

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SUPERVISORY UNION

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

November 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

MVSU Conference Room
and
ZOOM video-conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wcsu-net.zoom.us/j/89435435695?pwd=V6jZEtlg2qtS3yZRVcmlGR3cjgQtAd.1>

Meeting ID: 894 3543 5695

Passcode: 989204

Agenda

START THE ZOOM RECORDING

1. Call to order
2. Amendments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Reports:
 - a. Superintendent
 - b. Directors
 - c. Students
 - d. Legislature
5. Time-Scheduled Appointments
 - a. New Student Representative
 - b. Math and Literacy Updates
 - c. Transportation Grants for Field Trips
 - d. Announced Tuition- set tuition rates for FY27
 - e. Discussion of District Quality Standards
 - f. Senate Education Visit Overview
 - g. Initial Discussion - FY27 Expense Budget
6. Committee Updates
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Policy Committee
 - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee
 - e. Working Groups
7. Proposed Executive Session
8. Approve Minutes
9. Public Comment
10. Reflection
 - a. What did we do well?
 - b. What could we do better?
11. Adjourn

AGENDA ITEM #1	Call to Order
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PURPOSE:

To begin the meeting, the Chair will determine if a quorum is present, then call the meeting to order.

WHO:

Chair: "I call this meeting to order at _____ p.m."

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

AGENDA ITEM #2	Amendments to the Agenda
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PURPOSE:

To add or delete items to the agenda. This is the only point in the meeting at which the agenda may be amended.

Amendments added cannot include items that statutorily require a warning to the general public. They should not include items that have a significant impact that ethically should be disclosed to the public. Amendments should be the exception, not the rule.

NOTE: Reorganizing existing items on the agenda is not the same as amending it; items can be reorganized at any point in the meeting.

WHO:

Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes, after the amendments are announced or after it is determined that there are no amendments.

- "Motion to adopt the agenda." Requires a second and a vote.

PURPOSE:

All meetings of the body are meetings in public, not meetings of the public. Members of the public shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to express opinions, so long as order is maintained.

A public body is within its rights under Open Meeting Law to limit public comment to only those items listed on its meeting agenda. However, the MVSU/SD board feels this creates a barrier preventing the public from bringing to their attention issues that are of importance to them. Thus, the board chooses to be responsive to the needs and concerns of their communities by allowing opportunities for public comment beyond just those items listed on its agenda..

WHO:

Chair

- Comments by the public or members of the body **must be addressed to the Chair or to the body as a whole**, and not to any individual member of the body or public.

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

Board Rules:

- **Public in-person meetings:**
 - ◆ Persons wishing to speak must place their name and town of residence on the sign-in sheet;
 - ◆ person must be acknowledged by Chair before speaking;
 - ◆ speaker stands and addresses Chair or board as a whole;
 - ◆ time limit of two (2) minutes per person.
- **Digital meetings:**
 - ◆ [Digitally raise your hand](#),
 - ◆ wait to be acknowledged by the Chair,
 - ◆ clearly state your name and town of residence for the minutes,
 - ◆ address the Chair or the board as a whole
- If a member of the public has already spoken on a topic, they may not be recognized again until others have first been given the opportunity to comment.
- Order and decorum shall be observed by all persons present at the meeting. Neither members of the body, nor the members of the public, shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting or interrupt or disturb any member while speaking. Members of the body and members of the public are prohibited from making personal, impertinent, threatening, or profane remarks.
- Members of the body and members of the public shall obey the orders of the chair or other presiding member.

From the Superintendent

On October 22nd, the first workshop of the MVSU Life Learning Series on Estate Planning was offered. Thirty MVSU Faculty and Staff, as well as MVSU Community members participated. Our second workshop on Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia is on November 5th at the WUHS Library.

Also in October, I was approached by the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) at Arizona State University. They are conducting a study of districts across the six New England states that are working on ambitious transformation efforts. They were impressed by the work MVSU has done with Strategic Planning and asked to meet with me regarding the efforts we have made to achieve the goals of both Strategic Plans.

We have two exciting events happening in November. The first is the fifth annual Student Leadership Summit on Social Justice. Members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council work with me to locate funding, invite speakers and create an agenda for a day-long summit advocating for student leadership. This work begins in the spring and will culminate on November 14th at the Killington Grand Hotel. We anticipate that over 100 students will attend from our High School and other high schools in the area.

