



Successful Learners
Strengthening Our Community

**WORK STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the Mount Vernon School District, Skagit County, Washington, held a Work Study Session on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom call. In attendance were Directors Otos, Ragusa, Coffey, Cailloux, and Samora. A quorum was present. Also in attendance was Superintendent Bruner. Several staff attended.

The purpose of the Special Meeting/Work Study session was to review work on the pending Racial Equity Policy.

- **2019-20 Racial Equity Policy Schedule:** Overview of Team activities
Chris Borgen reviewed the schedule, beginning in May 2019. While discussion on the topic began prior to that, the work toward a specific policy began in May. Staff and a board committee evaluated policies, including protocols, process, and procedures. The committee identified desired components, language, and prepared a draft. The draft was shared and “critical voices” were captured for improvements. The draft was improved upon, shared with district administration, and received legal review.
- **Equity Policy 1801:** Policy Draft for consideration
The draft policy was presented for board consideration and discussion. The action plan was discussed.

Board comments and discussion included:

- Director Cailloux commented on a definition of critical consciousness.
- Director Otos discussed historical barriers, national law, and the use of native languages in schools.
- Director Coffey said it is an amazing piece of work. He said he would like it to be called a Racial policy as race is the main topic to be addressed. Once that is done, the other forms of exclusion will follow.
- Director Ragusa said she is proud of the team for their efforts. The evolution of the policy is amazing.
- Director Samora agreed it was hard work and it is amazing to see the draft.

Mr. Borgen said this will be ready for first review by the board in May.

No action was taken and the meeting adjourned 6:02 p.m.

Larry Otos
Larry Otos (May 12, 2020)

Larry Otos, President
Board of Directors

Carl Bruner
Carl Bruner (May 13, 2020)

Carl Bruner, Superintendent