

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 19, 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 19, 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, Samora, and Coffey. 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

Superintendent Vivanco requested approval to remove letter I, New Business, Travel Request.

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

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agreements

- Agreement; Latino Civic Alliance; LaVenture Middle School; Services for PLUS students; 05/10/21 to 06/18/21

Personnel Report

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

Public Comments

Ms. Bovincamp; parent of a student at Skagit Academy, spoke against requiring students to wear a mask.

K. Ulrich; parent of a student at Skagit Academy, spoke against requiring students to wear a mask. Said it is unhealthy for children and won't return her child to school if masks are required.

M. Schutte; expressed that mental health of students is what we should be concerned about and focused on. Masking is making it difficult for many students to succeed. This is their future.

J. Ulrich; expressed his belief that the high school graduation process looks like discrimination and segregation based on vaccination status. Was told by Dr. Wattawa vaccinated guests would receive unlimited tickets, but unvaccinated would only get two tickets. No health order or state of emergency suspends civil rights laws including free expression or religious belief, which can include face masks and

medical care. Contacted Angel of the Winds arena and received differing information. Requesting board be consistent and fair in their decision making.

Board Member Comments

Director Ragusa thanked speakers for their comments. She thanked the construction team for a tour for the members of the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation. She enjoyed seeing the integrity of the original structure combined with the improvements and expressed her appreciation to taxpayers for approving the bond.

Director Otos said the board retreat is scheduled for June 28 with additional details to follow. The Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation Green & White tournament will be held this year and is a major fundraiser for schools in supporting student projects.

Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Soccer Students: Chris Oliver, Athletic Director, thanked the students for their hard work. Soccer Coach Behr Ibarra commented it is an extraordinary team, ranking 11th in the nation. The students don't have just talent, but have a culture of success, believing and supporting each other, and receiving support from their fellow students, families, and community.

Student Representative Presentation: C. Rochelle; student representative Rochelle spoke to the shopping services he provided during the Covid shutdown to support seniors in care facilities. He shared how rewarding it was to visit and help seniors when they were unable to leave their residences. He said they appreciated the supplies and the visit. He also said he learned about shopping and gained an understanding of food needs.

Finance and Enrollment Report: J. Larson: Executive Director Finance, Jennifer Larson provided her monthly report on finance and student enrollment. Through April 2021, the year to date spent (60.23%) and the reference point (67%) are where they should be. She said there is one remaining payment on the 2009 QZAB loan. As of May 2021, enrollment is 272 students below what the 2020-21 budget was built upon.

Reopening Update: B. Nutting/I. Vivanco: Superintendent Vivanco said work is centering on the September opening of full time, in person. More information will be provided as details are worked out. This will continue to be shared with parents and the community. As a public institution, we must follow state guidelines. We also expect there will be several changes between now and when students return in September. Knowing there will be some families that will not want to return to in-person learning, we have begun work on an alternative. We are restricted from the same type of hybrid as offered this school year. In lieu of that, we are working on the Mount Vernon Virtual Learning program. We will survey families to determine interest, recognizing this is a moving target.

Mr. Nutting shared the 2021-22 student calendar is not ready just yet. The district has been working closely with MVEA to review the myriad of details. Director Cailloux asked about the use of Lincoln for the high school. Mr. Nutting said the details are being worked out. Part of the agreement with the state is that it can no longer be used for student learning. However; it can be used as a swing space, which allows student use on a limited basis.

Old Business

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

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, Board Policy 1621 was revised.

Director Coffey appreciated the work that went into the review and changes.

WIAA Resolution No. 21/20-21 Delegating Authority to WIAA

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution No 21/20-21 Delegating Authority to WIAA was adopted.

Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan (0561R), second read and Resolution #22/20-21

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution No 22/20-21 Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan (0561R) was adopted.

Director Cailloux said she attended an equity conference and feels like the district is in a good place with the policy. She said she was reminded to not repeat the past, but to learn from it and do things better. The policy says we will pause and reflect. While resolution 22/20-21 is a boiler plate to access funds, it is a critical opportunity to ask if this is the right place to invest now and are we serving the students we need to as we move forward. She said that as we move from checking the boxes to providing detail, we need to look at the information. Director Carlson commented that he is proud when he looks at a variety of districts and that we are in line with other districts, some much bigger. Very few districts are at the point that we are. We have the tools and policy, many other districts do not.

Construction Related

LaVenture Middle School; Design Build Contract, Lydig Construction; Pre-Construction Approval

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the design build contract with Lydig Construction for work on LaVenture Middle School was approved.

New Business

Skagit Academy/Aspire Academy: Alternative Learning Experience, annual report: Joy Walton Kawasaki, Principal of Choice Schools, presented the annual information on Skagit and Aspire Academies.

She said the Aspire Academy is a choice high school. The challenge was finding a location, designing the type of programming, designing the remodeled building, and waiting for the remodel to be complete. Students can enroll at any time during the year and move through the instruction at their own pace. She appreciated all the hard work by the teachers and staff at Skagit Academy and Aspire Academy. The programs supporting learning K-12. She said there are 322 students enrolled, with a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio. Each student must write a learning plan, which is their master plan of the course of study. The academies partner in depth with parents.

Director Otos said he appreciates the programming in our district. He thanked Joy for her service and appreciates her time in the district. Director Coffey said that by combining Aspire and Skagit Academy, it gives additional opportunity for students and parents to seek options for student education. He clarified that J. Pasimio mentioned ten programs and that he teaches all of them; Ms. Walton Kawasaki confirmed that he does. Director Ragusa thanked Katrina for her perspectives. Katrina said that while teaching remotely has challenges, the project share program was very interesting.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the annual ALE report was accepted.

Public Comments

D. Jacoby, parent of a Madison student; said this visit is only his second time in the school. He spoke to the difficulties the students are having due to required mask wearing. He said many students are struggling and unhappy with school.

Student Comments

Student Grechishkin congratulated the soccer team. She congratulated Student Chase on his presentation. She said she was excited to hear about the Skagit Academy. She said regarding graduating, she urges people to not compare the current situation to the 1960s racism. This is very different. While she appreciates the opinions, the references to genocide by the Nazi's does not apply to this situation. As a district, we are obligated to follow the law and what is safest for the largest numbers of students. She said the graduation will be live-streamed and can be enjoyed that way.

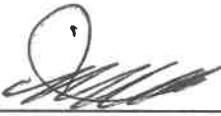
Student Chase said that he agrees with Ms. Grechishkin's comment on graduation.

Adjournment

Director Otos thanked technology staff A. Shipman for his work during the meeting to keep everything working smoothly. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board