

**MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320**  
**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:00 PM**

**Call to Order and Flag Salute:** A regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors was called to order by Director Otos at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 via zoom and in person at Madison Elementary School, 907 E. Fir Street. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

**Roll Call of Members:** Board Members presented included Directors Otos, Cailloux, Ragusa, Samora. Director Coffey was excused. A quorum was present. Also, at the meeting was Superintendent Vivanco, several staff members, and an interpreter.

**Set Consent and Regular Agendas:** Superintendent Vivanco requested to have the Maestros Para El Pueblo Consortium agreement removed from the consent agenda and put in the Old Business section, Letter K, as item 3. He requested to add an Executive Session to Letter N per RCW 42.30.110(1)(iii) regarding litigation of a proposed action. Followed by Letter O, to resume the meeting, and Letter P to have action on the agreement.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board set the regular and consent agendas as modified.**

**Approve Consent Agenda**

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved items included in the consent agenda including:**

**Warrants**

- Warrant numbers 576599 through 576826, totaling \$1,564,202.30 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$52, 661.38
- Warrant numbers 576827 through 576840, totaling \$39,145.10
- Warrant numbers 576841 through 576866, totaling \$1,627,053.50
- Warrant numbers 576867 through 577132, totaling \$3,272,665.65 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$10,659.85

**Minutes**

- Regular Meetings on June 1, 2022 and June 15, 2022
- Work Study Meeting on June 1, 2022 and June 15, 2022

**Travel**

- Students (5); Mount Vernon High School-FFA; Retreat/Leadership Training; Winthrop, WA; 08/01/22 – 08/03/22
- Students (30); Mount Vernon High School-Football Team; Team Camp; Cheney, WA; 06/29/22 – 07/02/22
- Students (25); Mount Vernon High School-Basketball Camp; Gonzaga Baseball Camp; Spokane, WA; 06/26/22 – 06/29/22

**Agreements**

- Safe & Civil Schools; 09/01/22 – 08/27/23
- Interagency Agreement; Washington State Arts Commission; ongoing State Art Collection
- Agreement; Elevation Healthcare; 07/01/22 08/31/23
- Agreement; Salish Sea Deaf School; Child Specific; 09/01/22 – 06/14/23
- Agreement; Northwest School for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children; Child Specific;

09/07/22 – 06/16/23

- Contract; SPARC; Summer Recovery; 07/11/22 – 08/18/22
- Use Agreement; McIntyre Hall; Mount Vernon High School Choirs Concert; 2022-23 Academic Year
- Use Agreement; McIntyre Hall; Mount Vernon High School Instrumental Music and Choirs Concert; 2022-23 Academic Year

#### **Personnel Report**

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

#### **Public Comments:**

- Lori Valgardson, paraeducator, commented the proposed cuts to the paraeducator group is larger than any other group; the classifieds are the only ones facing reductions in hours; the certificated and administrators are only facing unfilled vacancies. Not aligning paras with early release days will have an impact on teacher communication and professional development time.
- Yvonne Bowman and Sarah Anderson, athletic secretaries and said they serve as athletic director doing many of those duties, said they are responsible for entire program. The impact on students and programs if positions cut will be significant.
- Jennifer Tolf, paraeducator, members have many questions such as why paras and custodians are taking the biggest cuts. That means some will face seniority bumping, and all will lose hours. Paraeducators worked hard for the contract and now it is being taken away.
- Kayalyn Stewart, teacher, there is no way she would have had a 20-year career without paraeducators and other classified staff. The 5.5% cost of living increase is not a pay raise and should not be bargained. Positions should not be eliminated when the funds have steadily grown; teachers know math and are being shown different numbers than actual, saying they are not dumb. Keep every classified employee and keep them as worthy as they are.
- Stephanie Tesarik, paraeducator, has worked at district for 16 years and earns \$2000 per month. Would like to see the board paying their bills on that amount. Has two other jobs to make ends meet. Paras are asked to do many jobs, they shouldn't have to fight for a raise or COLA and feel unappreciated.
- Liz Pelland, paraeducator, removing early release time hurts. Paras do a lot of work outside of contract and will have to do timesheets if early release pay is removed. Reducing hours for paras is furthest away from educational opportunities, when you hurt us, you hurt our students. You consult with experts but not us. We deserve to know more.
- Patia Wiebe-Wright, paraeducator, paras have been working through pandemic and are referred to as selfless heroes, yet you want to cut hours. Effectiveness will be decreased, Wednesdays are for training and meetings. It is a slap in the face.

