expressed his thanks to the teachers and nurses.


#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23.



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Larry Otos, Director  
Board President



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Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Board