

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon High School, 314 N. 9th Street, Mount Vernon, WA

Call to Order and Flag Salute: Director Coffey called to order a regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. on October 2, 2019. The meeting was held at the Mount Vernon High School, 314 N. 9th Street, Mount Vernon, WA. Director Coffey led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Members present included Directors Coffey, Samora, Ragusa, and DeLeon. Director Otos was excused. A quorum was present. Also in attendance was Superintendent Bruner.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas:

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

Executive Session: The board adjourned to executive session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss with legal counsel representing the district matters pertaining to: (i) The minimum selling price of real estate and (ii) Discussion with legal counsel, of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110.

Resume Regular Meeting: At 6:45 p.m., the regular meeting was called to order. Joining the board were Student Board representatives L. Cervantes, R. Alsilimy, L. Covarrubias and some staff including D. Berard, B. Nutting, K. Wollan, S. Thomas, J. Larson, C. Carlton, F. Atkinson, C. Walker, D. Conners, and T. Papendorf.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Travel Requests

- Students (250+/-); LaVenture Middle School; Camp Orkila; Orcas Island; 04/13/20 – 04/15/20

Agreements

- Interlocal Agreement; Skagit Valley College and Northwest Career & Technical Academy; services to provide instruction to Skagit Valley College students; 09/01/19 - 08/31/19
- Contract for Professional Services; Salish Sea Deaf School; child specific services; 09/04/19 – 06/12/20
- Memorandum of Understanding; Inspire Development Centers; Child Find/Recruitment; 09/01/19 – 08/31/20
- Interlocal Agreement; Sedro-Woolley School District; Services from Teacher for Deaf/Hard of Hearing; 09/01/19 – 06/30/20

Warrants

- Warrant numbers 562453 through 562669 totaling \$2,419,914.83 and voids/cancellations totaling \$188.85

- Warrant numbers 562670 through 5562707 totaling \$69,309.38
- Warrant numbers 562708 through 562756 totaling \$1,137,680.80
- Warrant numbers 562758 through 563031 totaling \$2,276,496.90

Minutes

- Regular meetings on July 31, 2019, August 7, 2019, August 21, 2019

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Summer School; Reassignment/Transfer; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/ Termination
- Classified: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination; Transportation Department Adjustments
- Extra/co-curricular stipends and supplemental contracts
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified positions

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments:

- Director Ragusa: In response to the announced retirement of the Superintendent, Director Ragusa thanked him for his work and dedication, adding he will be missed.
- Director Coffey: Commented on the Code of Conduct and importance to the educational process. He said a team worked on the verbiage around interscholastic activities and sportsmanship to encompass what the district wants to reflect. The policy is shared with all coaches, debate teams, and any staff or volunteer who participates in interscholastic activities.
- Director Coffey said discussion occurred at the last board meeting regarding preparatory classes with the honors designation. The board heard a very articulate and energized presentation from several high school teachers. He commented that several years ago the board was looking for equity strategies and read a book called Excellence through Equity by Pedro Nogiera. It seemed pertinent to this discussion. He felt it was a good explanation of how a school district took on the challenge of detracking from middle school through high school and the resulting benefits. He would like the board to considering a board retreat for additional discussion. He feels it is a major strategy toward improving equity in learning.

Superintendent's Report

Food Service Annual Report: D. Connors, C. Walker: Food Service Supervisor David Connors and Assistant Supervisor Cheyenne Walker provided statistics, program information and goals for the food service department. These included:

- The district serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Dinner service is over 100 students each weeknight.
- Any after school group or program is eligible for snack programs.
- The department offers catering for district events.
- Grants for fresh fruit and vegetables are in service at Washington Elementary and Centennial Elementary to provide students fresh produce.
- Breakfast after the Bell is a grant-supported program that allows children who are tardy to have the opportunity for a healthy breakfast. They receive food that can be taken to the classroom including a protein or similar bar, nuts, milk, granola bar, and fresh fruit.
- The Summer Feeding program served 15,705 breakfast and lunch meals at Mount Baker, Northwest Career & Technical Academy, and Skagit Valley College.

