

**Missisquoi Valley School District
MVSD Board Meeting Minutes
Swanton School Library
June 6, 2023**

6:00pm

Location: The MVSD Board and Administration participated at the Swanton School Library for this meeting. The meeting was held hybrid with remote access for the community and other interested persons.

Date: June 6, 2023

Board Members

Jen Chevalier, Chair, Renick Darnell-Martin, Vice Chair, Devin Bachelder, Don Collins, Joanne Johnston, Meaghan Conly, and Peter Magnant.

Absent from the Board Meeting: Kelly Badeau and Tobias Maguire

Administration and Visitors Present

Julie Regimbal Superintendent, Lora McAllister, MVSD Business Manager, Derrick Garceau, MVSD Tech Director, Bonnie Moulton, Director of Human Resources, Swanton Principals Chris Dodge, and Justina Jennett, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary, and Northwest Access Cameraperson. The following participated remotely: Principals- Joyce Hakey of Franklin Elementary, Yeshua Pastina of Highgate Elementary, Christie Martin of MVU, Kosha Patel, Director of Curriculum, Tania Hayes, Director of Special Services, Beth Ann Miller, Director of After School Programs. Visitors Tyler Choiniere, Swanton Students Don Jon "Miracle" Bugwiza, Samuel Messier, Paityn Paradee, Matthew Jochim and Swanton Teachers Kirsten Belrose and Jen Mitchell.

Call the Meeting to Order

Jen Chevalier called the meeting to order at 6:01PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Statement

Jen Chevalier asked for a moment of silence for the loss of an MVSD Student that the district experienced recently.

Correspondence, Visitors and Public Comments

Ty Choiniere thanked the MVU Band for participating in the Memorial Day parade.

Agenda Review -None

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Approval of the Minutes

Jen Chevalier sought approval for the May 23rd minutes.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to approve the May 23rd , 2023 school board minutes. The board approved on a 6-0 vote.

Administrative Reports

Student Video

Grade 6 teacher Kirsten Belrose with the assistance of Technology Integrationist Teacher Jen Mitchell helped put together a news program with the students. The school board viewed the student video.

To view the full presentation, please follow the video link below:

[MVSD Board Meetings on Northwest Access TV](#)

[MVSD Administrator Reports](#)

[Franklin Principal's Report](#)

[Highgate Principal's Report](#)

[MVU Administration Report](#)

[Swanton Principal's Report](#)

Jen Chevalier asked the board members if there were any questions regarding the several administrative reports presented.

Questions and Comments

Don Collins commented that there were great administrators' reporting on Memorial Day. He asked about the foster grandparent program in the Franklin School. Joyce Hakey responded that they had three and now only have one foster grandparent. There is a shortage of foster grandparents and although they would welcome more, it has been difficult to find volunteers. Chris Dodge stated that they have had great participation in the Girls on the Run program and recently WCAX did a story on it. Jen Chevalier stated that they received great information reports from the administration.

Policies for Adoption

C24 Revised School Sponsored Student Activities & Athletics

Julie Regimbal stated that they revised C24 policy with the input from the board.

Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Don Collins to adopt the revised C24 policy. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Renick Darnell-Martin asked about school choice and why they choose the schools? Julie explained that Diversity or school culture, better access to the tech center and athletics were mentioned most frequently for school choice. Other reasons cited were academic rigor and family history such as

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siblings/parents attending the school of choice. Next school year the district has only 10 resident students who have chosen a high school other than MVU. Families of students in grades 8-11 need to apply for school choice before March 1st of the previous year. Julie announced that she attended an advisory board meeting at the Northwest Career and Technical Center and they will have a class here at MVU next year due to their large numbers. We are so excited to have a class held here in our Ag Building.

C21 Search and Seizure

Julie stated that C21 is a boilerplate policy from the VSBA and she recommends adoption.

Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to adopt policy C21. The board approved it on a 7-0 vote.

