

**MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom Call**

**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 Wednesday, May 6, 2020. He led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

**Roll Call of Members:** In attendance were Directors Otos, Ragusa, Coffey, Samora, and Cailloux. A quorum was present. Also present was Superintendent Bruner and student representative R. Alsilimy. Some staff and guests included B. Nutting, S. Gilbert, T. Papendorf, T. Wattawa, C. Rodriguez, Elizabeth Churape-Garcia, Madison Wolter, Rachel Jewell, Ismael Vivanco, Gracie Woolley, Lynnette Brower, Stephanie Thomas.

**Set Consent and Regular Agendas:** Superintendent requests approval to add Letter H. Old Business, Item #10, revision of School Board Policy 6022 Minimum Fund Balance-1<sup>st</sup> read. This is an information item.

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board set the consent and regular agenda as amended.**

**Review and Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**Warrants**

- Warrant numbers 566393 through 566515, totaling \$665,851.86
- Warrant numbers 566516 through 566548, totaling \$50,026.02
- Warrant numbers 566549 through 566578, totaling \$1,308,969.37
- Warrant numbers 566579 through 566744, totaling \$2,662,312.09

**Minutes**

- Regular Meetings: April 1, 15
- Work Study Meeting: April 15

**Agreements**

- Northwest ESD Skagit County Detention Center Education Program; 2020-2021
- Northwest ESD Legal Services Cooperative; 07/01/2020 through 06/30/2021
- Agreement for Reimbursement; Ismael Vivanco
- City University of Seattle; Memorandum of Agreement; 09/02/20 through 09/01/2021

**Personnel Report**

- Certificated: Employment; Out of Endorsement; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/ Termination
- Classified: Employment; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination; Transportation Department Adjustments
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified positions

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

**Board Member Comments:**

- Director Ragusa shared that it is nice to see the many comments on social media and thanked Celina Rodriguez and Superintendent Bruner for the nice work keeping people informed.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Recognition of Teachers and Nurses: Superintendent Bruner shared that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week and today is National School Nurse day. There have been significant changes in the expectations on the part of teachers and nurses. They have been forced to pivot to a technology model that requires continuous and remote learning with creativity to ensure connections with students.

Harriet Rowley Elementary School Logo Presentation: Celina Rodriguez, Communication Specialist, presented information on the school identity process. They have now reached the final step of selection of the school logo. There were 33 entries, some of which were multiple entries from a few designers.

Grading Procedures Revision: Terri Wattawa, principal of Mount Vernon High School, presented information on the recommended grading scale modified due to the online only learning. Incompletes will not be given, even though there will be remediation needed for some students. Director Coffey complemented the process and leadership, as well as the guiding principles. Student Alsilimy has heard the information and appreciates the work that Dr. Wattawa and her team has worked on to provide equity for students facing various challenges.

### **Old Business**

Equity Policy #1801, first read: Chris Borgen, consultant on the Racial Equity Policy project, presented information related to the first read of the proposed Equity Policy #1801. Student Alsilimy asked who are the critical voices; he responded they included student groups, migrant leaders, and others. She also inquired how often we specify staff of color alongside students of color. It is important we include staff as well. Mr. Borgen noted there is specific language included in the action plan accompanying the policy. Director Otos said this is great work from a long effort; Director Samora said she was grateful to everyone who participated in the process; Director Ragusa commented it is impressive where it began and now where it has ended up. Director Coffey would like a follow up in the future on the progress and results of the document on the district's daily actions. Director Cailloux also noted we need to institutionally support the work of the group. Director Berard and discussed an administrator institute that will help the work of the equity leads and will provide support on a different level. Superintendent Bruner said the focus is not on the policy, but the action plan.

High School Graduation Requirements: Revision to Policy No. 2410: Superintendent Bruner said the Board approved a change to policy 2410 a few months ago. This new revision is designed to offer an opportunity for students in the class of 2020 to graduate with a 24-credit diploma, as opposed to a 30-credit diploma. It is directly related to the pandemic and effects of the pandemic. The State Board of Education adopted the Core-24 a few years ago allowing a student who meets the 24 credits to graduate. Because Mount Vernon is on a block schedule, we have a 30-credit requirement.

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted revisions to Policy No. 2410 High School Graduation Requirements.**

High School Graduation Requirements: Revision to Procedure No. 2410P Superintendent Bruner said this revision to procedure will support the policy changes.

### Resolution Number 25/19-20 Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation Credits 2419R:

This is a recommendation from the State Board of Education as a result of school closures related to the

pandemic. They implemented rules on an emergency basis that allow school boards to waive specific graduation requirements that students, despite best efforts and district best efforts are unable to achieve due to the school closures. Evaluation is by individual student to determine whether a graduation waiver is needed to graduate.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution #25/19-20 Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation Credits 2419R.**

Waiver of High School Graduation Credits: Policy No. 2418: Superintendent Bruner said a policy is needed to allow waiver of graduation credits for specific students unable to meet the requirements due to school closure.

