

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, December 1, 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 December 1, 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, Samora, Cailloux, and Coffey. A quorum was present. Superintendent Vivanco was in attendance, students Waganbach and Ponce-Cisneros were present; student Hernandez-Quiros was excused. Several administrators, staff, and community members were present.

Welcome, Oath of Office, and introduction of newly elected board members: Superintendent Vivanco delivered the Oath of Office to two recently elected directors. He thanked them for their service, sharing his appreciation for their hard work and community commitment.

- Larry Otos
- Wendy Ragusa

Election of School Board President (1-year term): School Board President: A call for nominations for School Board President for calendar Year 2022 was made.

As motioned by Director Coffey, seconded, and approved, the board elected Director Larry Otos to serve as Board President for the 2022 calendar year.

Assumption of Office by new President: Director Otos thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as president for the 2022 calendar year.

Election of School Board Vice President (1-year term): A call for nominations for School Board Vice President for calendar year 2022 was made.

As motioned by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the board elected Director Rob Coffey to serve as Board Vice President for the 2022 calendar year.

Resignation of Legislative Representative: Director Ragusa submitted her resignation as the board Legislative Representative for the 2022 calendar year. She thanked the board for the opportunity.

Election of Legislative Representative (1-year remaining of 2-year term): A call for nominations for Legislative Representative to complete the remaining term of one year during 2022 was made.

As motioned by Director Coffey, seconded, and approved, the board elected Director Laura Cailloux to serve as Board Legislative Representative for 2022 to complete the remaining term.

Policy No. 1621 Mount Vernon School Board Operating Protocols: Director Otos shared the board annually reviews School Board Policy 1621 School Board Operating Protocols. This policy was recently

reviewed and modified through the equity lens.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, Policy 1621 School Board Operating Protocols was reviewed and adopted.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

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

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded, and approved, the board approved all items included in the consent agendas as shown:

Vouchers and Warrants

- Warrant numbers 573475 through 573681, totaling \$523,170.03 and voids/cancellations totaling \$19,509.54
- Warrant numbers 573682 through 573682, totaling \$47,969.54
- Warrant numbers 573715 through 573744, totaling \$58,442.29
- Warrant numbers 573745 through 573766, totaling \$1,259,099.65
- Warrant numbers 573767 through 573966 totaling \$4,287,859.77

Minutes

- Regular meeting November 3, 2021 and November 17, 2021

Travel Request

- Students (8); Mount Vernon High School; Wrestling Team; Wrestling Tournament; Orting, WA; 12/30/21 – 01/02/22
- Students (14); Mount Vernon High School; Wrestling Team; Wrestling Tournament; Vancouver, WA; 12/20/21 – 12/22/21

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Leave; Retirement
- Classified: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments: Director Otos called for public comments.

Ruth Jordan: Shared the enjoyment she receives from her paraeducator position, but feels the wage should be higher to reflect the importance of their duties.

Allison Pederson: Shared a document of paraeducator wage comparisons with neighboring districts. Feels that district paraeducators should be paid equally to area districts.

Cheryl Thrasher: District teacher and MVEA president, asks the board to support a robust settlement for PSE wages, noting they are a vital part of student education.

Ally Lunden: Special Education teacher in the district, said the paraeducators are essential to student success, adding they are the lifeblood of the district. This should be reflected in their pay.

Stacy Malcom: Has worked in the district since 2002 in various positions, and has children in the district. The paraeducators are the eyes and ears of the classroom and wants them to be supported.

Annika Fleming: A special education teacher in the district, said paraeducators are the backbone of the district and their pay should reflect their skills and support to student learning.

Board Member Comments: Director Otos called for board member comments.

- Director Coffey thanked those with public comments. He said the district always appreciates hearing from staff.
- Director Ragusa shared that when she was in school, paraeducators were only in kindergarten classes. They now play a very large role in student education for all grades. She appreciates hearing their comments.
- Director Otos thanked staff for their comments.

Superintendent's Report

Highly Capable Program: Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

Recognition of HiCap program: Superintendent Vivanco shared that he and Director Otos attended a session at the annual WSSDA conference regarding highly capable instruction viewed through an equity lens. The district was recognized for making great strides in equity. Superintendent Vivanco thanked Andy Bishop, instructor in the highly capable program, for sharing the recently made video regarding student mental health. He said the district, students, and families appreciate his work. Director Otos said that 13 districts were recognized and Mr. Bishop's contributions were a large part of that.

