

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/99097269695>

Phone: 1 253 215 8782 Webinar ID: 990 9726 9695

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 PM on May 20, 2020 by Zoom call. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Present at the meeting were Directors Otos, Coffey, Ragusa, Samora, and Cailloux, a quorum was present. Also, in attendance was Student Representative Covarrubias and Superintendent Bruner. Some staff and others included A. Bishop, C. Norman, L. Schonberg, L. Cailloux, B. Cheney, B. Nutting, C. Borgen, C. Oliver, C. Carlton, D. Berard, F. Atkinson, J. Larson, S. Thomas, S. Gilbert, T. Wattawa, J. Woolley, J. Gaona, K. Morin, M. Wolter, M. Daley, T. Newall, S. Husband, A. Sager, A. Rodriguez, E. Churape-Garcia, G. Woolley, H. Tayon.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas:

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

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

Agreements

- Contract; Northwest ESD 189; Project Support Health & Resiliency in Education (SHARE); 05/15/2020-11/14/2020

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 inquired on the status of graduation ceremony plans. Superintendent Bruner said current plans are on hold until Skagit County enters Phase 2 of the state reopening plan.
- Director Otos thanked Dr. Wattawa for her work on the graduation recognition.

Superintendent's Report

Retiree Recognition: C. Bruner: Superintendent Bruner noted that due to the social distancing requirements in place, the district is unable to recognize retiring staff with an open house as in past years. He recognized and thanks the staff who are retiring this school year. Staff recognized included:

- Nina Spitler, Paraeducator/Volunteer Coordinator, Jefferson, 26 years
- Karen Lewis-Hart, Paraeducator, Jefferson, 22 years

- Carla Trosper, Special Education Paraeducator, Mount Baker, 9 years
- Kathy Lester, Special Education, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, 26 years
- Dave Anderson, Administration, 20 years
- Richard Morgenthaler, MVHS, 8 years
- Deana Elliot, Mount Baker Teacher, 21 years
- Celia Campbell, Skagit Academy, Math Teacher, 12 years
- Pam Van Selus, Centennial, Teacher, 32 Years
- Pam Valentine, Centennial, Teacher, 40 Years
- George Garcia, Maintenance, 37 Years

Mount Vernon High School Update: T. Wattawa: Dr. Wattawa, Mount Vernon High School Principal, presented information on high school programming. She shared:

- Team leads helped prepare a culture of equity statement.
- Site improvement goals for 2020 include a culture of rigor and college going focus
- College going environment is prominent expectation and students actively guided by faculty to meet college requirements.
- Culture growth included AVID, Rigor, Equity, Adoption of NCAA Conferences and collegiate flags, college success foundation partnership, DigiLit, college field trips, outreach to families for financial aid and scholarships.
- Access to rigor, detracking English and science in 9th and 10th grades, intervention program development including Bulldog EDGE, after school tutoring, credit recovery options.
- Advanced Placement class requests have been increased.
- Science Department hopes to retool the freshman course within a few years
- Math is looking at detracking models
- English has moved students toward AP courses.

The board thanked her for the positive work being done at the high school.

Athletics Update: C. Oliver: Chris Oliver, Assistant Principal at Mount Vernon High School, presented information on the district athletics program. He said during an athletic equity team meeting in 2017-18, costs were a focus and a barrier. At the start of the 2018 school year, all students received a free ASB card. This allows free student attendance to games and dances. It also provides parent passes to games. The school has increased the size of the student section for football, and there are now five teams of boys' soccer to allow interested students to play. The participation of athletes of color has grown 44.8% from 2018-19 to 2019-2020. Recruitment efforts for quality coaches and coaches of color continue.

Finance & Enrollment Report: J. Larson: Jennifer Larson, Executive Director of Finance, presented the monthly finance and enrollment report. She noted there are some savings from the closure including no spring sports or field trips. Staffing is 80% of the budget and that continues to be paid, although there are no substitute costs. In June or July, the district will be able to apply for stimulus funding to support closure related direct expenses. The Washington State Legislature is facing a multi-billion dollar deficit in the coming biennium.

Highly Capable Programming: L. Schonberg: Dan Berard, Executive Director in Teaching & Learning, introduced Laura Schonberg, the district lead for the Highly Capable program. She explained the service model demonstrates a continued commitment to student equity. The elementary schools have a cluster model. They are pulled from classrooms twice a week with learning in project-based units. 4th and 5th grade classes are all day. Chad Norman, Jefferson teacher in the highly capable project, worked closely

with OSPI to ensure the district is in line with researched expectations and project-based learning. A Service Learning Project held in February resulted in \$1700 being donated to the Humane Society. Ms. Schonberg thanked the board and district for their support of this important program.