**Upon motion by Director Coffey and seconded, discussion followed.**

**Director Cailloux stated she appreciated the expansiveness of the policy. Director Samora inquired if a waiver has been prepared. Superintendent Bruner said that it had.**

**There being no further discussion, the board unanimously adopted revisions to Policy No. 2418, Waiver of High School Graduation Credits.**

High School Graduation Credits Waiver: Form 2418F: Superintendent Bruner shared the form related to Policy 2418.

High School Credits awarded for Competency/Proficiency: Policy 2415 Superintendent Bruner said this policy will remove barriers to high school graduation for students. Beyond that, it is something the district has wanted to move forward with for several years. Until now, we have awarded high school credit for competency and proficiency that is demonstrated for students passing a language proficiency exam – one of which is the OSPI approved exams. If a student passes the state approved exam at a certain level, a seal of biliteracy is awarded, which is included on the transcript. This procedure allows the district to reward credits when a student demonstrates competency under the specific criteria as outlined in the procedure.

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted revisions to Policy No. 2415, High School Credits Awarded for competency/Proficiency.**

High School Credits awarded for Competency/Proficiency: Procedure 2415P: Superintendent Bruner said this outlines the procedures to accompany Policy #2415.

2019-20 Student/Staff Calendar Revision: Superintendent Bruner said that OSPI expects most school districts will not be able to meet the 180-day requirement due to closures. They are expecting districts to go through June 19 and if still below the minimum, will approve a waiver. This calendar change extends the last day of school to June 19.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the revised 2019-20 Student/Staff Calendar adjusting the last day of school to June 19, 2020.**

Proposed Revision School Board Policy 6022: Minimum Fund Balance-1<sup>st</sup> Read: Superintendent Bruner said that the State is looking at between 4-6 Billion dollars in lost revenue for the coming biennium. This will translate to cuts in many areas including K-12 education. We have been encouraged repeatedly by OSPI to enter budgeting for the 2020-2021 budget year with two priorities: 1) conservative expenditures; and 2)

to do everything possible to work toward a healthy fund balance. This policy revision will support that recommendation.

## **New Business**

### **Resolution 28/19-20 Recognition of Teachers and Nurses**

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution 28/19-20 Recognition of Teachers and Nurses.**

Construction: Suzanne Gilbert, Architect/Capital Projects; presented information on Change Order #5 for the Mount Vernon High School Fine Arts building. She said this includes requirements by the building department to bring the campus up to current code.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved PCCO Change Order #5**

Regarding the Mount Vernon High School Old Main preliminary construction management plan, two letters were presented that were submitted to the state for the D5 application.

**Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved the preliminary construction management plan.**

Regarding the Certification of Capital Funds, Ms. Gilbert said this document confirms to OSPI that the district passed a bond and this project is included in that bond.

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved certification of capital funds.**

Regarding the Mount Vernon High School shop building, Ms. Gilbert said this amendment is for the Trico contract. MWL, the consultants hired to review invoicing, said they found language they thought should be adjusted. The district's attorney, Graehm Wallace, reviewed the amendment.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved the amendment to Trico contract.**

Resolution #26/19-20 Employment of Non-Supervisory Certificated Staff: Assistant Superintendent Bill Nutting said this is an annual resolution that reemploys nonsupervisory certificated staff for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution 26/19-20 Employment of Nonsupervisory Certificated staff.**

Director Cailloux inquired how that will impact next year's budget. Mr. Nutting replied these staff are not a part of any budget reduction conversation. He noted the only individuals exempted from the list are staff who are non-renewed or leave replacements. Superintendent Bruner noted we are not at a place where we are going to have to reduce staff, even though a number of districts are. We were last year, this year we are looking at what we can add back. The supplemental levy mattered and we owe a lot to our voters.

Resolution #27/19-20 Reduced Education Program Northwest Career & Technical Academy: Assistant Superintendent Nutting said that at the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, student enrollment determines programming. The aeronautics program does not have enough enrollment to be able to continue offering the class. The NCTA Administrative Team recommended the program be eliminated. Because the district is the fiscal agent for NCTA, the employee is a member of district staff, making it up to the district to reduce that piece of the educational program.

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution 27/19-20 Reduced Education Program at Northwest Career & Technical Academy.**

Gifts to the District: Superintendent Bruner shared there were a number of very generous gifts to the district.

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the generous gifts to the district as detailed below:**

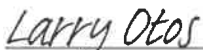
- Food Pantry Recognition for Madison Elementary and Mount Vernon High School; over \$1475 to benefit families in need
- Platt Electric; \$1360 to benefit Mount Vernon High School CTE Programs
- Daniel Peck; Outboard Motor valued at \$3,000 to benefit Northwest Career & Technical Academy Marine Program

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

**Student Comments:** Student Alsilimy said she is pleased with the racial policy and hopes the district can pay the participants more. She is excited about the high school improvements.

Director Cailloux added that she appreciates how much the teachers and nurses have done.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Larry Otos (Jul 17, 2020 22:13 PDT)

Larry Otos, Board President  
Mount Vernon School Board



Carl Bruner, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Board