

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 5, 2022 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 January 5, 2022. The meeting was held at Madison Elementary School and via Zoom call. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Members present included Directors Otos, Coffey, Ragusa, Samora, and Cailloux. A quorum was present. Superintendent Vivanco was present; Student Hernandez-Quiros was in attendance, Students Ponce Cisneros and Wagenbach were excused. Also, in attendance were several staff members and some public.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded, and approved, the board agreed to the consent and regular agendas.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the board agreed to the items in the consent agenda including the following:

Minutes

- Regular Meetings on December 1, 2021 and December 15, 2021
- Work Study Meeting on December 1, 2021

Warrants

Numbers 573967 through 574229, totaling \$1,112,860.13 and voids/cancellations totaling \$2,619.39

Numbers 574230 through 574253 totaling \$43,027.56

Numbers 574254 through 574279 totaling \$1,517,761.48

Numbers 574280 through 574444 totaling \$2,971,536.22 and voids/cancellations totaling \$110.00

Agreements

- University of Washington; Research Subaward Agreement Amendment, UWSC10908; 10/01/18 - 09/30/22
- University of Washington; Research Subaward Agreement Amendment, UWSC10884; 09/26/18 - 09/25/22

Personnel Report

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

Public Comments: Director Otos called for public comments.

- Sam Morrow, Mount Vernon High School teacher, shared her concern with the disbanding of team leaders. She feels decisions should be informed by those doing the work.

- Heather Farren, Mount Vernon High School teacher, shared her concern about reducing the number of credits for a diploma. She feels this does not support the district goal to further develop the preparation of students for college and career.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa said it was great to have representation at Rose Parade by our teachers. She shared kudos on the many communications received regarding the changing Covid landscape.
- Director Coffey said that when the board hears public comments, it can feel to the presenter like nothing will be done. He wanted to assure staff and the public that the board appreciates the thoughtful comments received and these are always followed up by staff and the board.
- Director Otos agreed the comments are appreciated, including those in the Zoom chat, and they are reviewed.
- Director Cailloux shared she was able to participate in a Universal Design for Learning program. This is the second meeting she has participated in and it has expanded her understanding of Universal Design.
- The program targets students with disabilities and/or accessibility, and it engages culturally responsive teaching. It is good to hear the data and feedback and she is looking forward to the thoughtful and systematic training.

Superintendent's Report

School Board Recognition: Superintendent Vivanco thanked the board for their continued support of the students and staff in the district. He gave each board member a recognition certificate.

Priority Actions 2021-22: Stephanie Thomas: Ms. Thomas said the district is reviewing a reading pilot and k-5 reading curriculum. At the secondary level, there are also sets being reviewed. At the secondary level, under review is the detracking of math classes for grades 6-8, geometry at 9th, and review of sequencing and math. There is continued and rigorous work happening within the guidelines of the racial equity policy. As the dual language master plan is built out, work is occurring at various grade levels. A data dashboard will be presented at the next meeting and will provide a comparison of precovid and current status. We are in the early stages of Universal design for Learning. Staff is reviewing the book, Coherence, and hope this will help tie up loose ends. Director Cailloux said the action document does a good job connecting to the Tier level, but would like to see additional connections.

District Update: Administrative Team: Superintendent Vivanco said we have received information on ESSER and MTSS. Director Bill Cheney said we need to be realistic about the basics. All buildings are setting up safe cultures and common themes and expectations. Director Van Straten shared there is a close connection between equity and MTSS. We will support the universal expectation to guarantee that all students have access to the same approach and materials. That is how to address the literacy foundation. As we build the system, we are implementing phonics and foundational skills. Two programs are being piloted in language arts, the first in ten years.

Tim Papendorf, Technology Supervisor, updated the board on department highlights. This includes the transition grades 2-12 to a 1:1 computer access model. Grades 7-12 take the devices home daily. A new website was deployed and the department recently completed a multiyear website accessibility review. With the reopening of Lincoln Elementary as south campus, a significant amount of technology support was needed. All teachers have mobile devices, they are individually assigned so can take to where they are assigned. While this was planned for, the change at Lincoln provided a good fit to do so. There has been a

75% increase in Help Ticket requests from 2016. Essentially, everything done in the classroom involves technology. The Help Desk is now available to students and families, in addition to staff. Since 2016, the department has only grown by .5 staff. Chromebooks have grown 201%, iPads 129%, and windows 87% in 5 years. Currently the district has 7,430 Chromebooks in use, all of which the Technology Department supports. The board support of the technology levy is greatly appreciated. These devices have all been critical during the remote learning process and into this year. Security cameras in the buildings has tripled and now allow multiple views, equating to 150 angles. Until recently, the security cameras, like the lighting, heating, and other infrastructure systems, were not a part of the technology department. That has changed and now all fall under technology. Director Ragusa said the Help Desk and retrofit of Lincoln were both huge projects. Thanks to the team for their crisis management skills. Director Cailloux said she is impressed with the amount of initiatives completed. Director Otos said the volume of work and tracking with only an increase of .5 FTE is remarkable. He said the technology department touches each and every student and staff member. He expressed appreciation to the voters for the tech levies because their support has brought us to where we are.

District update: Superintendent Vivanco said the leadership team is working to put plans in place to be ready in case there is significant impact from Covid for a return to remote learning. Teachers have been informed of steps they can take to be prepared should that be required. The continuity of operations plan will be useful if we reach that point. Director Cailloux inquired if this would be by classroom or school or district wide. Superintendent Vivanco said that is not determined. Each situation will be evaluated when needed. Mr. Nutting shared there have been a few instances where self-contained special education classrooms have had to be remote for a short time. One of the deciding factors will be enough staff to keep students safe. Another factor will be if the ability to contact trace remains possible. If closing classrooms or schools, it will likely be short term.

Director Ragusa asked about the status of building damage due to the weather. Mr. Nutting shared the water pipes at Centennial broke from freezing. Julie Sager and Chris Johnson worked to get resources to school to assess and make plans. They were able to relocate a few classrooms. The Risk Management Pool has been notified.

Director Ragusa asked about the availability of rapid tests for Covid. Mr. Carlton said we have a vendor who has the ability to test our staff, students, families, and athletes. They have their own direct supply of tests. Superintendent Vivanco said at today's press conference, the Governor indicated the state is distributing some tests to schools, in addition to those that are sent by the Federal government. Director Coffey thanked the administrative team for their hard work. He expressed his concern about athletics and feels it is one area to reduce exposures. Mr. Nutting said the players are tested three times a week. He said that many games have been and will continue to be cancelled; we just need to be smart about it and watch carefully. The athletic and other extracurricular experiences are particularly important for students at this time. We need to try to continue with those, but safety must come first. Superintendent Vivanco said we continue to rely on the County and State DOH to provide guidance and we will continue to be proactive.

Superintendent Vivanco shared that in addition to the broken pipe at Centennial, NCTA also had a broken pipe. It was discovered by Supervisor Chris Johnson who was checking the buildings so he was able to catch it before extensive damage was done. It did leak into the kitchen/classroom with some damage, but was stopped and repaired in a timely manner. Jefferson also had a leak.

Old Business

Policy Updates

Policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements-revise 2nd Read: Stephanie Thomas said this policy does not reduce the challenge of graduation, but matches what was done the past few years related to students graduating during the pandemic. It is a temporary patch. A broader conversation is how many credits will be needed for graduation in the future.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and approved, policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements was revised to 24 credit requirement.

Director Ragusa inquired why staff hadn't understood the rationale. We want rigor and expectations to be high, but stakeholders need to receive the information. Superintendent Vivanco said this does not change expectations. At this time, we are matching the state recommendation for high school graduation. Staff needs to and will continue to encourage kids to excel. Director Wattawa said this has been a difficult year and a traditional vetting process was not able to be done; adding that change is very difficult. We need to respond in a way that serves students and community. Director Coffey said there are many issues at play and it should have been aired more thoroughly before making the decision, even if temporary. Director Samora said if this is temporary, when will the additional review occur; Director Thomas replied this adjustment extends through the class of 2024, then will automatically shift back to 30 credits for the class of 2025.

Policy 6220 Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements-revise 2nd Read

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, policy 6220 Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements was updated to reflect changes in the revised code of Washington.

New Business

PSE Paraeducators Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification; 09/01/21-08/31/24: Human Resources Director, Jon Ronngren, expressed his appreciation to PSE President, Denise Robison for her leadership during the bargaining process. He said the process took eight months of hard work with 7 or 8 members representing management and 7 or 8 members representing the bargaining unit. The agreement was ratified by PSE on December 16, with the largest percentage of members voting. It is a three year contract that provides competitive wages with neighboring districts. Director Otos and Ragusa both thanked the teams for their work.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and approved, the collective bargaining agreement for PSE Paraeducators was ratified.

Gifts to the District

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board accepted the gift from Washington DECA for \$600 to benefit Aspire Academy student membership scholarships.

Public Comments: there were no public comments.

Student Comments

Student Hernandez-Quiroz appreciated the reports.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board