

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 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, April 13, 2022 via zoom and in person at Madison Elementary School, 907 E. Fir Street. Director Otos announced the district records all School Board meetings; they will be posted on the board website. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Board Members presented included Directors Otos, Ragusa, Samora, and Cailloux. Director Coffey was excused. A quorum was present. Also, in attendance were Superintendent Vivanco, student representatives Wagenbach, Ponce-Cisneros, and Hernandez-Quiros. Multiple staff members were present and an interpreter.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

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

Approve Consent Agenda

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

Warrants

- Warrant Numbers 575461 through 575482 totaling \$43,961.31
- Warrant Numbers 575229 through 575460 totaling \$715,308.40 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$2,132.90
- Warrant Numbers 575483 through 575508 totaling \$1,447,428.94
- Warrant Numbers 575509 through 575713 totaling \$4,900,390.86 and voids/cancellations totaling \$14,003.00

Minutes

- Regular Meetings on March 2, 2022 and March 16, 2022
- Work Study Meetings on March 2, 2022, March 16, 2022, and March 22, 2022

Travel Request

- Student Travel (5) Mount Vernon High School Future Business Leaders of America Business Leadership Conference; Moses Lake, WA; 04/15/22 - 04/16/22
- Student Travel (9) Mount Vernon High School Debate Team; National Speech and Debate Association National Championships; Louisville, Kentucky; 06/10/22 – 06/18/22
- Student Travel (2) Mount Vernon High School DECA; International Career and Leadership Conference, Atlanta, GA; 04/23/22 – 04/27/22
- Staff Travel (1-M. Thimgan) Mount Vernon High School; Advanced Placement Summer Institute-AP Biology; Boise, ID; 06/20/22 – 06/24/22

Agreements

- Interlocal Agreement; Northwest ESD; Whatcom Discovery Program; 2022-23 school year
- Agreement; Resume to Retention; Extended Vocational Training, 2022 Summer Adult Transition; 06/01/22 – 08/15/22

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Out of Endorsement and Conditional Certificates; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/ Resignation/Termination
- Classified: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer/Adjust; Leave; Retirement/ Resignation/Termination; Transportation Department Adjustments
- Extra/Co-Curricular Stipends and Supplemental Contracts
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments: Director Otos called for public comments

- Richard Boyer, community member said the largest item in the budget is salaries for teachers and administrators, noting the average teacher wage is \$99,000. His tax bill is the largest bill he has ever received with 62% to education. His questions are if the board has ever considered sources other than levies or bonds, what they are and why have they not been pursued. He believes property taxes are government sponsored legal extortion. He wants government to extort someone else and find other ways to fund schools besides property taxes.
- Hope Rindal expressed her interest and concern for lack of baseball and softball facilities. She wants the district brought to the standard of neighboring communities.
- Lianna Neyens would like the board to work toward updating and adding to the baseball and softball facilities, noting the inadequacy. Sherman Anderson is in bad condition and not acceptable.
- Steve Neyens said the district athletic facilities are far behind neighboring school districts. We need covered stands and all-weather practice facilities. The baseball field is poorly taken care of by the city and the high school team is often unable to use it.
- Jennifer Olmsted said she used to enjoy Sherman Anderson Field but it is now poorly maintained by the city. The district needs to invest in athletics.
- Heather Shand said the district is dedicated to equity and inclusion in the classrooms but this has not translated to athletics. The athletic director is committed to rebuilding the teams and the district needs to match that effort with better athletic facilities.
- Flora Lucatero expressed concerned with the baseball and athletic facilities. Sherman Anderson is inadequate and in poor condition. The district is a leader in equity, but we have the lowest quality outdoor athletic facilities.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa thanked the public for their comments.
- Director Otos said he attended a WSSDA Leadership training that was informational and helpful. It focused on how students learn and boards function in a cohesive and respectful manner.
- Director Samora thanked Centennial for the report on PAX, it sounds like it is a very positive program and provides equity among student behavior.
- Director Cailloux said that we are currently in an open period to submit comments for WSSDA policy stances. She would like to get the board feedback on the WSSDA topics.