#### **Board Member Comments**

- Director Cailloux thanked those who spoke. It helps the board to hear your thoughts. Budget reductions are difficult and all staff and programs provide value. Regarding Dr. Coffey's resignation

from the Board, has served with Dr. Coffey ten years ago or so and for the past few years. Admires his deep commitment to schools and students. He has spent hours on tutoring math and taken on roles at the state level. Appreciates his wisdom and decision making, particularly around the Covid pandemic. He will be missed and we are thankful for his many years of service.

- Director Ragusa agreed with Dr. Cailloux's comments about Dr. Coffey. Thank you to the speakers who came in when school is not in session to express their comments. There are many variables that impact the decisions that must be made. Please stay for the budget report as some of your questions may be answered. School funding is very complicated. A special shout out to Dr. Coffey, our all-knowing wizard. He is committed to student focused resolutions and is a teacher at heart. He teaches in his medical profession, coached the school board, and supported students with learning and sharing his love of math.
- Director Samora thanked the speakers for sharing. It is not easy to speak to the board, and is trying and emotional. We appreciate the comments. Thank you to Dr. Coffey for all the years and his strength, educational background, and knowledge in supporting the district.
- Director Otos said the board has heard the comments in person and the letters sent to the board. We talk about equity and the things we need to do to keep our students learning. You would think with a district this big it would be easier than it is. Tonight, it shows there are caring people who want what is best. Every Monday in meetings the budget is discussed. The Finance Director will shortly present a budget report and I encourage you to stay and hear it. The District 2 board position will be vacant effective August 4 and we will be taking applications starting July 14 through July 24. The board is voting at this meeting on boundary adjustments related to results of the 2020 Census. It will be difficult to replace Dr. Coffey and he will be missed.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Finance & Enrollment Report: J. Larson**

Ms. Larson noted she is beginning with her monthly report that includes enrollment statistics, expenditures, and impact fees through June. June expenditures are at 81% of the year, which is where we should be at this time. The impact fee account is only for specific use and it reflects that now zero balance on the QZAB loan from 2009. This year's enrollment ended at 257.29 FTE below what we had anticipated and staffed for. The full time equivalent per student from the state is \$9400. If the student count is short, the state won't pay, regardless of programs built on the anticipated numbers. Director Ragusa asked about how other districts are faring and news from the state. Executive Director Larson said in the state budget, the representation of K-12 funding is lower, meaning fewer funds were distributed to K-12 education. Some of the CARES Act money, also called equalization funds, helped but was restricted to this current year only.

#### **Budget 2022-23 Update: J. Larson**

The budget development process considers enrollment projects and staff allocations by school. There are numerous internal discussions with schools to determine staffing needs. The process is lengthy and dependent on information from multiple sources including the state, which is the largest source of revenue. The state figures were delayed this year, then reviewed by OSPI, before we were advised of our funding amount. Typically, there is a two to three week window after adoption of the state budget, this year it was six weeks. When the district office visited staff meetings to review the budget, we provided the information that we had at that time, the first run of the budget. Even though the information is limited, administration wants to honor the transparency of the process and get the data out for consideration. Once the budget is finalized, it requires approval by the ESD and then by OSPI. Their review is inclusive of a line-by-line full budget and includes enrollment, staffing, revenues, expenditures, and fund balance. We are

obligated and required to submit a balanced budget to ESD and OSPI. Director Cailloux inquired if the review agencies consider all funding sources; Director Larson said they are required by law to review federal grants and other funding; spending a significant amount of time on grant review. After preparation, a public hearing is held. The budget adoption resolution can be done at the same meeting or be held if the board chooses. The budget must be adopted before the end of August. Once adopted, the administration team reviews the budget weekly to ensure the district stays on track. We budget conservatively, but not irresponsibly.

