

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 16, 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 6:02 p.m. on March 16, 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, Ponce-Cisneros, and Wagenbach were present. Also, in attendance were several staff members, some public, and an interpreter.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Superintendent Vivanco requested addition in New Business, Item 4, Recommend to Hire Assistant Principal at Mount Vernon High School. This was an action item.

Upon motion by Director Samora, 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

- Student Travel (6) Mount Vernon High School; CTE/Agriculture; FFA State Veterinary Science Contest; Washington State University; Pullman, WA; 05/31/22 – 06/01/22

Agreements

- Interlocal Agreement; AVID Center; 07/02/22 through 06/30/23

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/ Resignation/ Termination
- 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: There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments

- Director Coffey shared the latest Covid count in Skagit County has dropped to eight cases per day per 100,000. The count is over the low point of June that was two cases per day, but a fraction of the 200 per day six weeks ago.
- Director Otos thanked Tim Papendorf, Information Services Supervisor, for the upgrades to the audio system. He is also working on a more compact system so it will be more travel friendly. Even when the board school visits resume, the board will continue to have an online presence.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vivanco shared there was a presentation on Choice Schools during the work study session immediately preceding this meeting. The board has a few questions regarding the information included in that presentation. Director Cailloux asked for clarity on the attendance comparison of Aspire to Emerson High School. Superintendent Vivanco replied the district contractually had a guaranteed minimum of 75 students at Emerson per year and we now have 120 attending Aspire. Director Cailloux inquired if the agreement with Spokane School District to provide remote learning to Mount Vernon Virtual Learning (MVVL) will continue following this school year. Director Thomas, Teaching & Learning, said the Spokane Virtual Learning program was a good option and allowed us to increase enrollment as needed. The initial expectation was 30 students, but after the first month, enrollment jumped to 100. Ideally, MVVL we would have local providers for student case management. Director Cailloux asked why MVVL is not represented on the OSPI Dashboard page. Director Thomas said the students are included as Mount Vernon Students but are included in counts from the brick and mortar locations. The program is a school within a school. Director Cailloux requested information regarding funding levels and whether it meets the needs of the student demographics. This will be provided at a future meeting. Choice Schools Principal, Kecia Fox, said they are hiring a bilingual liaison.

Director Otos asked how students enroll into the Choice Programs, whether they are selected, referred, or self-directed. Principal Fox said it is most commonly by counselor referral. Skagit Academy is by word of mouth, MVVL were mostly from referrals by parents seeking alternatives.

Recognition Education Support Professionals Week: Superintendent Vivanco shared that March 14-18, 2022 is Education Support Professionals Week. He read portions of the Governor's Proclamation that expressed the instrumental role those professionals serve. He thanked the staff in those roles.

Recognition Washington State School Retirees Week: Superintendent Vivanco shared that March 21-27, 2022 is School Retirees Appreciation Week. He read portions of the Governor's Proclamation. He thanked school retirees for their many commitments to student education and bettering the community.

Financial Report & Enrollment Projections 2022-23: Executive Director-Finance, Jennifer Larson, presented the monthly financial report and projected enrollment for 2022-23. The February 2022 Expenditures report was reviewed, noting the district is at 52% reference point. Impact Fees were reviewed, noting they are mostly targeted for high school use due to origination tracking, but more research is needed for clarity. Regarding enrollment, it is the first step in building the budget, driving approximately 75% of total funding. It also drives staffing allocation. When estimating enrollment, considerations include February enrollment, students who roll to the next grade level, prior year and three-year retention rates. The pandemic has made some of this information difficult to follow, adding that 239 districts in the state lost enrollment during the pandemic timeframe. Based on review and calculations, the 2022-23 estimated basic education enrollment is 5749 students. Other enrollment estimates include MVVL (100), Skagit Academy (275), Aspire (140), NCTA (225), Running Start (122), Open Doors/SVC (17), Open Doors/NCTA (11). These figures are reported to OSPI and are separate from the 5749 basic education projection. The 2022-23 estimated 5749 student enrollment is a 40-student decrease from current. Each student represents basic ed funds received from the state. Director Cailloux asked how enrollment stabilization would affect the district; Ms. Larson said it would affect the fund balance. If the funds are received by the state in July, it will fill in a portion of the loss resulting from declining enrollment. This would help the district start the 2022-23 year in the positive, rather than in the negative and pulling from the existing fund balance.

District Update: Administrative Team: Superintendent Vivanco said regarding the relaxing of the masking mandate, comments from schools indicated students and staff are mostly okay. Some administrators are wearing them, some not – same with teachers and students. Mostly people are letting others do as they wish, which was the hope.

Superintendent Vivanco shared that Ken Axelson, a retired administrator is helping at the high school for the balance of the school year. Principal selection is moving forward and will include forums, pre and final interviews. The goal is to complete all steps and background checks so a final recommendation can be presented to the board on May 4. Several schools in the region are looking for principals so we need to be ahead of the curve. Director Cailloux commented with such a progressive timeline, whether we are limiting the opportunity for diverse candidates to apply. She is not sure this timeline will help the district reach their goal. Dr. Vivanco said we are utilizing the state and national Latino Administrator groups, reaching out on a personal basis, and using the more traditional methods such as local and national education administrator groups.