Superintendent's Report

Skagit Valley College Bhangra Dance information: Leydi Hernandez-Quiros

Student Representative Hernandez-Quiros said she wanted to bring the Bhangra Dance information to the board. During the high school's Multicultural Week, she liked seeing the students excited to learn about other cultures and in sharing their own. She thanked Dr. Loonat from Skagit Valley College for sharing this information. Dr. Loonat shared that she is trying to give a sense of belonging through Bhangra – a Punjabi folk dance. She is looking forward to having professionals from across Washington and Canada demonstrate. Event date is May 22 and more information is on the SVC website.

District Update: Administrative Team

- Superintendent Vivanco thanked the community for their public comments and said that the district will continue to explore options.
- He shared that he attended the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education conference. It was a good way to learn about creative programs for classified staff to become teachers. The district has successfully partnered in the Maestros Para el Pueblo program and want to continue to bring additional pathways. Bankstreet Education recently approached Bill Nutting and invited him to apply for a grant to support student teachers. This would create a partnership with Ferndale School District, Skagit Valley College, and Western Washington University.
- Superintendent Vivanco reviewed the status of the vacancy for Assistant Principal at Madison, noting interviews would be this week. He reviewed the vacancy for High School Principal, noting the process to date. Input was solicited from high school staff, students, and parents to help frame the job description.

Old Business

2021-22 Student Calendar; modification: Superintendent Vivanco shared that this modified calendar extends the last day of school to June 17. The additional days are required due to two flood days and a snow day. Before the state will approve waivers, we have to make up some days. There were also days lost at Centennial and Washington due to building structural damage and we are seeking a waiver. The last day will be a half day.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the revised 2021-22 Student Calendar indicating the last day of school to be June 17, 2022 was adopted.

Director Samora inquired if there will be Senior Saturdays to ensure seniors meet the state requirements; Superintendent Vivanco said it was likely but not yet confirmed or scheduled. This would be required since the date of graduation is set and can't be moved.

New Business

2022-23 Student Calendar: Assistant Superintendent, Bill Nutting, shared that he is pleased to bring the 2022-23 proposed calendar forward for approval. Highlights include a start date of September 7, 2022, Winter Break December 21 to January 2, and spring break the first week of April. The middle school and high school conferences will fall on different dates this year. Those dates need to be resolved, as does the date for senior graduation in June. Calendar work will continue, but with approval of this framework, we will be able to release the information to parents and staff for event planning.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the 2022-23 Student Calendar was adopted, with fine-tuning to be forthcoming.

Construction

Lydig Construction Services; LaVenture Middle School; Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment: Director Otos said the project leadership team has reviewed these documents. Team member Jeremy Woolley has worked with the Lydig team on this information and our attorney has reviewed the document.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment for work at LaVenture Middle School was approved.

Lydig Construction Services; Old Main Change Order #PCCO 016: The construction team said this represents a group of change orders that have been packaged together. Primarily, they were driven by unforeseen circumstances as the Old Main project has continued. Director Ragusa said she feels confident with the information and appreciates the work by the project leadership team. All the information is clearly laid out.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, PCCO #16 related to work at the high school was approved.

Donations

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and approved, the donation from the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation for \$1000 to benefit Centennial Elementary for safety supplies was approved.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the donation from the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation for \$1000 to benefit Aspire Academy for the School Enterprise project was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments. Director Otos said that the district is pleased to have comments allowed at the beginning and end of each meeting, noting many districts don't do that and it is not required. He shared the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation has only 25 chairs left to sponsor. He said the annual Green & White golf tournament is scheduled for August 18.

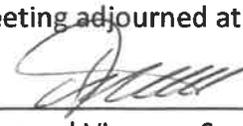
Student Comments

- Student Ponce Cisneros enjoyed the presentation from Skagit Valley College. She had not heard of this group and would like to see students become involved or volunteer.
- Student Wagenbach shared updates from the school, including Prom is scheduled at McIntyre Hall, as of yesterday there were 510 spots reserved of the 550 spots allowed. The Junior Class is running it and the theme is Enchanted. Spirit week is next week with lots of fun events. The graduation parade is June 8. The week before spring break was Multi-Cultural week and there was a lot of participation. He said he would like to see covered stands on the athletic fields.
- Superintendent Vivanco said that Heath Tayon, Assistant Principal, is taking the lead on the graduation plans to be held at Everett's Angel of the Winds Arena. Transportation is being organized.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Board Secretary