



**WORK STUDY MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

Madison Elementary School, In Person and Zoom

The Board of Directors of the Mount Vernon School District, Skagit County, Washington called to order a work study meeting at 5:00 p.m. at Madison Elementary School, 907 E. Fir Street, Mount Vernon, WA and via Zoom.

In attendance was Director Otos, Director Ragusa, Director Cailloux, and Director Samora. Director Coffey was excused. A quorum was present. Also present, Superintendent Vivanco, several staff members, and an interpreter.

The purpose and agenda of the Work Study meeting was for an update on Centennial Elementary learning and the PAX program and facility update.

- **Centennial Elementary:** Presented by Principal Julie Sager, Assistant Principal Chad Sage, and K-1 Teacher, Carly Nichol. They shared current school goals and vision. They shared that Centennial identified behavior expectations in 2018, reviewed a PAX pilot in 2019, and were able to introduce PAX in 2021. They have been using the PAX program as a behavioral game that empowers positive behavioral interventions. They noted there are many Positive Behavioral Support Strategies (PBSS) embedded in the PAX program. They said it took some time to get staff and students to fully understand how to best incorporate the program, but the benefits now are remarkable.

Director Cailloux asked if other schools in the district are using; not at this time, but it is being worked on. She asked if the program was culturally responsive to the demographics of the school; she was told you don't have to have a background in it and it is easy to learn. Director Ragusa said she is pleased to see how well it blends with other programs. She hopes it can be used in other schools. Principal Sager said it teaches students how to self-regulate and comes with significant evidentiary research. It helps staff use the same vocabulary and expectations, and students know exactly what that means.

- **Facility Discussion:** Superintendent Vivanco shared updates regarding district facilities and properties. He said the Skagit Housing Authority is looking at community housing needs. One informal conversation related to using the property north of Madison for residential use for low income housing. While this was a very preliminary conversation, further review may occur in the future.


Superintendent Vivanco shared the 6-Year Capital Facilities Plan is being finalized and will be shared with Denise Stiffarm to put together and report to the board. Regarding athletic facilities, he said there are basic needs that are lacking and not up to the standards of neighboring districts. The district currently has an interlocal agreement with the City of Mount Vernon for the use of Sherman Anderson Field. That field has spots that retain water, often making it unusable for games. Athletic Director, Jordan Sneva, said most all of the outdoor facilities have issues. He said the soccer and football share a field, causing many scheduling conflicts. Research shows that from Ballard to Blaine, there are no other districts that lack the same degree of athletic facilities. The outdoor sports have the students with the most diverse backgrounds and are at the highest risk. We should be able to accommodate the participation numbers with facilities that will serve them. The middle and high school teams share the track. With no covered stadium, we are unable to host our own graduation or other regional/state athletic contests. Sherman Anderson Field has needed improvement for some time, but even so, the district doesn't own its own baseball field. Superintendent Vivanco said the bond work should be completed by summer 2023 and we should have continued discussions on the need for better and expanded athletic facilities. Athletic Director Sneva noted that our students deserve to have good facilities. We are lucky to have dynamic coaches and teacher coaches. Parents ask as they travel to other venues why ours are so poor. The Sherman Anderson concession stand is closed due to rats, the portable bathrooms are closed due to rotting floors, the neighbors complain about announcements and music and it all puts pressure on the students, teams, and parents.

Director Otos shared his frustration. He said the district is actively looking at alternatives, including discussions with the county and Skagit Valley College. He noted the taxpayers have been gracious to build our buildings for academics and hopes they will support the needs for athletics. Director Ragusa asked if the coaching leadership feels equipment and supported or if we should do more to help them. Athletic Director Sneva said they are appreciative we are discussing the topic and trying to fix the problem. He noted the indoor facilities are great, but the sports with the largest number of student participants are the outdoor sports. Director Cailloux requested disaggregated data about the numbers of students who turn out for the various sports. Athletic Director Sneva said sports is a way for students to feel like they belong, just like band and chorus. Chris Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor, said the football field is in good shape and the track will be refinished this summer.

No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



Larry Otos, Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent