

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, January 19, 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 19, 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; Students Hernandez-Quiros and Wagenbach were in attendance, Student Ponce Cisneros was excused. Also, in attendance were several staff members and some public.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Superintendent Vivanco requested addition of Data Dashboard in the Superintendent's Report.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the Consent and Regular Agendas were approved as modified.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, items in the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

Travel Request

- Staff (1): A. Dykstra; National Business Education Association; Chicago, IL; April 12-15, 2022
- Staff (10): National Migrant Education Conference; San Antonio, TX; 04/07/22 – 04/10/22

Agreements

- Agreement; NWESD/Skagit Discovery Program; Amendment; current program year
- Contract; Renaissance; Renewal; 09/01/22 – 03/31/25

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

G. Sanchez: Thanked the board for their work. Expressed the need for programs that help move forward youth who are at risk students. Mr. Sanchez explained he has worked with students affiliated with gangs, and collectively the students and staff want their grades and life outcomes improved. He appreciates the administrative team and work they are doing.

R. Garner: Shared her appreciation for the Affinity Group and the safe and supportive space.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa, thanked staff for the many kind and generous gifts in honor of Board Member Recognition Month.
- Director Cailloux, shared the legislative topics are focusing on staffing, budget stability, and transportation. She has found her role as Legislative Representative to be a great learning experience and enjoys working with other board members across the state. She was able to see

the testimony by Lynette Brower, Director of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, on skills centers. She noted that, as a district, we need to continue to support the CTE programming and is looking forward to representing the district.

- Director Otos shared that he, Dr. Vivanco, Dan Berard, and Carol Ledin visited the North Thurston school district and the ESD 113 for information relating to the Student Focused Balanced Calendar. North Thurston District is soon to have the first community meeting on the topic. They are twice the size of Mount Vernon School District, have an operational committee of 50 people, and are working with 10 bargaining units. Director Otos shared that he was accepted to the WSSDA Leadership program. It is a year-long program and Dr. Coffey will serve as his mentor. There were 19 directors statewide accepted to the program.

Superintendent's Report

Data Dashboard completion: S. Thomas

Director Ragusa commented on the value of in person instruction. She said the report provides a good argument for a student focused balanced calendar. Ms. Thomas said the graduation rates are trending up during the past five years, including for the Latinx students. If the trend continues, at the current rate it could be 100% within the next 7-8 years. Director Coffey said we don't always talk in depth about extended graduation rates and they are important.

School Board Recognition: I. Vivanco

Superintendent Vivanco said he recently met with Anne Larson from Senator Murray's office. She said when she had worked with Dr. Bruner, we had a great board – and in fact, we still do. Our board helps guide the district and keeps us moving in a positive direction for the benefit of our students. Mr. Newall presented information from Jefferson. Mrs. Moe, Little Mountain Elementary, shared a video of kindergartners singing an appreciation song. Centennial, LaVenture, NCTA, Mount Baker, the district office, and the other schools sent gifts and thoughts of appreciation.

Finance & Enrollment Update

Executive Director-Finance, Jennifer Larson, presented the finance report. She shared student enrollment has had less stability than in the past, with movements up and down more frequently. We started the year with fewer students and have increased those as the year has progressed. She said she feels that we will end the year with about 200 students under the estimate used for budget preparation. This information will help us plan for next year's budget. Legislatively, there has been discussion about enrollment stabilization funding. If passed, these one-time funds would benefit our district.

District Update: Administrative Team

Superintendent Vivanco said the district leadership team discussed Covid data points, thresholds, and available information for tools to determine when or if remote learning is recommended. All agreed that in person learning is preferred, and there is no easy or set formula for deciding when or if to switch temporarily to remote instruction. Absences from the Omicron variant seem to be peaking. Last week, the district had a 30% absent rate. This is due to when one student tests positive, the rest of the family stays home. Staff absences are also higher than usual. Administrators are supporting classrooms, including teachers on special assignments to keep school operating in person. The classrooms that have needed to close are those that serve the special education population. Staff in those classrooms have specialized skills.

Regarding spectator events, it is necessary to determine what makes the most sense for the community. Initially, we made the decision to exclude spectators for two weeks. That was revised to allow two parents and siblings of participants attend in person. This is going well and will continue for a few weeks. Director Otos expressed his appreciation for that allowance. Director Coffey expressed his thought that being responsive to a few parents violates what we have said through the pandemic, that we would listen to the authorities. He said limiting spectator sports was a recommendation and not a requirement, but he is disappointed that we haven't continued the leadership role that our district and Anacortes School District embarked on at the start of the pandemic.

Regarding the Student Focused Balanced Calendar discussion, staff have been informed of the option for a change in the calendar. It will also be in the latest Community Link. The exploratory phase will continue for approximately one year with many opportunities to hear from stakeholders.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business

New & Revised Courses for the 2022-23 School Year (1st Read): S. Thomas

Teaching & Learning Director, Stephanie Thomas, shared a brief summary on the new and revised courses. In general, many of the proposed revisions are for course titles or descriptions only. Two highlighted areas are ELA courses becoming college in the high school courses. This provides the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. Another benefit is the dual credit graduation pathways. One revision takes us from Folklorico to beginning and advanced Folklorico. For this and guitar, there are layers being added to support continued learning. Director Ragusa requested a full course snapshot of the fine arts offerings. Dr. Cailloux said it seems there are several language arts opportunities for college in the high school, but not many for math. CTE courses also provide pathways.

Construction: B. Nutting

MVHS Old Main: Production Light Fixture

Mr. Rooks, RLB Project Manager, said they are asking approval for awarding Hollywood Lights the contract for Old Main. Director Ragusa asked if they are a well-known vendor; Mr. Rooks replied they are and there are very few who are capable of this type of work. .

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the contract for lighting from Hollywood Lights was approved.

MVHS: Project Management Services; New Classroom & Tenant Improvements

Mr. Nutting shared the board knows we have had an agreement in place with RLB for project management services for some time. Mr. Rook, has provided successful and efficient project management for us and as we continue with new classrooms and tenant improvements, we are asking approval for RLBs proposal and fee estimate amendments.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded, and approved, the project agreement amendment for RLB was approved.

Public Comments

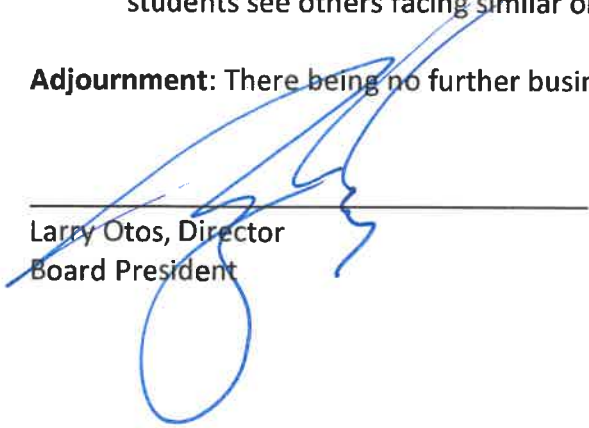
D. Baughn shared her opinion about some staff discontent at the high school. She shared that some voices

are loud but not everyone is unhappy with the changes in department representation. She said her opinions are those of a community member, parent, and long-time staff member.

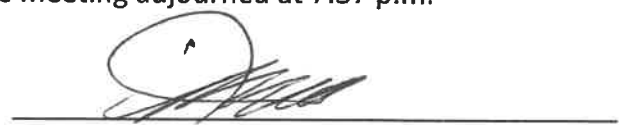
Student Comments

- Student Waganbach thanked staff for the appreciation gifts. He particularly enjoyed the student poems from LaVenture students.
- Student Hernandez-Quiros shared she took a WWU campus tour. She thanked staff for the appreciation gifts. She appreciated the report on student graduation. She said it is good that students that don't graduate on time, still have options to get to graduation. She also believes in follow up after graduation, noting that students who do well in high school, are well equipped for post high school education. Those who struggle, often don't do as well. She would like to see support following graduation. She said sharing stories often strengthens the community because students see others facing similar obstacles.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board