On November 18th, MVSU will be hosting the Senate Education Committee for the day so that they can better understand the work we do to meet the needs of all students and to experience the challenges we are facing at our Middle and High School facility. Educators, students and Administrators will share our We Are MVSU presentation. Senators will observe a student Fish Bowl activity. Teachers will address the question of meeting student needs and a declining building. Senators will also spend time in classrooms and tour the facility with Joe Rigoli. The day will culminate in a ninety minute question and answer session where students, community members and educators can offer their thoughts and concerns regarding providing Public Education.

**Tuesday, October 28,
2025**

	BA	KES	RES	TPVS	WES	WUHSMS	Totals	
Pre K 3	11	5	4		21		41	
Pre K 4	2	11	9		37		59	
K	5	12	3		30		50	
Grade 1	6	14	5		43		68	
Grade 2	8	11	4		59		82	
Grade 3	8	14	6		30		58	
Grade 4	3	13	4		37		57	
Grade 5	9	8		57			74	
Grade 6	13	22		51			86	
Grade 7						58	58	
Grade 8						64	64	
Grade 9						77	77	
Grade 10						75	75	
Grade 11						75	75	
Grade 12						74	74	
Total Pre K	13	16	13		58		100	
Total K-12	52	94	22	108	199	423	898	
Total by School	65	110	35	108	257	423	998	District Total
Change since Previous Month	0	1 (+1%)	0	-2 (-1.8%)	-1 (-0.4%)	-1 (-0.2%)	-3 (-0.3%)	District Change
							-1 (-0.1%)	District Change from 1 year ago 2024-25

Tuition Funding Source = "Operating School District"	913
Tuition Funding Source = "Other" (i.e., Exchange Students)	1
Tuition Funding Source = "Other VT School District"	84
Total	998

MVSU Enrollment by Town (as of 10-28-25):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aNGWQEpQvA03msylsJeiFfalRxDHwmk1mlo7VoMFR6l/edit?usp=sharing>

MVSU Enrollment by School and Town (as of 10-28-25):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LU0cZEfqL2lrGub3qdt2s6AiyxRgcdbmWt0_D7DH_DY/edit?usp=sharing

From the Director of Technology and Innovation

State reporting continues to be a challenge for the MVSU and many other districts across the state. During the 2024-25 school year the AOE transitioned to a new platform for reporting using the EdFi data standard. Although the system has shown promise in reducing the amount of time it will take to complete some state reports in the future, there have been numerous breakdowns between the AOE and our SIS vendor (Alma) that have made it difficult to finalize reporting for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, the first state report for the 2025-2026 school year will be due in the next couple of weeks. We have been working diligently with the AOE and Alma to resolve the remaining issues from 2024-2025 and to prepare for the first submission of 2025-2026.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to be an important topic of conversation with educators at the WUHSMS. During the WUHSMS Small Group Collaboration meetings a group of educators have been gathering to discuss the risks and benefits of using generative AI in education for both teachers and students. This group will meet periodically throughout the school year to build off our [Guidelines for Generative AI](#) and continue to assess the risks and benefits of using generative AI.

From the Director of Student Support Services

The department has been abuzz with several focus areas over the last month. Jill Graham, the Executive Director of the Vermont Learning Collaborative has been working with our team members on important elements of IEP case management, working effectively with our support staff, and using data to track progress, design instruction matched to student needs and create ambitious

goals tailored to the student. She has also spent time in our programs across the district meeting with special educators who work with students with unique needs so that our programming and instruction is tailored to their needs. You may have heard Jill's name a lot because we have opted to focus sustained and supported learning for the team over stand alone PD that is often unable to be supported. Her expertise works strategically with that of our district experts Julie Brown and Patty Kelly.

Elementary special educators have been having check-ins with their principal, Shayn Kalnitsky and Julie Brown throughout October. These check-ins are progress reports pertaining to the learning about instructional techniques in August: using progress monitoring tools and reflecting on the instruction thus far. Julie has been working alongside special educators and their students in buildings across the district to team teach, model, mentor and offer feedback to special educators; who have the same commitment to literacy proficiency as the rest of the teachers in the district. In November, these teams will meet in depth to discuss what needs to be adjusted as the next semester begins. The meetings will be comprehensive to include literacy, math, special education services, social emotional growth and services for students.