School Board Recognition: Board of Distinction 2021: Superintendent Vivanco thanked the board in recognition of School Board Recognition Month for their tireless efforts. They continuously demonstrate hard work and good achievements. A certificate was awarded to each board member as a reminder that the board and staff are all together in serving students. The board recently received a Board of Distinction 2021 recognition for excellence as defined by the Washington State Standards.

Summer School Report: E. Churape Garcia: Elizabeth Churape Garcia, Assistant Principal at LaVenture Middle School and Migrant Program Supervisor, shared information about the 2021 Summer School program. She said there was Covid testing, visits to homes from the family liaison, and the program was a celebration of learning. The programs had a focus on academics and student well-being. Students participated in the Vamos Outdoor program, and participated in field trips. Manny Espinoza, coordinated the Bookmobile. He said it was exciting to bring it back after a Covid break, noting there were 2200 English, Spanish, and Dual Language books given to students. The Bookmobile made stops at district partner locations including Safeway, Haggen's, and Bakerview Park. He also worked with the AVID program on algebra readiness and critical thinking. The Foundation for Academic Endeavors (FAE) reported on their program, noting it served 230 students and was Stem based. She said it is a fully dual language program and also provides some instruction in Triqui and Mixteco. Directors Coffey and Cailloux thanked staff for their work.

District Update: Administrative Team: Superintendent Vivanco said there was a noticeable increase in stress during October, with more normalcy in November. The Omicron virus has people on edge due to the unknown. The district has opened a diagnostic testing center at the former Transitions building.

Regarding recent rains and flooding, the Transportation Department relocated all the buses from flood prone areas to those that provide accessibility. The grounds and maintenance department have worked hard to remove fallen branches. He shared that he was able to participate in an effort to clean and repair a Veteran's home. Panera Restaurant donated over \$1000 of food items for the district. The district appreciated their efficiency and speed in making the delivery safely and in not letting the food waste.

Directors Ragusa, Coffey, and Otos thanked staff for the reports. They reminded the staff of the downtown parade and noted they will be present.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Director Otos called for items in New Business

Construction

- Old Main Change Order PCCO-011

Upon motion made by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the change order PCCO-011 for work on Old Main was approved.

Director Ragusa asked if the contingency funds are available to help with the costs related to the change order. Director Otos commented the construction teams are very conscious of costs and every dollar is carefully scrutinized. Many events happened that made the extension necessary including the pandemic, carpenter strike, insulation removal. Originally, the team thought it would need a 42 day extension to reach completion date, but they believe now they can finish the work with a 35 day extension. He thanked the team for their continual review and conscientious work. Director Coffey said the architectural and construction teams have not asked for a significant extension since the bond projects began. He added they have weathered some significant challenges and believes things will improve as we get closer to the end of the project. Director Samora said she is pleased students will still be able to use the building by Fall.

Board Policy 5515 Workforce Secondary Traumatic Stress; 1st Read: Bill Cheney, Director of Student Support Services, said this policy and resources are required to be in place by the of the calendar year. Mental health concerns remain important. This policy encourages many actions that we are already doing at the district level and building team level. We are ahead of the work the legislature has required, much of it thanks to the Kaiser Permanente Project Share program through ESD.

Request to Surplus: Textbooks, The World's History

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the board approved the surplus of textbooks, The World's History

Northwest Leadership Associates; Service Agreement

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the board approved the agreement with Northwest Leadership Associates to assist in the selection of an Assistant Superintendent.

Director Ragusa asked what the board's role would be; Superintendent Vivanco said this will be managed at the district level. Director Cailloux confirmed the position would be in the Teaching & Learning department; Superintendent confirmed that was correct.

Gifts to the District

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the board accepted the gifts below:

- Reading for Education; \$2,714.34; to benefit Harriet Rowley Elementary; playground equipment and other student needs
- Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation; \$898.45; to benefit Mount Vernon High School for Marine Science Aquarium Ecosystem

Public Comments: Director Otos called for public comments.

Shari Davis, paraeducator in the district, said being a paraeducator is a calling. She said her husband has a master's degree and would be unable to do her job; adding that a level of education should not factor into the pay rate.


Student Comments: Director Otos called for student comments.

- Student Ponce-Cisneros said it was nice to hear from the staff speakers and to learn about the opportunities for the migrant students through the summer programs.
- Student Waganbach said he also enjoyed hearing the staff comments. He said a few weeks ago a student was assaulted off-campus. He shared the security team at the high school is good, but would like the district to consider adding to it as they can't be everywhere on campus. He said he recently had the opportunity to attend the Native American History assembly. He noted it was exceptional.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Director Otos adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.



Larry Otos, Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent