

**Missisquoi Valley School District
Board Meeting Minutes
Highgate Central School Library
April 25, 2023 6:00pm**

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

Date: April 25, 2023

Board Members Present

Jen Chevalier, Chairperson, Renick Darnell-Martin, Vice Chairperson, Kelly Badeau, Peter Magnant, Board Clerk, Devin Bachelder, Joanne Johnston, Tobias Maguire, Don Collins, and Meaghan Conly. *(Joanne Johnston joined remotely)*

Absent Board Members

Administration and Visitors Present

Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Bonnie Moulton, Director of Human Resources, Derrick Garceau, (Technology Director of MVSD), Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary, Northwest Access TV Camera person.

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Jen Chevalier, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02PM

2) Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

3) Correspondence, Visitors, and Public Comments

4) Agenda Review-None

5) Facility Committee Update

Peter Magnant provided an update from the last facilities committee meeting held on April 4th. He stated that the Franklin Expansion project is on target to start on June 19th. Some of the offices will be displaced, so they are being temporarily relocated to the library. They will need partitions for temporary offices for privacy and security purposes. They were able to obtain a quote for \$40,000 for temporary offices that are in addition to the cost of the project. They will use either surplus funds or ESSER funds to pay for this additional cost. They will use a gravel path to enter the school from the side of the building. They are looking at the same camera system that will be the same for all the buildings. The MVU Roof Phase 2 is scheduled to begin as planned. The Highgate Boiler system project is starting during April break. This is not a boiler replacement but updating the controls to maintain distribution of heat more evenly. They hope to have it up and running by the end of October. They are planning to start on June 19th on the Highgate Kitchen Hood project. The MVU sign has been ordered and they are

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making arrangements for the electrical work and getting quotes on the stone work. Don commented that there is an amazing amount of work going on. It sends a message to the community that it is important to get our buildings up to par.

To hear the full presentation or more details, please follow the link below:

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

6) Legislative Update

Julie Regimbal went over the following bills that they are monitoring closely:

- ▶ H483 Public Funding to Private Schools
- ▶ S. 56 Child Care and Early Education
- ▶ H 486/S 124 School Construction aid and PCB Testing
- ▶ S 138 School Safety
- ▶ H 165 Universal School Meals
- ▶ S 117 Teen Parent Education

Julie went over the highlights of each bill with the board. For more details, please view the presentation on the following link:

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

7) Resolution

Jen Chevalier sought input from the board on if they would like to submit a resolution to the Vermont School Board's Association (VSBA) for their consideration. Resolutions are positions taken by the association on issues of importance to Vermont school boards. They may include recommendations for action by the VSBA. Don Collins has thought that consideration for a four-year-old program would have to include a 10-hour day because there will be an issue of no child care after school. He felt there was too little support for this and so did not want to submit it. Tobias Maguire expressed his frustration that the VPA has no public oversight and they have too much control especially around extra-curricular activities. When there are issues around an activity, you can contact them and provide your input but because of the lack of accountability to a public body such as a board, they can make a decision and it becomes final. Lora McAllister stated the issues around the teacher retirement fund requiring the district to pay 26% to the State on grant funded positions. She felt that the State should take it off the top prior to the distribution of the grant. Renick Darnell-Martin felt that this may be a good resolution. Jen Chevalier asked the administration to draft a resolution that would reflect this change.

8) Board Meeting Sites next school year

Jen Chevalier asked the board if they would like to continue the current site rotation of going to each school for the two meetings each month or go back to the previous rotation of going to MVU for the first meeting of the month and rotating elementary schools for the second meeting of the month? Board members weighed in on their preferences with many wanting to go back to the previous format. Joanne Johnston requested that we continue to hear from students

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regardless of which rotation was chosen. Renick suggested that the board continue this discussion at their retreat in July.

9) New Teacher Hires

Julie Regimbal and Bonnie Moulton went over the hiring procedures of the professional staff. Tobias Maguire asked about the retention of the staff now that they have implemented the new salary scale. Bonnie reported that they have the same percentage of retention as last year for teachers. They had less retirements this year but they did have many one-year position contracts that they had to fill. They retained 83% of the professional staff. Bonnie distributed written exit interview surveys with 40% choosing to do in person interviews with her. She has shared the data with the principals and the Superintendent. Board members requested seeing the data on why the teachers left for a future board meeting.

Julie Regimbal presented the following list of new teachers for the board's approval:

Swanton Chloe Echo Classroom Teacher
Highgate Jennifer Gagne School Nurse
MVU Pamela Smith Science
MVU Patrick Lagace Business Education
MVU Christina Hogle Special Educator
Highgate Codi Gaudette Special Educator
MVU Melissa Rainville Special Educator
Swanton Sarah Bloch Classroom Teacher
MVU Maya Duprey Special Educator
MVU Caroline Wood Science
MVU Joseph Smith Art
Highgate Robin McFarren Special Educator
MVU Steven Rabinowitz HS Science
Highgate-Franklin Jennifer Rabinowitz Clinician Vacant Psych

Meaghan Conly moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin to approve hiring the above list of teachers and authorize the board chair to sign their contracts. The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote.

10) Retreat Planning Discussion

Julie Regimbal stated that they will not be using a formal facilitator this July. They will go over their goals, establish goals for next year and perform a board self-assessment. Julie would like to change the date to July 12th instead of July 11th so that they can reserve The Abbey as the venue.

11) Agenda Items

MVU Stem Fair Presentation, Guidance, PLP and Post secondary outcomes, Continuous Improvement end of year data, Athletic Update. Peter would like to hear from the Music/Drama Department.

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12) Future Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be held on May 9th at the MVU MS/HS Library at 6:00pm. May 2nd is the next Facilities Committee Meeting.

To hear the full board meeting or more details, please follow the link below:

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

13) Meeting Adjournment

Peter Magnant made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin. The board approved the motion on a 9-0 vote and the board adjourned at 8:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

In behalf of Peter Magnant, board clerk

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