

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 20, 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 6:00 p.m. on October 20, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom call and in person at Madison Elementary School. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Members present included Directors Otos, Ragusa, Cailloux, and Coffey. Representative Samora was excused. A quorum was present. Superintendent Vivanco was in attendance, along with student board representatives Viridiana and Leydi, student representative Adam was excused. Also, in attendance were several administrators, a Spanish language translator, and approximately 44 community members.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas:

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

Induction of Student Board Representative

Superintendent Vivanco presented the Oath of Office for student school board representative, Leydi Hernandez-Quiros. She will join two other student representatives and serve on the school board through the 2021-22 school year.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

Field Trip Requests and Staff Travel

- MVHS Athletics (5 Students); WIAA State Championships; Girls Swim Team; Kent, WA; 11/12-13/2021
- MVHS Athletics (4 Students); WIAA State Championships; Girls & Boys Cross Country Team; Pasco, WA; 11/5-6/2021
- Staff (7); LaCosecha Dual Language Conference; Albuquerque, NM; 11/10-13/2021

Agreements

- Partnership Agreement; Latino Civic Alliance; Social Emotional Learning program services to Mount Baker and LaVenture Middle School students; October 2021 - August 2022
- Contract for Services; Salish Sea Deaf School; child specific services; 09/01/21 - 06/15/22
- Interlocal Agreement; Sedro-Woolley School District; Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services; 09/01/21 - 06/30/22
- Interlocal Agreement; Stanwood-Camano School District; Vision/Orientation and Mobility Services; 09/01/21 - 06/30/22
- Interlocal Agreement; Skagit Preschool & Resource Center; Facility Use; 09/01/21 - 08/31/22

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Leave
- Classified: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Extra/Co-Curricular Stipends and Supplemental Contracts

- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments:

- Director Ragusa shared she is excited for the upcoming homecoming dance.

Superintendent's Report

Jefferson Elementary School: Tim Newall, principal of Jefferson Elementary, and several teachers presented information on Jefferson and their many programs. Some of the topics included an academic and behavior snapshot; supports that are offered for improved communication, multitiered systems of support, professional learning centers, and intervention resources. STEM information was presented by Roberta Carlson, STEM specialist, the garden club was reviewed, makerspace kits were demonstrated, and project based learning was shared.

Following that presentation, the highly capable and voyager program was shared by teachers Andy Bishop and Chad Norman, and highly capable coordinator, Laura Schonberg. They have been working very hard to ensure the program looks more like the student population. Equity is being used to guide the identification of students for the program. It has become a passion and as the student identification is adapted, changes are becoming evident. Using universal screen, services at the middle school level has doubled the number of Latinx students. With this increase, the high school needs to be prepared with programming as these students move up. Staff have been working with counselors for social/emotional focus and executive functioning and support. Andy Bishop said he values the support of the board and superintendent. The goal is to evolve and approve.

Director Cailloux inquired how the instructional strategies have changed with the diversified student population. Chad Norman replied the students served are from a variety of cultures and they bring that culture with them. Instructors have become sensitive to various cultures and how students express themselves. At the secondary level, provided text is translated. Classroom content includes a global perspective.

The board thanked the presenters for the Highly Capably program update and supports their continued efforts and progress.

District Update

Superintendent Vivanco said work on the secondary schedule is important. Staff have reached out to facilitators AWSP, superintendents who have gone through the process, and more. Looking for opportunities to process and discuss.

Superintendent Vivanco said review of a Modified Balanced Calendar is under consideration. Board President Otos recently shared the district is a recipient of a grant that will support the process and discussions. Learning communities may be developed in the spring to seek community input and more. The very soonest this could be adopted would be for September 2023. Director Ragusa questioned the impact on neighboring districts if only one district adopted a modified balanced calendar, specifically regarding athletics. Another consideration is the impact to daycare for working parents.

Superintendent Vivanco said the district, along with the majority of districts in the state, is experiencing staff and substitute shortages. Bill Nutting and his team are working on creative ways to remedy the situation including the hiring of permanent substitutes, recruiting retired staff, and supporting substitutes with emergency certifications. All departments need support including food service, transportation, and maintenance.

Eric Monson, the Learning Recovery Administrator presented an update. He appreciated the energy and enthusiasm from the Jefferson staff. He is hearing that teachers are tired and values the Jefferson energy. Parents have been surveyed on needs and additional counselors have been added. Cocurricular programming needs to be enhanced including academic and athletic, both before and after school. Partnerships with the YMCA and COV are being refined to meet the current needs. These will be sustainable programs that will continue beyond the ESSER funding. Director Coffey thanked Eric for the report and understanding of the need and sustainability. He commented that even if all the programs won't continue, they all add value so if some continue, that will be positive. There is stress being seen in parents and students so it is important we support them to continue supporting their learning.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business

School Improvement Plans; First Read: Dan Berard presented the School Improvement Plans for the 2021-22 school year. He shared that there are many consistencies among the schools including the Multi Tiered Systems of Support, Family Engagement, Equity, Intervention, and Social Emotion support. Jefferson has placed importance on Project Based Learning and their statistics are showing results. Harriet Rowley is focusing on the equity action plan and building positive relationships, Little Mountain is collaborating with team leads; Madison is focusing on bilingualism and high achievement in Spanish and English, as well as sociocultural competencies; Washington is using the DuFour system, focusing on attendance and social emotional support. Skagit Academy is stressing the multi tiered systems of support, focusing on tier 2 and 3, as well as retention and industry certifications. Director Ragusa inquired how the parent conferences will be managed. Mr. Berard replied that at the elementary level, in person. At the middle and high school levels, staff is identifying new ways to reach out to parents. It can be difficult to authentically engage with parents of hundreds of students, although with technology, collaboration, and creativity, improvements can be made. Director Ragusa wondered if we can support the parent replies to the surveys during the conferences. Director Cailloux appreciates a uniform district approach to behavioral interventions. Bill Cheney, Student Support Director, said the elementary level is doing good work on Tier 1 of the multi tiered system. Additional supports for tier 2 are being identified and, with Project Share, that work is being enhanced.

Policy No. 2336 Required Observances, Update, First Read: Superintendent Vivanco said this policy needs updating per RCW requirements.

Resolution #03/21-22 Signature Authorization: Superintendent Vivanco shared this is a requirement document for the state related to construction at the high school.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, Resolution #03/21-22 authorizing signatures on construction documents was approved.

Public Comments

- Denise Robison, PSE Co-President representing paraeducators and bus monitors shared a statement with the board. She explained the varied responsibilities that support students and their families carried out by paraeducators and bus monitors in the district. She asked the board to increase PSE wages in Mount Vernon.
- Jacob Pederson, student, prepared a video regarding paraeducator staff and his support for wage increases.
- Samantha Chapman, parent of LaVenture student, said her daughter was assaulted by a high school student. She shared her frustration with the process.


Student Comments

- Student Leydi said the presentations were information. She is impressed with the resources that are now available to students.
- Student Viridiana enjoyed the presentations and learning about the efforts in all the schools.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent