

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, August 18, 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 6:09 p.m. on August 18, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom call and in-person at Madison Elementary School, 907 E. Fir Street, Mount Vernon. Due to noncompliance of mask wearing by an attendee, the meeting was recessed and was announced to reconvene at 6:45 via zoom only with no in person attendance.

Director Otos resumed the August 18, 2021 school board meeting at 6:45 p.m. via zoom. He 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. Superintendent Vivanco was present as were several staff and public.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

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

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

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

1. Agreements

- Memorandum of Agreement; Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board; 08/02/21 – 05/13/22
- Memorandum of Understanding; area districts for Skagit STEM program; 09/01/21 – 08/31/22
- Contract; Washington State Reading Corps; member placement; 09/01/21 – 08/31/22
- Program Agreement; Bellingham Technical College; Running Start Program; 09/01/21 – 06/30/22
- Personal Services Contract; K. Barr; Read 180 Pilot; 2021-22 academic year
- Instructional Coaching; Center for Educational Leadership; Renee Gallager; 07/01/21 – 06/30/22
- Service Agreement; Center for Educational Leadership/University of Washington; 6th & 7th Grade Math; Coaching Support; 07/01/21 – 06/30/22
- Agreement; Resumes to Retention; Adult Transition Program; 09/01/21 – 06/30/22

2. Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Classified: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments: Director Otos called for public comments.

- N. Dayton Van Patten – thanked the board for following state and DOH guidelines.

- C. Thramer – MVEA president, thanked the Board and staff for working with the teacher’s union on recently ratified contracts. She said that Jon Ronngren, Bill Nutting, and their team, worked collaboratively all year, and particularly through contract negotiations.
- C. Rugiano – Said that the government is trying to assert control and parents need to have the authority to act for their children.
- T. Jennings – Wants to have masks required for children to be optional.
- J. LaFreniere-Sabo – Wants parents to assert their parental authority for their children over the school board and do what is best for their children.
- L. Worsley – a speech therapist with district, thanked the board for listening to the guidance of the Governor and science.
- P. Kirkpatrick – thanked the board for the good job they are doing.

Board Member Comments

- Director Otos shared the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation fund raising golf tournament is on August 20.
- Director Ragusa said there have been many back to school meetings and activities, noting the 9th graders are excited. She appreciated the excellent communication and outreach to Lincoln neighbors.
- Dr. Coffey said his personal opinion on masking in society is a well proven strategy to decrease viral infections, noting it has been used in the past and internationally and is successful. While there is some inconvenience with students and staff using masks, he feels the inconvenience is worth it when the facts are that it saves lives. Not just for students and staff, but the people they connect with, as well. Skagit County is now seeing 60 new cases daily, a striking increase from the past.

Superintendent’s Report

Fall Reopening Plans

Bill Nutting, Assistant Superintendent, shared the DOH has released two recent notices, primarily impacting performing arts and athletics. Full time in-person learning is required for all students. Masks are required for all indoor activities and on buses. Physical distancing of 3’ is required as much as possible. School Superintendent Reykdal issued a statement tying school funding to compliance with their guidelines, including masking. Mitigation efforts continue including ventilation, handwashing, cleaning, and staying home when ill. Today, the Governor mandated that all employees in K-12 education are required to have a complete vaccination by October 18.

Director Ragusa asked who is responsible for verifying staff vaccinations; Mr. Nutting said there is a system in place where staff can enter it online in a secured database. Labor & Industries is also requiring verification. School Office staff routinely verify many annual requirements including emergency contact information, addresses, and more. They will be able to keep a checklist, the district does not require a copy of the vaccination record.

Director Ragusa inquired if the district is making flu vaccines available to our families; Mr. Nutting replied in the past we did through our benefits fair; however, that is no longer in place due to the transition to SEBB.

Director Samora asked in terms of notifications regarding back to school, what do the various components look like. Mr. Nutting said that the district started communicating with parents in June. Since then, the messaging from the Governor and DOH has been mostly the same with only a few modifications.

Director Ragusa requests the messaging be consistent on all building websites, as well as the main website. There is so much information we are trying to move and parents are getting ready to embrace it. Superintendent Vivanco said the district is introducing an updated website and the link from the front page will automatically feed to all school sites.

Director Ragusa asked on the 2021-22 calendar, why the half days were moved from Fridays to Wednesday; wondering how that was being communicated and we are helping with daycare. She said a lot of families work 4-10s so the Friday was convenient. Mr. Nutting said that through the shared the bargaining process the district moved the collaboration days from Friday to Wednesday as it is a professional learning event and we give it high priority. It was moved to the middle of the week instead of the end to get the important professional development opportunity the attention it deserves. The first day of school is on a Wednesday and will be a full day.

Administrators spoke to the emergency relief funds designated for a learning recovery plan. There has been a lengthy process determining priorities in developing the learning recovery plan. The most common requests are for social emotional supports, social workers, positive behavior support practices, MTSS tier II team support, social-emotional learning, and to have it embedded in the current system. The funds are available for a three year timeframe only, meaning after September 2024, the resources will no longer be available. Use consideration has included hiring staff for various purposes including counseling and extended outreach to families; as well as after school programming. The funds will be used as to provide direct services to students. Director Otos thanked the team for their diligent work on this.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business

Title IX Amendments to Procedure 3206P, Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited Assistant

Superintendent Nutting said there were significant changes in Federal law in August 2020. The board approved a resolution to provide guidance, until the attorneys and Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) could recommend changes to existing policies or procedures. We worked with the district attorney to interpret and navigate the complexities of the revised law.

Teamsters Contract 2021-23 This is a two year agreement and both sides worked hard to collaborate on the agreement. The agreement recognizes the great work of drivers who will retire to motivate them to an on-call status so we can bring them back as substitutes.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board ratified the Teamsters Bargaining Unit Contract for the 2021-2023 duration.

Board Meeting Calendar 2021-22 Superintendent Vivanco presented the board meeting calendar, noting the location of meetings are primarily at Madison Elementary due to the incorporation of zoom as a delivery method. Once zoom is no longer a concern, the locations can be revisited in the future.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board meeting calendar for 2021-22 was approved as presented.

Construction: LaVenture Middle School; Parametrix Contract: Assistant Superintendent Nutting said that Parametrix has provided program and project management since the beginning of bond project. Both Jim Dugan and Jeremy Woolley, who work for Parametrix, have represented the district on construction items. They have extended their services beyond the original agreement with no increase in the contract amount by assisting with the high school Fine Arts and Old Main projects. This agreement supports their continued ongoing work on our behalf.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the district agreed to the contract with Parametrix.

Gift to the District

Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation; \$702.39 for Sasquatch Reading Program; to benefit Mount Baker Middle School.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the district accepted the donation to the district for the Sasquatch Reading Program from the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation.

Public Comments: Director Otos called for public comments.

- M. Sabo said he appreciates the work and dedication of the board. He understands the public questions from this meeting will be answered online. He would like to know the reason for reducing the spacing from 6' to 3' in classrooms, and if we have numbers for flu cases. He said small virus elements can get through masks.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board