

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 2, 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 December 2, 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 as were student representatives Rochelle and Grechishkin. Also, in attendance were many staff and public.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas:

Superintendent requests approval to add items to Letter M. New Business, #2 Construction, Bullet #1, Item #2, Approve Prime Contractors Change Order #011; Bullet #2, Item #2, Mount Vernon Permit Number BLDG20-0321 for Old Main; Bullet #3, Item #1, LaVenture alternative Delivery Method Approval Method. These are all action items.

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

Election of School Board President (1-year term)

Director Otos called for nominations for School Board President for 2021.

Director Coffey nominated and motioned for Director Larry Otos to serve as president for the 2021 calendar year. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Director Otos named as School Board President for 2020 calendar year.

Director Otos thanked the board for their confidence. He enjoys leading the board and is very appreciative of the board's cohesiveness and hard work. Assumption of office by president: Director Otos resumed his role as President.

Election of School Board Vice President (1-year term)

Director Otos nominated and motioned for Director Robert Coffey to serve as vice president for the 2021 calendar year. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Election of School Board Legislative Representative (2-year term)

Director Samora nominated Director Wendy Ragusa to serve as Legislative Representative for a two-year term including 2021 and 2022. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved the items in the consent agenda including items shown below:

Warrants

- Warrant numbers 568989 through 569141, totaling \$679,393.48 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$87.98

- Warrant numbers 569162 through 569185, totaling \$1,249,143.51
- Warrant Numbers 569186 through 569337, totaling \$1,508,365.89 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$4,896.98

Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2020 and November 12, 2020

Agreements

- Personal Services Contract; Kathy Shoop; system wide equity work; 2020-21 school year
- Interlocal Agreement with Sedro-Woolley, Burlington-Edison, Stanwood, and LaConner School Districts; LEA funding; 09/01/2020 with automatic renewal unless cancelled.

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Out of Endorsement; Leave
- Classified: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified positions

Public Comments: there were no public comments.

- **Board Member Comments:**

Director Ragusa thanked all who participated in the Festival of Trees this year. Adele Barborinas, teacher at Harriet Rowley Elementary designed a tree named All is Calm Christmas. Ria Peth, contracted staff in Capital Projects, designed two beautiful trees. Tim Hornbacher, MVHS, made a promotional video, former staff members, Kris Wollan and Evelyn Morse, were very involved. The tree delivery this year was particularly complex and handled very well. Thank you to all.

- Director Samora attended the remote WSSDA conference. She found it to be well presented with good information. She is looking forward to reviewing video of the classes that the board was unable to attend. Director Otos agreed and suggested a possible work study meeting to discuss the materials.
- Director Cailloux shared that she is grateful for the work that staff put into the Equity Plan. It is nice to see the detail and thought. The board is working to give attention to this important commitment. Thanks to the many people who made that possible.

Superintendent's Report

Reopening Update: B. Nutting, I. Vivanco; Dr. Vivanco shared this will be a continuing report. With remote plus already in place, it is time to start looking at options for moving forward and expanding when conditions allow. In a recent regional superintendent meeting, it was shared that some districts opened hybrid programs that had to be reversed. Smaller districts face fewer challenges due to lower numbers of students and staff.

Mr. Nutting said the county has shared we are at over 300 new cases per 100,000 in the past two weeks and that number is continuing to grow. In reviewing the number of exclusions in our district we were at 12 in September, 13 in October, and over 100 in November. These exclusions are not infections spread through our operations, but picked up outside the district in households, including some students who attend remotely. An example is one positive case in a household that has five children living in the house and two nonresident children who are daily visitors. For count purposes, this meant 7 children were excluded for one contact.

Director Otos inquired on the status of the high school food service program. Mr. Nutting noted that one staff person tested positive and since kitchen staff work in close quarters, all were quarantined. No other staff in that kitchen were sick, they were quarantined. The crew was moved out, the kitchen deep cleaned, and alternate employees were moved in. Mr. Nutting shared this is a good example of the

protocols in place including health practices and contact tracing that is keeping district operations safe, as demonstrated by the data.

Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan

Director Otos thanked staff for their hard work on these two action plans.

MTSS Update: B. Cheney; Assistant Director of Student Support Services, Bill Cheney presented information on the Multi Tiered Systems of Supports programming. He noted this is positive support that began last school through a partnership with Safe & Civil Schools. Staff training in program delivery will continue, particularly as adapted to remote learning. In a University of Kansas learning model, they are calling equity based leading for MTSS students. This training equips the administrative team with the knowledge and tools to be effective. The district participated in Project Aims, a program funded by the US Department of Education. Designed by OSPI and University of Washington, it is a leadership learning cohort that takes seven months and includes representatives from around the state.

Director Ragusa questioned how the team has adapted to the remote learning. Mr. Cheney said through outreach efforts, phone calls, and home visits – and many other steps taken by individual staff to reach all families. Just recently, Little Mountain Elementary offered a parent information session about work recognizing the signs and supports for parents in mental health needs; particularly depression. Across the secondary level, reports and warnings about family wellness and mental health is immense. We need to continue to identify, reach out and connect with kids.

Director Coffey said he is pleased that administrative staff is involved in the training. He is also interested in the Aims work facilitated by UW staff. He has confidence in their skill to grow leaders and competency in this field. He noted one side benefit of the zoom world is accessibility to great people, including well seasoned veterans in education.

Old Business

Board Policy #1621, Operating Protocols: Director Otos commented these have been in effect for a few years. The board was looking for more specifics on their commitment to governance. With these protocols, the board is far ahead of many other districts. Director Coffey commented this is one of the more important actions the board does each year. It helps the board function well because we have collaborative standards and work well together. Director Cailloux said the protocols make it clear what is expected from each board member, the superintendent, and employee communication. The model is based heavily on collaborative leadership. Would like the board to review what it would look like with anti-racist leadership and whether that will change any of the language. Superintendent Vivanco said that the team will work with Dr. Cailloux to review this policy through the equity lens.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board recommitted to policy #1621, Operating Protocols.

New Business

EPO and Tech/Security Levy Renewal: J. Larson: Director Larson shared information on the two renewal levies. These are not new, the current levies expire on December 31, 2021. The election date for these renewals is February 9, 2021 and they will for a duration of three years. The proposal is based on 10% assessed values. The EPO Levy amounts are focused on items such as professional development on racial equity and Multi Tiered Systems of Supports, curriculum, and social emotional learning. This year begins a Transitional K learning opportunity that we will support. The Tech/Security Levy will include things such as software and curriculum licensing and security upgrades including access controls. Director Larson said by

law we can run two levies on one calendar year. If this doesn't pass in February, we will have one additional opportunity. As the two levies are both used for operational services, if they don't pass we would need to start reductions immediately as it would result in a \$15million budget reduction.

Director Samora asked for a timeline if the levy passes in February. Director Larson said both current levies expire on December 31, 2021. The last of the funds from the current levies is in October 2021. If approved, the funding would arrive in April of 2022. If we don't pass it in February and rerun it again in 2021, it would need to be passed in May to prevent a disruption of funds.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #12/20-21 EPO Levy was authorized.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #13/20-21 Tech/Security Levy was authorized.

Assistant Superintendent, Bill Nutting, thanked the board for allowing additional items on the agenda. The flexibility is appreciated to allow the district to include time sensitive information.

Resolution #14/20-21 to accept Building Commissioning Report: Jeremy Woolley shared that since February, have brought four final commissioning reports, which is the initial step for project close out.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #14/20-21 to accept Building Commission Report for Fine Arts Building was approved.

Prime Contractors Change Order #011: This document represents a compilation of a variety of potential change orders approved through the process for unforeseen circumstances. There will be an additional two, one of which is related to costs incurred due to COVID.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, prime contractors change order #011 for Fine Arts Building was approved.

FEMA Amendment/Contract change order: Working with the FEMA liaison and the state coordinators, we were able to finalize the federal regulations related to the FEMA grant for Old Main. There are eleven specific requirements, most related closely to other federal regulations. These are already included by Lydig on their public projects. There may be some fine nuances in the future related to these requirements. The Buy American and David Bacon regulations sometimes impact a project, but we already are at or above prevailing wages so don't anticipate any problems.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the FEMA Amendment/Contract Change Order for Old Main was accepted.

City of Mount Vernon Permit Number BLDG20-0321: Mr. Woolley shared the City of Mount Vernon notified him that permits were ready to be issued for Old Main work once payment is received. The permit total is greater than \$100,000, thus requiring school board approval. Once paid and sent to the city, the process of preconstruction and preinspection meetings with Lydig and the site construction team may begin.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, City of Mount Vernon Permit Number BLDG20-0321 is authorized.

LaVenture Middle School: The building project team shared with the Project Leadership Team the plans and strategies for the remaining capital bond projects. The first was finishing the remaining work to occur on the high school campus. A second item is the timeline and project schedule for LaVenture Middle School. A variety of delivery methods has been discussed. Upon careful consideration, it is recommended to utilize an alternative delivery method. There are a variety of pros and cons with the different methods. The application is due by December 21, 2020. Approval does not mean we are committed to the process, but that we can move forward with the investigation. Director Coffey commented this is a quality team. Jim Dugan is very involved in the process and can articulate on why this method fits for the LaVenture project.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approves applying for an alternative delivery method for LaVenture construction.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Student Comments


Student Grechishkin said school is hectic, but teachers have been flexible. They try to do things to keep students engaged, and they are listening.

Student Rochelle agreed the teacher flexibility is helpful.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board