

**MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:30 PM**

**Call to Order and Flag Salute** *[The Mount Vernon School District records all School Board meetings. They will be available by accessing the district website at [www.mountvernon.schools.org](http://www.mountvernon.schools.org).]*

Director Otos called to order a regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors at 6:30 p.m. on June 1, 2022. The meeting was held at Madison Elementary School and via Zoom. 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 Viridiana, Leydi, and Adam were present. Also, in attendance were several staff members and some members of the public. Notes by C. Ledin.

**Set Consent and Regular Agendas**

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

**Approve Consent Agenda**

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

**Warrants**

- Warrant Numbers 576130 through 576344, totaling \$710,234.51 and voids/cancellations totaling \$1,199.31
- Warrant Numbers 576345 through 576364, totaling \$50,865.91
- Warrant Numbers 576365 through 576390, totaling \$1,377,804.53
- Warrant Numbers 576391 through 576598, totaling \$4,468,120.71 and voids/cancellations totaling \$3,598.48

**Minutes**

- Regular Meetings on May 4, 2022 and May 18, 2022
- Work Study Meetings on May 4, 2022 and May 18, 2022

**Agreements**

- Interlocal Cooperative Agreement; Northwest ESD189; Legal Services Cooperative; 07/01/22 through 06/30/23
- Memorandum of Understanding; Western Washington University; SCOPE program; 07/01/22 – 07/28/22

**Personnel Report**

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

### **Public Comments:** Director Otos invited public comments.

- The kindergarten teacher team shared comments as summarized. They said teacher morale is low, classroom conditions are chaotic, student instability and social emotional struggles are real. This is impacted by the removal of key programs such as the bridge program and child specific supports. Only 31% of students come prepared per the WaKids evaluation. Need more time for students to transition to Kindergarten, special education programs, and educator support. Speakers included Denise Behrens, Marcy Anderson, Tracy Coll, and Renee Garmen.
- Dale Samuels, Retired Police Chief with 54 years in law enforcement shared he is shocked by the prevalence of school shootings nationally. He thanked the board for the school resource reform. He has met with staff and volunteered his services. This needs to be addressed with trained responders on campus.
- Richard Chapler, daughter is a student. He said their family has been subjected to vandalism and has received a videotaped rant that is aggressive and contains racial slurs. This was reported, he has met with the school resource office, he spoke with the other student's parent, and he has heard nothing from the superintendent or principal. He feels policy doesn't do anything and no one has helped.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Director Ragusa thanked the kindergarten team for sharing their comments. She said it is disheartening to hear. She appreciates hearing public comments, noting the state does not require school boards to include public comments in the agenda, but the board wants to hear them. She thanked those who shared their thoughts. She has been talking with parents of school athletes and would like to know the status of improvements to athletic facilities. She added the end of the school year is celebratory but is also high stress for students and families. She hopes staff and students can enjoy their time off during the summer.
- Director Samora said the board and staff just celebrated retirement for 35 staff members, noting there are retirees with over 40 years with the district. Thank you to all of them. She thanked the Kindergarten team for being here and sharing. She encourages public comments, noting they can be very personal and appreciates hearing them.
- Director Coffey noted Jefferson had a large number of retirees so Principal Newall will be busy.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**DEI Report: D. Rodriguez:** Mr. Rodriguez reported that two equity leads are now stepping down from their role. He has been meeting with the teams to determine their future goals, and there will be an emphasis on instruction. He appreciates the collaboration and support. The Infinity group has increased their membership, noting in 2020-21 there were 15 members and in 2021-22 there are 40. Facilitators will be recruited as the current facilitators will become equity leads. This provides opportunity for leadership roles. It is important to continue to recruit staff who look like the students, and is pleased M. Sanchez is joining the scholars' team. Director Ragusa inquired the location of the summer program; it will be at Mount Baker and Little Mountain. They will host teachers from Mexico for three weeks, beginning July 6. Director Cailloux inquired on an audit of hiring practices; that is being worked on. Also looking at what other practices will work.

**ESSER Report: E. Monson:** Mr. Monson said he enjoyed the retiree recognition. He shared how the ESSER funds are currently being used, he shared enrollment numbers for the afterschool programs at the YMCA and COV. There will be two sessions of summer programs called Imagine the Possibilities. Student enrollment in the programs is very positive. Over 500 staff have been recognized for their work, providing positive recognition and improved morale. The summer programs help students with their physical fitness and educational engagement. Director Otos thanked Mr. Monson, commenting he likes the idea of the Imagine the Possibilities summer program. Director Coffey inquired on the duration of the ESSER funds; Mr. Monson said

this current year and two following. The hope is that some of the programming can be sustained for three years. Other programs will be two years, but hopefully, the district will then be able to continue those with other funding sources. Director Ragusa thanked him for working to make these programs happen.