Board comments following the presentation included Director Samora, who enjoyed the student book comments and her appreciation of the program; Director Ragusa is impressed with the project-based learning and seeing how it expands student thinking and engagement; Director Cailloux inquired on the English Language Arts honors classes in 9th and 10th grade. Dr. Wattawa said that every child has the opportunity to achieve an honors designation if they choose to do so through reaching a certain level of standards and enrichment projects.

Old Business

Equity Policy #1801, second read: C. Borgen: Mr. Borgen said he was very excited to present on behalf of the equity team a final cutting-edge policy. Staff and recruiting are covered in the strategic action plan for the policy. He appreciates and thanks the team voices that are embedded in the policy.

Upon motion by Director Coffey and seconded, the adoption of policy #1801 Racial Equity was considered.

Discussion included comments by Director Otos, noting this has been a goal of Dr. Bruner's during his tenure at the district. Director Otos is pleased this is completed while Superintendent Bruner is still with the district. Staff and the community who worked on the policy should be proud of the work and final document.

No further discussion, the board voted unanimously to adopt policy #1801 Racial Equity.

Proposed Revision School Board Policy #6022: Minimum Fund Balance, second read:
J. Larson

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted revised policy #6022 Minimum Fund Balance.

Resolution #30/19-20 Minimum Fund Balance: Superintendent Bruner said the resolution will actualize the policy. The percentage is recommended by the budget committee and set at 6%. This number is higher than the 5% goal due to the currently known variables which are negative at this time. This forces the district to be more conservative than in the past, but we don't have to make reductions. We do have to consider what will be returned to programming from previous reductions.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #30/19-20 Minimum Fund Balance is adopted.

Policy #3122 Revision; Excused and Unexcused Absences, first read: S. Thomas Director Thomas said this updated will bring the district to alignment with state law. The template was distributed by WSSDA (Washington State School Directors Association), and reviewed by the district's attorneys. She said attendance infractions used to be handled in a disciplinary light but are now more intervention and support. The district works closely with students to develop a flexible attendance plan.

Director Samora inquired if the students who had expressed concern over the policy have made comments on the proposed changes. Director Wattawa has reached out to those students on several

occasions and invited them to come in and be part of the discipline committee but she has not received a response.

New Business

Resolution #29/19-20; Continuous Learning Plan and Emergency Waiver of School Days and Instructional Hours: Superintendent Bruner said the district is not able to meet the mandated 180-day school year of 1000 instructional hour average. To qualify for state funding, the district must meet those requirements or be approved for a waiver.

Director Dan Berard presented the report that will be submitted to OSPI. He said it provides a brief glimpse to the district response including opportunities to learn, learning standards, records of student engagement, nutritional support and more. Director Atkinson presented a sample of the remote learning plan from Madison Elementary. The plans and learning expectations are consistent across the schools and grade bands. Director Thomas said a weekly record of student engagement is maintained. Work submitted is graded and based on achievement and not student engagement. OSPI reinforced their desire to do no grading harm to students due to the closures. Transcripts will be designated under circumstance of school closure.

Special Education Director, Clint Carlton said they are supporting all student groups in multiple ways including a multilingual emergency call center. School liaisons have provided outreach to Migrant and bilingual students, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness receive support, outreach by the HiCap staff provide support, the migrant nurse provides help to families, the nurses and counselors engage with families on health, safety, and social emotional supports, the Special Education staff engage weekly with students and families on the Individual Education Plan goals.

Director Samora thanked the presenters and district, noting a significant amount of time has been put into the process. She said the document is very impressive and she is proud of the guidelines set up for weekly learning. Director Cailloux inquired on planning for next school year; Director Berard said it is safe to assume there will a blended model. We should receive guidance from OSPI in mid-June.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #29/19-20; Continuous Learning Plan and Emergency Waiver of School Days and Instructional Hours was adopted.

Construction: Suzanne Gilbert, Capital Projects, provided information on the Certificate of Occupancy for Harriet Rowley Elementary. She was very pleased to have received the final certificate. The zero wetland buffer mitigation report was done and the year 1 report wetland report was done and approved. She noted that although 300 of the 800 plants had died, that is proportionately pretty typical. It is anticipated an expense of \$10,000-\$15,000 per year for the next four years to maintain plants and complete reporting.

MWL Advisory Final Audit Summary: Ms. Gilbert presented the executive summary of the MWL final audit. She said the company has been very helpful with the projects and will provide a complete packet of information for the State Auditor.

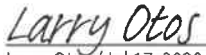
Gifts to the District

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the gift from the Northwest Board of Women's Office for \$400 to support the LaVenture Middle School Invest Ed program was approved.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.


Student Comments: There were no student comments.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



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

Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Carl Bruner, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board