Janine Saragusa, our school psychologist, recently presented a question and answer session with the special education department about the Profiles of Strengths and Weaknesses model of special education evaluation and eligibility. We are entering year three of this model that was selected when the Vermont special education rules changed in 2023. Janine was able to elaborate about the process involved in the analyses of all data sources from a student's educators and how they are used to determine a cognitive profile of a student's strengths and weaknesses. That profile then helps determine if there is a learning disability and what it is. Many believe this is simply the work of a computer, but it is a powerful combination of the input from school teams with Janine's deep expertise in child development and psychology that help determine what our students need to be successful. This information is how we create IEP's and choose accommodations. Janine has created a way to explain these processes to parents in meetings so as to include their input, and make sure they are an important part of the process.

The evaluation team at the WUMSHS consists of Karen Odell, Tom Emery, Emily Meloon, Janine Saragusa and Shayna Kalnitsky. They have been meeting regularly and with special education teachers in order to improve our systems in the special education department for evaluations and IEP development,

services and IEP meetings. The focus has been on reducing duplicate steps, using experts for specific tasks, and working to reduce time and personnel in administrative steps so special educators can focus on teaching and instruction. This team will also be working on furthering the quality of our transition planning for students' employment, vocation and independent living plans. Shayna recently met with the AOE to get feedback on what we can do to keep moving forward with this work so our students are prepared for post graduation life.

From the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Teacher Mid-Year Inservice Days: October 10th was the first of two mid-year inservice days, strategically scheduled early in the school year to best support teacher efforts to improve student learning. Elementary teachers learned from guest facilitator Zach Groshell, an expert and leader in the field of explicit direct instruction. Secondary teachers learned from Big Hartman of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, with a focus on harassment awareness and prevention. Learning will continue on November 10th for our second inservice day.

Principal Professional Learning for Instructional Leadership: Principals spent October 9th with Zach Groshell, expert in explicit direct instruction, for a day of learning. After engaging in a walkthrough process, Zach trained principals in how to identify explicit instruction in classrooms, and how to engage teachers in responsive coaching after walkthroughs to improve instruction.

Mathematics Grade Level Meetings: Patty Kelly, our mathematics facilitator, is engaging grade level teams in tailored discussions around how to teach mathematics in light of cognitive load within our new math program called Illustrative Mathematics. Through these discussions, teachers learn how to maximize our resources, align instructional practices, and build a cohesive math learning experience for students across all of our schools.

MS/HS New Teacher Mentorship: Teacher retention is important to student outcomes. Thanks to Federal Title funding, we are able to offer a second iteration of a new teacher mentorship program led by Tim Brennan. The goal of this program is to help all new teachers thrive in our school community through support in the areas of logistics and local instructional priorities, while retaining skilled new hires. This second iteration of the program is built on feedback from teachers and mentors last year.

From the Director of Finance & Operations

We will be presenting the first draft of the budget this evening. This budget maintains all current programs and positions. It includes a health insurance premium of 7.4%, CBA/board approved union grid increases of \$694,350, the impact from tariffs, Woodstock water and sewer rate increases and the loss of tuition revenues of about (\$360,000). In creating the budget we followed the guidelines in the MVSU Teaching and Learning policy, the MVSU Strategic Plan, the MVSU Portrait of a Graduate, Board approved funding priorities, the Vermont Educational Quality Standards and Act 73 Class Size minimum. Here is the link to the budget documents. [FY27 Budget Documents](#)

Attached is the September monthly financial report for your reference. [September 2025 monthly budget report](#)

From the Student Representative

Lylah Zeitlin:
The QSA is preparing for a presentation at the upcoming leadership summit. On Friday, November 14th, we'll head to the Killington Grand Hotel to present in front of peers from across the state, as well as members of the High School. The summit is a fantastic networking opportunity. Focusing on constitutional values, personal testimony, and an overview of executive orders, the group will lead one of three breakout "strands" in research. Members will share their own thoughts and emotions, and encourage research into historical and current activism. The intention is, as always, to foster hope and encourage involvement in the things that matter.

From the Legislature

Charlie Kimbell, State Senator

AGENDA ITEM #5	Time-Scheduled Appointments
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5.A.	New Student Representative
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WHO: Sherry Sousa, Superintendent of Schools

PURPOSE: Introduce Logan Martes, the new student representative

5.B.	Math and Literacy Update
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WHO: Julie Burtscher Brown and Patty Kelly, Literacy and Math Facilitators

PURPOSE: Presentation about the program and plans for this year.

5.C.	Transportation Grants for Field Trips
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WHO: Keri Bristow, