

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 20, 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 20, 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, Ragusa, and Coffey. Directors Cailloux and Samora were excused. A quorum was present. Also, at the meeting was Superintendent Vivanco, several staff members, and an interpreter.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

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

Approve Consent Agenda

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

Travel

- Students (20); Mount Vernon High School, Mount Baker and LaVenture Middle Schools; Migrant Leaders Club; Leadership Training; Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center; September 26, 2022 – September 27, 2022

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:

- Barb Froling, Paraeducator, said she does not want to be reassigned from the Mount Baker library. She believes removing the support staff from the library will cause the library to close resulting in 25,000 books going unused. The paras support the students. She said after 31 years of employment she makes \$20,000 per year.

Board Member Comments:

- Director Ragusa thanked Ms. Froling for her comments and long duration with the district. Her work for students is appreciated. She also noted a school board position is being advertised as the seat held by Dr. Coffey will be vacated in early August. If interested in applying, the assessor's office shows which district the residence is located in.
- Director Otos said the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation golf tournament is on August 18 with some remaining spots still available.
- Director Coffey said there has been a tremendous amount of work on the budget and thanks Jennifer and the staff for their work on presenting a balanced budget.

A. Superintendent's Report

1. District Update: Administrative Team

- Superintendent Vivanco thanked Cheyenne Walker, Assistant Supervisor-Nutrition Services, and the high school student who met with him to review the transition to metal utensils for the high school cafeteria.
- David Rodriguez, Director-Equity & Inclusion, was able to bring four binational teachers from Mexico to work with students in the summer program. OSPI and the Mexican Consulate supported this effort. The teachers introduced themselves and shared about their experience. Teachers in the program included Vianey Peregrino, Jose Adrian Sandate, Cesar Gonzalez, and Isaias Rosas. They will have a closing celebration on July 28 at 5:30 PM in the Little Mountain Commons area with food, projects, and entertainment.
- Superintendent shared the date for the high school centennial celebration is September 28 and to hold the date.

Recess Regular Meeting for Public Hearing Regarding 2022-2023 District Budget: Director Otos said there is a public hearing for comments related to the 2022-23 district budget. He adjourned the regular meeting for the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

At 6:25 p.m., the public hearing was opened to hear comments on the proposed 2022-23 budget.

Superintendent Vivanco said the process is difficult and there are considerations to move forward. There have been meetings with administrators and the work continues. Each building has difference and unique needs. There has been support from the ESSER funds for \$3.3M to balance the proposed budget. The administrators used the strategic plan and key strategies to align needs relative to those priorities.

Executive Director Larson explained the differences in state funding and the unfunded salary amounts. They fund salary only, not benefits. They also fund a flat amount per student FTE that is less than the district's bargained wages. The benefit percentage per employee was about 40% but with SEBB is now a flat rate for anyone over 3.5 hours. The district pays the full amount for insurance. This is a great benefit for employees, but the district pays the same even when the employee declines the insurance to be covered by spouse insurance. Director Coffey commented ESSER funds are Federal money received for pandemic support with a three-year timeline. It is very useful, but is going to end.

Director Larson said there is a legislative requirement to present materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC). Those figures are \$8,241,088 in budgeted funding, \$11,295,988 in budgeted expenditures, and (\$3,054,900) the difference to be disclosed at a public hearing – which is now.

Director Larson shared the multi-year budget comparison assumptions, the multi-year budget estimate for 2022-23 through 2025-26, and the summary of all funds. She reviewed the staffing and salary information, ESSER funded changes, proposed reductions in student programs/services, unfunded salary costs, general fund revenues and expenditures, expenditures by object and program. A 5% ending fund balance is required by school board policy. Revenues are projected to increase at 2% per year and expenditures expected to increase at 3% per year, demonstrating the budget is not sustainable at the current level of revenue and expense. The expiration of the ESSER funds makes the situation worse as that is what we are using to balance.

Additional detail work is still needed. We only spend funds on programs that add value so any reduction is difficult.

There is a budget resolution available if the board is ready to adopt the budget. The resolution includes the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Transportation Vehicle Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Associated Student Body Fund. The resolution/board approve the expenditure maximum, but not the details within those categories.

Director Otos invited public comments and there were none. The public hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

Resume Regular Meeting: Director Otos called to order the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Director Ragusa said it is important the district and public communicate with legislators to prioritize education funding. She appreciates the staff efforts over several months to prepare this budget, including hearing from and understanding staff concerns.

Director Coffey said we need to stand up for public education as a board and the citizenry of our community. ESSER helped, but is nearly done. The board has their work cut out for them in the upcoming years. Thank you to Director Larson for the hard work on the many details and her clear explanation of the numbers.

Director Otos said the board only approves the five funds on the resolution. The details within the accounts are managed by district administrators. Principals have the flexibility to make the decisions within their building. He wants to be clear that ESSER funds are supporting programs but once those funds are no longer available, the programs will have to change. There is no way around future challenging budgets if student numbers don't improve. He thanked the many staff who have made comments over the past few weeks and the work from the administrative team.

Old Business

Resolution #15/21-22 Adoption of 2022-23 Budget

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board accepts Resolution #15/21-22 to adopts the 2022-23 Mount Vernon School District budget.

New Business

Gifts to the District \$2000

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the board accepts and thanks SaviBank for the \$2,000 donation to Centennial Elementary School for school garden benches

Public Comments: there were no public comments.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco
Superintendent