

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 12, 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 November 12, 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: The superintendent requests addition of two contracts in letter H. Old Business, number 3. These are interlocal agreements with Skagit Valley College and the Northwest Career Technical Academy. These are both action items.

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

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Agreements

- Interlocal Agreement; Puget Sound Joint Purchasing Cooperative; equipment, supplies, and services; continuing agreement
- Interlocal Agreement; Sedro-Woolley School District; Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing; 09/01/20 – 06/30/21

Personnel Report

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

Public Comments: There were several public comments received. These were from district staff and parents. They thanked the board for their leadership during this pandemic and appreciated that the board is following local and state health department guidelines.

Board Member Comments

Director Ragusa shared the passing of Dave Quall, a longtime supporter of the district and community. Director Cailloux shared that NCTA is proud to be located at the Quall Center.

Superintendent's Report

Centennial Host School: E. Stroosma, Principal, and staff

Principal Erwin Stroosma and several staff members provided information on this year's student learning and demographics of Centennial. He noted registration is down slightly due to a small incoming K class and the graduation of a large 5th grade class. Attendance is stabilized and runs in the high 80% to low 90%. There are approximately 46 kids in the PLUS learning. Demonstrations were provided by Gretchen Magnuson, 5th grade teacher, Tara Mazza, 1st grade teacher, Rose Ketcham, EL Specialist, Carly Nichol on a

Safe and Civil school environment, and Kara Buckalew on the site's equity work. Director Samora commented on the librarian spotlight into the curriculum. Principal Stroosma said it is clear that families and students are getting into routines. While it is challenging to take a system built on relationships and turn it into tech relationships, the work continues. He believes that teachers will be better skilled in technology resources when this is done and the in-person school will benefit. He also thanked the board on behalf of staff at Centennial for their service to the community. Director Ragusa inquired on the steps taken for the students who have not been present in school. Principal Stroosma said that there have been many home visits and even well checks by the police department.

Reopening Discussion: Bill Nutting, Assistant Superintendent: Mr. Nutting shared briefly the history of the remote programming, noting the model was formulated in August. At this time, the data is not good for returning students, but when the community health is conducive to in-person learning, the district is prepared to bring students back. We have heard from 80% of families that have replied to surveys. Protocols and protections are in place that have helped us manage the cases and minimize impacts as they occur.

Director Otos recognizes we have had some positive cases. Mr. Nutting shared these have been with students and staff, including staff that are not in the buildings but working entirely remotely. There have been some cases in classrooms with students receiving PLUS services. The recent survey is for logistical planning purposes, as the infection rates are increasing dramatically so we are in no position to return students to the classrooms. The survey indicated that when we are ready to return students, approximately 80% of families would come back. Director Ragusa said she feels among families there is fear they are failing their children. There is a social emotional toll on the caregivers. Safety needs to be first. Childcare among our families remains a challenge. Dr. Vivanco shared that the social emotional impact is significant and we are purposefully addressing this with students in their instruction. It needs to be expanded to staff. Clint Carlton said that Project Share accommodates additional supports around mental health. It provides ways to support student wellness and mental health, and staff. Director Ragusa shared a thank you to Jon Ronngren for the staff wellness notes. Director Coffey said the presentations from Jefferson and Centennial Elementary have shared information indicating the teachers are being effective and using available resources to reach all of their students. While he would like to get students back to in person learning, the numbers in the county are too high and continuing to escalate. Projections are that we will double this month and likely double again the following month. If we can manage to get through the next few months, we may see a different world in March or April with the availability of vaccines. He believes the board and district made the right decision in July to stay virtual. Director Otos commented the board had talked about opening after the holiday break and many families have expressed frustration over that. Seeing other districts open and close and reopen is not helpful to students and causes additional stress on parents due to changing schedules and daycare needs. Superintendent Vivanco noted that we have been slowly increasing the PLUS services, but now need to hold back due to the increase in cases. Director Samora said this is a challenging time for parents, and she has heard from some that appreciate our continued communication. Mount Vernon is the largest district in the county and with the larger schools and classes comes increased risk. Superintendent Vivanco said a communication will be available soon regarding reopening. We do not hold back information, but understandably there is confusion when we are operating one way and a neighboring district is operating another. Director Otos said we are serving approximately 500 students in the PLUS program. Not all of our schools are closed, we are doing what we can, and particularly with food service to families. We also need to ensure staff safety. Adjustments will continue when possible and board thanks staff for their continued efforts.