District Update: Administrative Team

Student Wagenbach shared what he has learned over the past four years of high school. He said like a sliver, small things should not be ignored or they can infect and spread. He sees pain in the room and said just as seniors are expected to remain steadfast, students should expect the same of staff. Students see and hear the good and the bad. They are taught to speak for justice and use voice, yet their concerns are brushed under the rug. He has heard from students who don't like the school and many staff that are biased. Typically, comments were about communication and responses. Students don't feel they are taken seriously by administration when they are expressing concerns so don't trust administrators. This is what causes students to fight. He said students deserve a safe environment, free from bullying. The problems must be addressed.

Superintendent Vivanco shared there have been many end of year activities. The district is looking at challenges, facilities, student focused calendars. Many things happening. There will be committees developed in 2022-23 to review the student focused calendar. Next school year will also bring a focus to athletic and other facilities. We will work with community partners regarding baseball, softball, and soccer fields.

Director Ragusa shared there have been a number of community supporters including those who have served on the Finance Committee, Citizen Advisory Committee, and others who understand the district and challenges and can work as a team to resolve the challenges.

Director Cailloux would like to work on the strategic planning for 2022-23 and engage new people in the process. We need a clear vision to bring programs and resources forward.

**Old Business**

Instructional Materials/Middle School Science: Stephanie Thomas

**Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and approved, the Instruction Materials for Middle School Science was approved.**

**New Business**

Policy & Procedure Updates (1<sup>st</sup> Read): Executive Director of Student Services shared there are several health related policies that require updating to comply with recent changes in state law. The suggested changes came from WSSDA and the Department of Health, who routinely update policy templates to ensure districts meet new requirements. Policies reviewed included #3410, #3411, 3413, 3413P, 3414, 3414P, 3416, 3416P, 3420, 3420P, 3422, and 3422P. He encourages any questions or concerns to be shared with him. These will be presented for board adoption on June 15.

Elementary Language Arts Curriculum Adoption: M. Van Straten, Director of Teaching & Learning, shared she is excited to bring to the board an updated resource to teach elementary reading, writing, and foundational skills. She shared the process for the curriculum review that led to the product the team recommends. There were many staff, parents, and team reviewing, piloting, and discussing the options. Equity was reviewed in all programs. The American Reading Company is recommended and provides independent programs, available in English and Spanish, and allows teacher to engage students and families in the materials. She believes in

the next five years, there will be significant improvement in student learning.

Director Ragusa thanked her for the presentation and several years of hard work to determine the best program to recommend for adoption. Ms. Van Straten shared that this will be communicated to all K-5 families through multiple methods including parent meetings, newsletters, open houses, the website, and more. Director Cailloux said the process was thorough and thoughtful and she appreciated the efforts by all participants. She expressed her belief that equity achievement will happen through high quality curriculum and content. To get the results the board wants in student achievement and equity, we need to put in the resources and fidelity. Director Samora inquired if this was fully supported by the committee; Ms. Van Straten said it was not, but after continued discussion and review, even those staff not originally supportive agreed it would work. Superintendent Vivanco shared that while there are fiscal challenges, we have to look at the long game on this.

**Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and approved, the board approved the adoption of the presented American Reading Company curriculum for K-5 grade level.**

Request to Surplus: Superintendent Vivanco shared there were requests to surplus materials related to high school science.

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the board supported surplus of the high school advanced placement chemistry materials.**

**Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and approved, the board supported surplus of the high school physical science materials.**

Gifts to the District \$5080: Superintendent Vivanco shared there are several gifts offered to the district.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation by Skagit Law Group in the amount of \$1000 to benefit the Centennial Elementary Garden.**

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation by the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation in the amount of \$1500 to benefit the Aspire Academy library.**

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation by the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation in the amount of \$1000 to benefit the Aspire Academy school store.**

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation by the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation in the amount of \$580 to benefit the Skagit Academy construction of Gaga Ball Court.**

**Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation by the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation in the amount of \$1000 to benefit the Skagit Academy SEL Library.**

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Student Comments**

Student Leydi thanked the presenters for their thorough communications. She shared that she appreciates the opportunity to Skagit Valley College through the Running Start program. It is an immediate way to obtain higher education, while saving time and money. She suggests a way for Running Start students to keep in touch with students and staff at the high school. She commented it is pride month and while there is still a lot of work to be done, she recognizes those who have put forth efforts to provide a safe environment. Some students are still disrespectful to the students in the pride community and work needs to be done in that area.

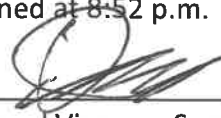
Student Viridiana thanked the presenters for their hard work and information.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



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Larry Otos, Director  
Board President



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Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Board