Superintendent Vivanco reported the district office had their first staff meeting since the start of the pandemic. There was good participation and overall a feeling of things running smoothly.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business

Alternative Learning Program Report: Per the Revised Code of Washington, Principal Kecia Fox said an annual program report is required for Alternative Learning Programs. She shared that the information was presented at the work study meeting on choice schools and included the enrollment, teacher-student ratio, number of students per grade band, and course offerings for Skagit Academy, Aspire Academy, and Mount Vernon Virtual Learning.

Skagit Academy: a parent partnership program serving students in grades K-12

- **Enrollment:** 252 student FTE, 12.5 teacher FTE, 20:1 student-teacher ratio, .5 counselor and .5 Special Ed
- **Course type / offerings:** all core content areas as well as a variety of electives; district approved curriculum; all courses that are needed to earn a high school diploma are offered; offerings meet the needs of families partnering with the school to meet student needs
- **Number of students in each grade band:** K-5 135, 6-8 82, 9-12 60

Aspire Academy: a small alternative high school serving students in grades 9-12

- **Enrollment:** 115 student FTE, 4 teacher FTE, 30:1 student teacher ratio and a full-time counselor
- **Course type / offerings:** courses include all core content areas, Art, Spanish, and CTE; all courses that are required for a high school diploma are offered; support the district's goal of 100% graduation
- **Number of students in each grade:** 9th-20 10th-23, 11th-32, 12th-37

Mount Vernon Virtual Learning: an online learning program for students in grades K-12

- **Enrollment:** 100 student FTE, teachers via contracted service
- **Course Type/ Offerings:** courses include all core content areas plus electives; all courses that are needed to earn a high school diploma are offered
- **Number of Students in Each Grade Band:** K-6th 39, 7-8th 23, 9-12th 44

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and approved, the board acknowledged receipt of the annual alternative learning report for the district Choice Schools.

Director Cailloux commented the information shared earlier on the programs demonstrated incredible innovation and graduation success with the various programs. Director Ragusa said she would like the information to be shared with the community, possibly in the next edition of the Community Link. She noted it goes beyond the traditional classroom and shows our extraordinarily great programs.

Request to Surplus Books; Mount Baker Middle School Library: Superintendent Vivanco shared that a number of books are requested to be surplus.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and approved, the board approved the surplus of unused or damaged books from the Mount Baker Middle School library.

Student Wagenbach inquired what happened to the books following surplus; Superintendent Vivanco said there is process required by the State and School Board policy regarding disposition. This includes being offered to other schools in the district, other districts, and the public. Director Ragusa said she would like them offered to the owner of Easton Books in downtown Mount Vernon for his collection for Veterans' homes, if not disposed of by any other process.

Donations: Superintendent Vivanco shared there are three donations offered to district.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and approved, the board accepted the donation from Salazar's Nursery for \$500 to benefit Mount Vernon High School Lucha Club.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the board accepted the donation from the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation for \$1000 to benefit Centennial Elementary.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and approved, the board accepted the donation from the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation for \$2000 to benefit Mount Baker Middle School Community Book Mailbox.

Assistant Principal-CTE; Mount Vernon High School; 1.0 FTE; effective 07/01/22 continuing

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the board approved the employment contract for Brien Reed as the Assistant Principal-CTE at Mount Vernon High School effective July 1, 2022.

Director Coffey inquired how many assistant principals are at the high school and if there is a CTE Director. Superintendent Vivanco replied there is no Director of CTE. He noted there is much work to be done with CTE and having another administrator will support the program and overall workload. Director Cailloux inquired if the position was advertised; Superintendent Vivanco replied it was a management decision.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Student Comments

- Student Wagenbach: a student poll of seniors regarding a walking or driving graduation parade was overwhelmingly to walk. He has heard only a few comments about masks, mostly people are respecting others' decisions.

- Student Hernandez-Quiros: She said it appears students are doing okay with the masks. She inquired if teachers were supposed to distance students or refine seating charts; Superintendent Vivanco replied nothing is required, adding any student concerns should be given to the principal. She also mentioned that sometimes families have limited transportation or are not able to attend evening meetings. She wondered if there are activities students can participate in that would count as extracurricular activities to boost their college applications. Superintendent Vivanco said he would give some thought to virtual enhancements.

Adjourn to Executive Session: The regular meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:04 PM pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), to review the performance of a public employee. The meeting will reconvene at 7:50. No action will follow related to this topic.

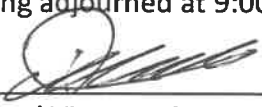
At 7:50 PM, the meeting reconvened for one minute to extend the executive session to 9:00 PM.

Reconvene Regular Session: The meeting was called back to order at 9:00 PM. There was no action taken.

Adjournment: There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.



Larry Otos, Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board