

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, August 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

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 August 19, 2020. The meeting was held via Zoom call. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Members present included Directors Otos, Ragusa, Coffey, Samora, and Cailloux. A quorum was present. Superintendent Vivanco was present. Also in attendance were many staff and public.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Superintendent Vivanco requested approval to add under New Business, item 6, line item 2, Prime Contract Potential Change Order #042, Fine Arts, noting this is an action item.

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

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

- Agreement; Mount Vernon School District and Communities in Schools of Whatcom-Skagit; 2019-20 and 2020-21
- Agreement for Services; Pacific Learning Center; child specific programming; 09/01/2020 through 06/26/2021
- Interlocal Agreement; Skagit County; BECCA services; 09/01/2020 – 08/31/2021
- Program Agreement; Bellingham Technical College; Running Start Program; 09/01/2020 – 06/30/2021

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/ Termination
- Classified: Employment; Summer Food Program; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/ Termination
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified positions

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments

Director Otos shared his appreciation of the Facebook Live question and answer information.

Superintendent's Report

MTSS Presentation: Assistant Director Bill Cheney, presented information on the MTSS program, which is the Multi Tiered Systems of Support program for students. He explained the pyramid for support and the efforts and identifiers for each tier within the pyramid.

Equity Update: Superintendent Vivanco presented a brief update on the equity process, noting that current equity leads are identifying additional staff to be trained as leads. They noted the importance of having additional leads at each site. Director Cailloux attend and thanked the trainers for their efforts.

Fall Reopening Plan: B. Nutting, Assistant Superintendent, said since the resolution for a plan has been approved, the steps need to be fine-tuned and communicated to parents. There are many questions and the district is trying to answer all of them. The video updates are helpful and will continue. Elementary school planning continues, along with outreach efforts and family contact, including Chromebook distribution. Principal Dave Riddle, LaVenture Middle School, said personal phone calls are being made to families who struggled with connections in the spring. Dr. Wattawa shared orientation dates by grade, noting this is a time to pick up technology, schedules, and books. The asynchronous times get counted in attendance as these are student work times. Dan Berard reported on the partnerships for child care. In progress are possible opportunities with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Children of the Valley. Administrators are identifying school locations to house providers without risking exposure to students and staff. The committee is working to find ways to subsidize costs. Director Cailloux inquired if family coops have been investigated, Mr. Berard responded that many areas are being reviewed, but we must be aware of the risk factors that could be associated with unlicensed providers. Bill Cheney, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, said the social emotional piece is being considered with these learning changes. Staff recognizes the importance of building student relationships. Director of Student Support Services, Clint Carlton, said many needs are being identified for special education students including telemedicine therapy and mental health needs. To identify students who are identified as furthest from educational justice per OSPI are those students who typically spend more than 50% of their day in a specialized program. Superintendent Vivanco said that while we collectively want all students back, it is important to be strategic.

Washington Schools Risk Management Pool (WSRMP): Superintendent Vivanco reported on communication by the WSRMP who noted that districts are obliged to abide by the State mandates and county health departments or risk litigation.

Old Business: there was no old business.

New Business

Mount Vernon Education Association (MVEA) Agreement-Ratification: Bill Nutting, Assistant Superintendent said that on August 10 an agreement with MVEA was reached for a one year Collective Bargaining Agreement. The members of MVEA voted to ratify the agreement and it is now presented for Board approval. This was an example of successful collaboration with MVEA so that efforts could be focused on reopening schools. Particular thanks go to Cheryl Thrasher, MVEA president and first grade teacher at Washington Elementary, and lead bargainer Paul Hope, teacher at Mount Vernon High School for their proactive approach to get this completed.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board ratified the one year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Mount Vernon Education Association.

Student/Staff 2020-2021 Calendar: Bill Nutting presented the proposed 2020-21 Student Staff calendar for board approval. The calendar is related to the bargaining process with MVEA including professional development days.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the student/staff 2020-2021 calendar.

Social Studies Course Presentation: Principal Terri Wattawa, Mount Vernon High School and several staff members presented a proposal for a social studies course for 9th grade students. Staff explained this is a concrete action based on the equity work. It includes how to engage and prepare our students for social discourse on topics such as race and student identity. Staff expressed their excitement about the opportunity for students and teachers to be involved in this project. This provides an opportunity for students to discuss race, equity, and power.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the new 9th grade social studies course.

Director Cailloux shared this type of forum can cause students to make themselves vulnerable and wanted to ensure that support services are in place should it be needed. This is a proactive step to the equity work from last spring and provides a structured opportunity to educate students.

Policy 2410 Graduation Requirements: Superintendent Vivanco shared this policy is proposed for modification to 24 required credits for 2021 graduates. This is due to the trimester schedule for remote learning. It will return to 30 credits for future graduates. This is submitted for approval due to the emergency status. Dr. Wattawa said this puts Mount Vernon in line with the state requirements.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, School Board Policy 2410 Gradation Requirements was updated to reflect 24 credits required for students graduating in 2021.

Policy #3424 - Opioid Reversal Medication, 1st Read: Assistant Superintendent, Bill Nutting, shared information on the proposed Policy #3424 Opioid Reversal Medication. He noted this is required due to state legislation enacted in 2019 for districts with greater than 2000 students. It requires one dose of reversal medication at each of the secondary schools. The policy was created by WSSDA with their attorney review. Some minor modifications were made on the advice of the district head nurse. Director Coffey inquired how many providers will be trained. Mr. Nutting replied the head nurse will training nursing staff and/or health room assistants at each of the required locations.

Construction:

Old Main Modernization; McKinstry Building Commissioning Proposal Jeremy Woolley, Parametrix employee, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the district, noting the community support is evident. He is happy the construction projects are underway to help the teachers do their jobs better. The McKinstry Building commissioning proposal is presented as an information update regarding Old Main and the Fine Arts Building.

Prime Contract Potential Change Order #042, Fine Arts: Mr. Nutting explained this change order results from a change in the substantial completion date for the fine arts project. The amount represented is a result of conversations with the contract regarding determination of responsibilities. This amount reflects a fair representation of the costs incurred due to delays.


Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved PCCO #042 for the Mount Vernon High School Fine Arts building.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Student Comments: There were no student comments.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the board adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Larry Otos, Board President

Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board