Truancy Update

Julie reported on the MVSD attendance trends and did a comparison from the 2021-22 to the 2022-23 school year. She explained the difference between truancy vs chronic absences. Truancy counts only unexcused absences whereas chronic absences count excused, unexcused, and suspended absences. The District Wide MTSS Attendance Team review data, identify trends, solidify practices around attendance and notification to families, embed attendance into EST/MTSS in schools, develop tiered responses and engage with the Truancy Engagement Specialist. They are planning to provide Public Relations and Communication with a monthly video series by JR, Parent Resources, and Explore Classroom DOJO or other messaging system for MVU. They are identifying the barriers to school attendance by providing tiered supports, Supportive-Reactive interventions, examine transportation needs and provide counseling and support. She shared resources they use to engage students to ensure success. The board discussed busing including Kindergarten students all the way up to high school students which can create a barrier to students wanting to take the bus and sometimes not attend school. Don commented that in the past, they have had high school students trained to monitor buses and look out for the younger students. The Swanton Principals noted that most of their bus referrals are with peers interacting with one another and not older students with younger students. Jen Chevalier requested that they have a future conversation about bus monitors.

Resolutions

Lora McAllister reported that the Resolution to Eliminate the Requirement of Federal Grant Assessment for all teachers funded by federal grants to provide funding to the Vermont Teachers Retirement System was revised to eliminate providing solutions to the resolution. Don Collins reviewed it and he recommended the resolution as revised.

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to accept the resolution presented. The board approved the motion on a 6-0 vote.

Jen Chevalier stated that Tobias Maguire requested tabling his VPA resolution until next year.

Committee Updates

Facility Committee

Lighting Contract Addendum

Peter Magnant explained that they are recommending that the lighting contract be amended to eliminate the Davis Bacon language which can create additional hoops to jump through. The contract language was replaced with the following: This change order alters section 9.4 of the contract executed February 24, 2023. All language in section 9.4 shall be replaced with:

“All wages paid to laborers by ESCO, and/or sub-contractors, with respect to the Project will conform with State and Federal minimum wage requirements.”

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Don Collins moved, seconded by Peter Magnant to approve the addendum on a 7-0 vote.

Highgate Outdoor Classroom Project Award

Peter Magnant stated that an RFP was submitted to the St. Albans Messenger and a solicitation to vendors. They received a bid from MFP Builders in the amount of \$63,500 and Reynolds Custom Creations for \$60,000. The facility committee recommends awarding the bid to the lowest bidder. The facility director did an upgrade on the concrete that needs to be ADA compliant.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin to approve awarding the bid to Reynolds Custom Creations in the amount of \$60,000. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Swanton Door System Project Award

Peter explained that they sent an RFP to the St. Albans Messenger and a solicitation to vendors. They received a bid from Omega Electric with Avigilon systems upgrade in the amount of \$32,330.00. They had budgeted \$40,000 for this project. The facility committee recommended awarding them the bid.

Renick Darnell-Martin moved, seconded by Don Collins to award the bid to Omega Electric. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Swanton Fire Alarm System

Peter explained that they have received two quotes for the fire alarm system. They received a quote from Summit Fire and Security in the amount of \$128,000 and one from Johnson Controls for \$219,944. Johnson Controls higher bid is a result of subcontracting the work. Summit Fire and Security is a reputable firm and the facility committee recommends the lower bid.

Renick Darnell-Martin moved, seconded by Don Collins to award the bid to Summit Fire and Security System in the amount of \$128,000. The board approved the bid on a 7-0 vote.