Director Samora asked if the district is required to demonstrate the fund balance; Director Larson replied yes. The School Board Policy is a fund balance of 5%. The state auditor recommends 8% fund balance but this board has determined a figure of 5% is suitable for this district. It requires fiscal responsibility, but is manageable if spending is monitored and prudent. The estimated fund balance at the end of this year, that will carry to next year's budget is \$7M. Many line item amounts are restricted and for use only on certain expenditures. Examples are transportation, the NCTA, and the Skagit Academy. Those funds are run through the district so look like it is our money, but it does not belong to us. We also list value of assets, but that does not translate to available cash. We will access ESSER funds to support the 5% minimum fund balance. Without the ESSER funds, we could not balance the budget with the 5% minimum fund balance. This is a one year only fix because the ESSER funding ends. Director Larson then reviewed proposed expenditures/reductions in materials, supplies, operating costs (MSOC), certificated positions that are vacant and will remain unfilled or filled internally, classified reductions including vacant tutor and custodial positions, alignment of para hours with student schedules on early release days, and reassigning library secretaries and paras. Other reductions include leaving vacant or filling internally administrative position and district office positions, and combining support for athletics.

Director Larson reviewed the ESSER funding that has been spent in 2020-21 and 2021-22. She reviewed the remaining ESSER funds available and potential and committed expenditures. The guidelines for using ESSER funds is very specific and comes with many rules. ESSER funds were used to hire counselors and social workers, which will now have to be moved to basic ed. No additional ESSER funds will be available after the 2023-24 school year.

Director Ragusa asked how the T-Mobile hot spots are being used; Mr. Papendorf shared these are checked out to students and no longer on neighborhood buses as was done during the Covid school closure.

Director Cailloux requested additional paraeducator explanation. Superintendent Vivanco said behavior support is critical and this is a stop-gap solution. The district is committed to keeping staff and will target behavior interventions. Staff retention is important. While a position may be removed, the staff person will be retained and reassigned. Director Larson said that as a system, we want to give everybody everything. But we can't put more work on fewer people so the delivery methods have to be updated. While we have no choice but to pass an unbalance budget, this process will be more difficult next year.

Director Otos called for a five-minutes recess at 7:50, reconvened at 7:55PM.

#### District Update: Administrative Team

Superintendent Vivanco recognized Veronica Gonzalez, bilingual school liaison at the high school, for her selection as the 2022 Northwest ESD Classified Employee of the year. Ms. Gonzalez has been a tireless advocate for students in the district for 27 years. He noted she is committed to improving the quality of life of our marginalized students and families.

## **Recess Regular Meeting for Public Hearing regarding Re-Districting of Director District Boundaries per Federal Census 2020**

Director Otos recessed the regular meeting at 7:59PM for a public hearing on the redistricting of Director District Boundaries resulting from the Federal Census in 2020.

### **Public Hearing Regarding Re-Districting of Director District Boundaries per Federal Census 2020**

Superintendent Vivanco noted this is a State requirement to balance the size of the individual boundary areas. A map was displayed showing the proposed adjustments. There were no public comments.

The public hearing regarding the redistricting of Director District boundaries closed at 8:03 PM.

**Director Otos resumed the regular school board meeting at 8:03 PM.**

### **Old Business**

Resignation: School Board Member, R. Coffey

Director Otos said the resignation of Director Coffey is effective August 4, which will give us a full board through August 3. A replacement should be selected by that time.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the resignation of Board Director of District 2 and board Vice President, Dr. Rob Coffey, was regretfully accepted.**

Director Cailloux requested interviews of potential applicants be delayed until her return on August.

### Resolution No. 14/21-22 Re-Districting of Director District Boundaries

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board adopted the revised school district director boundaries.**

Interagency Agreement; Burlington-Edison School District, Mount Vernon School District, Skagit Valley College, and Western Washington University/Woodring; Maestros Para El Pueblo Consortium; 07/01/22 – 06/30/23

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board accepted the interagency agreement for the district to participate in the 2022-23 Maestros Para El Pueblo Consortium.**

Director Cailloux abstained due to conflict presented through her employment at Skagit Valley College.

### **New Business**

Gifts to the District \$1500

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation of funds from the Public Schools Foundation for \$1000 to benefit Centennial Elementary; benches for school garden.**

**Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and approved, the board graciously accepted the donation from Clyde Shavers for a Buddy Bench at Harriet Rowley Elementary School valued at \$500.**

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

Adjourn to Executive Session: Director Otos said the board needs an executive session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(iii) regarding litigation of a proposed action. This is anticipated to be 15 minutes in duration and there will be action to follow. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Director Otos called the regular meeting back to order at 8:32 PM.

**Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board accepted the Settlement Agreement pursuant to OAH Dkt. No. 03-2022-OSPI-01556.**

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



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Larry Otos, Director  
Board President



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Ismael Vivanco  
Superintendent