- The NCTA offered a three-week summer trades course including culinary arts. The district was able to integrate the NCTA program with the summer meals, serving 250 meals per day while the program was in session.
- The application process for Free & Reduced meals is changing slightly. Applications are handed out to families for processing. Applications are also being handled electronically through DSHS, making the program more efficient.
- Noting that 52% of our students live in poverty, this is defined as a combined household income less than \$33,000 a year.
- Goals include as much fresh food as possible, farm to table products, compostable trays with very limited styro, and stainless steel utensils.

Technology Annual Report: T. Papendorf: Supervisor Tim Papendorf said there are 12.5 staff members who support over 10,000 devices. This doesn't include other supports such as servers, wireless, phones, etc. Last year presented new construction, new technology, and new users. The tech team interfaces with users to make it work to the best way possible for the user. Technology is used in nearly all systems including lights, sprinklers, heat, security, new construction systems, and more. The team offers advice and suggestions with regard to software. The full roll out of one system per student is nearly complete and it includes every classroom, grade level, and subject including music and physical education. It is good to have the tools, but not all the teachers want to use them. Some kindergarten teachers have indicated they aren't sure each child needs a Chromebook. Technology works closely with Curriculum to ensure software matches the curriculum needs.

Data Dashboard: Year End 2018-19: Superintendent Bruner and staff reviewed the year-end 2018-19 Data Dashboard. Several categories were reviewed including:

Early learning: Reading data for students entering grades 1, 2, and 3.

Powerful Teaching: Data shows grades 3 and 8 are maintaining a similar trend; grade 5 shows a 7% increase from last year. Math scores show some improvement, particularly at grades 3 and 5. Grades 6-8 still need improvement. Science Data reflected grades 5 and 8 have remained static. Grade 11 scores were improved. As coursework becomes better aligned with standards and students engage in the tests more, improvements have followed. Superintendent clarified that the various tests lacked consistency. Through transitions from WaKids to BAS, to SBA, there is no equal comparison, as the programs don't line up. The STAR testing will be the unifier, demonstrating consistent data through grade levels. Director Coffey said he would like to celebrate with the high school teachers the grade 9 algebra improvement.

Family engagement: saw 35% increase in graduates from parent academies from prior year. Need to continue to build leadership capacity with those parents. Extensive outreach provided to parents at middle school level for fall conference attendance. The attendance promotions last year reduced the number of chronically absent students. Increased and consistent expectations between schools resulted in more disciplinary problems. Advanced placement exam participation saw a drop in the number of students and exams.

Student enrollment: September actual number compared to budget shows additional 27 FTE, however this number is still lower than September last year. Impact fees were reviewed. One remaining QZAB loan that will be retired in 2022.

Implications from data examination include need to continue efforts to improve student achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science; particularly for those students who are traditionally underserved. Need to increase students of color in AP classes, provide SAT preparation, particularly for students of color. Director Coffey noted that we have helped many 9th grade students pass algebra and should celebrate that effort with middle school math staff.

Old Business

Priority Actions 2019-20: This is a second review of the proposed priority actions for 2019-20 school year.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the priority actions for 2019-20.

New Business

PSE Maintenance & Operations Wage Schedule: 2019-20: B. Nutting explained the wage schedule represents members of PSE2, which includes tech staff and food service staff. The group is represented by a three-year agreement with a wage opening. This document is the result of bargaining related to the opening. The PSE unit has ratified.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the 2019-20 PSE Maintenance & Operations Wage Schedule.

Construction: Capital Projects Manager Suzanne Gilbert presented the contract from Lydig Construction for work to the Fine Arts Building at the high school board approval.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the Mini MACC contract from Lydig Construction for the Mount Vernon High School Fine Arts Building for \$6,066,786.

Gifts to the District

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the gift from Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation for \$1000 to benefit Mount Vernon High School for biology students to travel to San Juan Island.

Public Comments: there were no public comments.

- **Student Comments**

Student Asilimy: Shared with the board that the climate change strike went well with approximately 100 students participating. She noted one of the foreign exchange students said her friends in Italy also participated.

- Student Cervantes: Breakfast after the Bell is an amazing service. Sometimes we are late to school and then in classroom become hungry.
- Student Covarrubias: Also pleased with the Breakfast after the Bell program, sometimes person who takes them to school is running late and it is not the student's fault. She likes having more students of color in AP classes. During registration as a freshman and sophomore, she doesn't remember teachers encouraging AP options. She didn't know they were available until mid-last school year.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



Rob Coffey, Director
Board Vice President



Carl Bruner, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board