General Update

Peter reported that Jason Butler is the Highgate Facility Director as well as for Swanton and MVU. They are hiring a facility supervisor for each school who will report to Jason except for Franklin who already has a facility director. This will result in a consistent maintenance flow for each school. The Franklin construction project is on track to start this month. The community would like to see the updated design. The MVU Roof Project is starting in a few weeks and should be completed by the end of the summer. The Highgate Heating system is mostly complete and the Highgate Kitchen Hood will start the third week of June. The MVU sign will be erected after high school graduation. The MVU ventilators came in at a higher per unit cost than budgeted so they may have to reduce the number they will buy unless they find a savings somewhere else in the budget. They are excited to have received a \$10,000 MVU weight room grant. There is more information on the website. Peter stated that the Highgate White Building is having more issues and we will have to deal with it as a board. The facility committee does not want to put a lot of money in the White Building because they feel that the needs and investment may be too high which will result in an aging white building with constant need of repair. They would like to obtain community input on the future of the white building. The Franklin, Swanton and MVU parking lots are in rough shape and the district will need to start budgeting for this. The MVU Athletics fields are in poor condition and discussed what we can do to improve it. He recommended that board members read the facility committee meeting minutes to get

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all the updates. Meaghan Conly thanked Jason Butler for all his work and congratulated him on taking on this additional role.

Warrants

Check Warrants

Devin Bachelder read the check warrants presented as follows:

- Accounts payable: \$1,134,625.43
- Payroll - Checks: \$41,705.41
- Payroll - Other Disbursements: \$1,661,183.96
- Payroll Deductions: \$620,408.48

May total: \$3,457,923.28

Joanne Johnston moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the check warrants totaling \$3,457,923.28. The board approved the vote on a 7-0 vote.

Financial Report-Acceptance

Lora McAllister reported that this will be the last financial report of the FY 23 fiscal year. She stated that there is a carryover of over one million dollars. The expenses and revenues came in close to what is anticipated. They are cleaning up the purchase orders, end of year expenses and the memorandums of understanding. Lora feels that this report is a good place for the district to be. They used some of the carryover to add the insulation in Franklin and would like to replace the sand blaster for the Ag Program because it just died.

Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Meaghan Conly to accept the financial report. The board approved on a 7-0 vote.

FY22 Audit Acceptance

Devin Bachelder reported that the finance committee has reviewed the audit report. He recommended that the whole board should read the audit management letter to the board. He congratulated Lora McAllister on a successful audit well done.

Devin Bachelder moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to accept the FY22 audit. The board approved the motion on a 7-0 vote.

Lora McAllister stated that the audit company they have been using has a quality control department and sends different auditors to complete the audit annually. There is only one other audit company and she feels the one the district is using is a good firm.

Student Success Committee

Julie reported that they have had an organizational meeting and they will be meeting tomorrow. Meaghan Conly is the chair of this committee.

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Board Retreat Planning Group

Joanne Johnston reported that they have been working hard to put together this retreat. It will be held on July 12th at the Abbey. Jen asked if the board would like to start at 5:00 or 5:30pm to complete our short board meeting first and then move on to the retreat at 6:00pm? The board decided to meet at 5pm prior to the retreat to approve the warrants and policy. They agreed not to go past 9pm. Joanne sent the board a self-assessment and would like the board to review the board goals. If anyone is interested in adding a goal, please email her. They will need the feedback no later than two weeks from now so that when the planning group meets again, they can finalize the retreat. Julie said that there is a rubric for governing standards and she feels it is a good tool. Julie can send it out to the board as it addresses how a board works together.

New Professional Hires

Julie Regimbal stated that they have recommendations to hire two new classroom teachers for the Swanton Elementary School. She recommended the following teachers:

Mary Stallings and Shelby Lang as Swanton classroom teachers.

Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Don Collins to approve the new hires presented. The board voted 7-0 vote.

Retirement Notice

Julie informed the board that Mary Hartman is retiring from MVU after many years of service. She has been at MVU since she was out of college. She will be missed.

To view the full discussions and presentations, please follow the video link below:

[MVSD Board Meetings on Northwest Access TV](#)

Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items are End of Year Data and District Goal Discussion

Future Meeting Dates and Sites

The next school board meeting will take place on June 20th, 2023 in the Swanton School Library at 6:00pm. The Student Success Committee will be meeting on June 7th in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 6:00pm.

Meeting Adjourn

Peter Magnant moved to adjourn the meeting. Renick Darnell-Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 7-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

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