Annual Finance Report: J. Larson: Finance Executive Director Larson share the annual finance report. She reviewed the fund balance and pieces contained within. She said there are multiple categories with funds restricted to specific uses. Unassigned funds came from a few sources including a change in SEBB, staff insurance. This was a one-time situation and the money was carried over. Safety Net funding received was higher than budgeted. There is loss of revenue due to reduced student enrollment, LEA, transportation, and food service. We have approximately 200 students below what was projected. Transportation funding from the state is based on miles drive and with reduced routes we are receiving far fewer funding. OSPI and Skagit County have provided CARES act funding to cover some unanticipated expenses related to remote learning. She shared the year to date expenditures are in line. Impact fees were explained, noting there are two more QZAB loan payments due. Director Otos inquired if impact fees can be used for capital improvements once the loan is repaid. Director Larson said it can be used to add space, but the restrictions are significant including the location of the structures and which school they support. The funds must be used in the order received and in the area served. Typically, they have gone to the high school since that serves students district-wide.

Data Dashboard Report: S. Thomas: Director Thomas reported on the dashboard elements. She reviewed the received data for algebra, family engagement, individual determination including AP scores and more. The graduation rate data for 2020 indicated a decrease. It is clear there were pieces from the last semester with wrap around services that was difficult. We expect some of these will appear in the 5-year extended rate. Last year's extended graduation was improved. The anticipation is that Aspire Academy may be a nice fit for a student needing a flexible schedule to reach graduation.

Old Business

School Improvement Plans 2020-21 (2nd): D. Berard

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and no opposed, the School Improvement Plans for 2020-21 were approved.

Revision of Policy #3120 Enrollment (2nd): C. Carlton

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and no opposed, revised policy #3120 regarding enrollment was approved with a friendly amendment by Director Cailloux to review the policy through the district equity lens at a later time.

Interlocal Agreement with Skagit Valley College and Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Department of Nursing, 09/01/20 through 06/30/21.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and no opposed, the interlocal agreement with Skagit Valley College and Northwest Career & Technical Academy for Department of Nursing programming was approved.

Director Cailloux recused herself.

Interlocal Agreement with Skagit Valley College and Northwest Career & Technical Academy, provide instruction to SVC Students; 09/01/20 through 08/31/21

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and no opposed, the interlocal agreement with Skagit Valley College and Northwest Career & Technical Academy to provide instruction to Skagit Valley College Students was approved.

Director Cailloux recused herself.

New Business

Public School Employee Maintenance and Operations Collective Bargaining Agreement ratification: B. Nutting, J. Ronngren: Mr. Nutting shared this is the last of the six bargaining units that had full or partial wage reopeners. While bargaining conversations can be challenging, they develop positive relationships with employee group leaders. He said Mr. Ronngren took the leadership role.

Mr. Ronngren thanked Ms. Arnold in the Human Resources Department for her work on notetaking and preparation. He also thanked Mr. Nutting for the continued mentoring. He noted the agreement results in a wage increase for the group. It added several other benefits including paid sick leave for subs, added family care leave and paid FMLA for employees. Some changes, such as the inclusion of language around the Janus decision regarding required union membership is a condition of employment. There is new language regarding the SEBB insurance program, as well as transportation mechanics receiving increased reimbursement for tools and boots. The tools remain the property of the district.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and no opposed, the Public School Employee Maintenance and Operations Collective Bargaining Agreement was approved.

Resolution #10-20/21 Cancellation of Warrants: Director Larson noted this is a required action to manage funds related to uncashed warranted.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and no opposed, Resolution #10-20/21 Warrant Cancellation was approved.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Student Comments: There were no student comments.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the board adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Larry Otos, Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board