

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 2, 2021 6:30 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 6:30 p.m. on June 2, 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 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

- Warrant Numbers 571297 through 571318, totaling \$1,256,330.37
- Warrant numbers 571125 through 571272, totaling \$1,099,034.58 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$11,513.50
- Warrant Numbers 571273 through 571296, totaling \$50,818.99
- Warrant Numbers 571319 through 571469, totaling \$1,898,039.54 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$995.67

Minutes

- Regular Meetings on April 14, 2021, April 21, 2021, and May 5, 2021
- Work Study Meetings on April 14, 2021, May 5, 2021, May 19, 2021, and May 20, 2021

Travel Requests

- Students (14); MVHS Athletics; Cheerleading Team Camp; Grand Mount, WA; 07/12/21 – 07/15/21
- Staff (D. Rodriguez); 2021 Innovative Schools Summit; Las Vegas, NV; 07/05/21 – 07/09/21

Agreements

- Contract; University of Idaho; Student Teaching Experience Program; 2021-2024 Academic Years
- Memorandum of Agreement; City University of Seattle; Alternative Routes Program; 07/01/21 – 08/30/21
- Contract; Northwest ESD 189; Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative; 09/01/21 – 08/31/22

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination

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

Public Comments:

S. Uppendahl; Parent of four children in the district, expressed frustration about graduation process. He knows other schools are using Angel of the Winds with no restriction, so questions why we say there are restrictions. Questioned the district intent and continual changing of plans.

Board Member Comments:

Director Ragusa appreciated the opportunity to celebrate the retirees and their over 450 years of service. She said she feels staff have been student focused on arranging plans for the graduation ceremony and have kept safety foremost in the planning. She thanked the public, staff, students, and families for their patience.

Director Otos agreed and thanked the many retirees. He said the board retreat has been scheduled for the end of the month – more information to follow.

Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Student Board Representatives: Superintendent Vivanco and the board members each thanked the three 2020-21 student board representatives, Chase Rochelle, Brian Conde-Martinez, and Alexa Grechishkin for their year of service. It was noted that each student brought their own experiences and opinions to the many items heard by the board. They communicated well with their peers and their service was appreciated. They were wished the best of luck in their next path.

Mount Vernon High School: AVID Legacy

Kristi Drake, AVID lead, shared that in the district, AVID began in 2003, with the first graduates in 2006. From 2006 to this year, 904 AVID students have graduated. There were five former AVID students who graduated between 2006-2014 who shared their experiences. These included J. Sanchez, I. Ocampo, A. Rivas, R. Torres, and J. Zavaleta-Berdeja. Each graduated explained the impact of AVID during their time in the district, as well as the lessons the program provided for their future education and work. They thanked the teachers and staff for their continued support and patience. Polly Hagg, Mount Vernon High School Teacher and AVID instruction said each school uses AVID differently, but all have created an AVID family. It filters into the community and world, and these students are raising the next generation so the program is far reaching.

Director Ragusa thanked the presenters for sharing their stories. Director Samora thanked the presenters noting it is wonderful that they continue to accomplish their goals, which says much about the program. Director Otos thanked the presenters, appreciating their heartfelt, personal narratives. He thanked the instructions and appreciate them reaching out. AVID is a special program in the district. Director Coffey thanked them for being well spoken. The board is pretty familiar with the AVID program and wished it had been around years ago. It teaches student grit and energizes them for future learning.

Reopening Update: B. Nutting/I. Vivanco Dr. Vivanco said that some families are looking at a more permanent virtual learning option. In response, the district is reviewing several ideas, surveying families, and seeing what kinds of interventions should be put in place.

Dr. Wattawa, high school principal, shared information on the graduation plans. She noted the planning began two years ago due to outgrowing the space at the high school. Although the school's facilities are wonderful, with 500 graduates, each family would only receive four tickets due to space. At Angel of the Winds, unlimited tickets per family were possible. The facility said based on the numbers of students, they could be on the floor area, noting we could allow an unlimited number of vaccinated guests. They did say the unvaccinated guests would be limited to two tickets per family. The other districts who were able to make this work were much smaller than Mount Vernon with significantly fewer graduates. Understanding that students want their families present, and they want to be with their friends as well, it was determined to have a convocation ceremony that will be live streamed. This is just for the students to attend and would allow them to sit with their friends. A more traditional event would be held on June 9th, but split into four sections to allow family to see their students graduate. While staff and administration understand this is not what was hoped for, it is a solution to a complex problem.

Director Otos thanked Dr. Wattawa for her explanation, noting that the board trusts and relies on staff to make the best decision possible within the parameters and guidelines available. He knows staff is working hard to make these events memorable for students and their families. While there is not a way to please everyone due to varying needs, this approach is a workable solution. Director Coffey said this has been an awful year for everyone, and for the high school administration, this has been a tremendous challenge. He thanked for the careful decision making with the facts at hand and wishes you the best through this process.

Old Business - There was no old business.

New Business

Agreement; Skagit Valley College; Running Start Summer Program

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the agreement with Skagit Valley College for the 2021 Running Start Summer program was approved.

Director Cailloux abstained.

Request to Surplus; Obsolete Books; Mount Baker Middle School

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the obsolete books presented by Mount Baker Middle School are approved for surplus.

Gift to the District

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the gift to Madison Elementary School for student supplies and books from 7-Eleven, Inc. in the amount of \$711 was graciously accepted.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Student Comments

Student Grechishkin said she understands the frustration around the graduation events. She noted that our district is much larger than many others in the area so our solutions are different than theirs. She appreciates student input and was pleased the high school compromised to allow the students time

together. She appreciated the AVID presentation and their building community. She thanked the board and expressed her enjoyment at serving on the board this year. While it was virtual and not what she expected, it was a good experience and taught her a lot about how districts operate.


Student Conde-Martinez said he understands the student and family concern with the graduation plans. After such a difficult year, the graduation ceremony as originally planned brought a small amount of hope of returning to normal. When that was cancelled, the disappointment was felt quickly and strongly. It is a matter of logistics and numbers, and the emotional piece is separate. He appreciated the response from Dr. Wattawa and Mr. Tayon for hearing the concerns from students and families. He thanked the board for a good year and appreciated the opportunity to serve.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board