



**WORK STUDY SESSION NOTICE AND MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Wednesday, September 15, 5:00 p.m.**

Madison Elementary School In-Person and via Zoom

The Board of Directors of the Mount Vernon School District, Skagit County, Washington, held a Work Study Session on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom call. In attendance were Directors Otos, Cailloux, Samora, Ragusa, and Coffey. A quorum was present. Also, in attendance were Superintendent Bruner, Principals Wattawa, Harlan, and Riddle. Other administrators and guests were present, along with an interpreter.

Dr. Wattawa presented data that she said demonstrates a disproportionate pattern of student impact on assessments. The middle school assessments also demonstrate a disproportionate and incredible disparity between student groupings including ELA, non-ELA, migrant, homeless, and low income. The staff requested a rearrangement of minutes are assigned to allow a balance of other needs. This is a review of potential minutes, not a recommendation, not proposing a bell schedule, an example of the process if classes meet every day for 55 minutes.

The history of the bell schedule in Mount Vernon was an intent for longer classes, which provided more in-depth into a topic. What has happened is that students aren't receiving the same instructional minutes. We need to have a system where students receive the instruction they need. If that isn't happening, we need to explore changes to make improvements.

Director Otos said he appreciates the desire to make a decision. When this came to the board in the past, it was a big issue in the community and the district worked with stakeholders to adopt a schedule. Dr. Vivanco said staff wants to want to gather data, surveys, and more in October. Analysis of the data will occur in November, with a presentation to the board in December. This would allow changes to the schedule for the 2022-23 school year.


Director Coffey said it makes sense to review the schedules every ten years to make sure they continue to meet student need. Director Cailloux said there is no one single thing that impacts the outcome. She appreciates the research into best practices. Staff shared this provides better opportunities for interventions and the ability to support individual students. It also affects our partners including Northwest Career & Technical Academy and Skagit Academy.

Director Coffey shared that Dr. Bruner had concerns with the block schedule. Teachers didn't teach as many minutes due to prep time. Director Coffey said internationally, we don't provide as much prep time and wishes that could be increase.

No action was taken and the meeting adjourned at 5:53 PM.



Larry Otos, President
Board of Directors



Ismael Vivanco Superintendent
Secretary to the Board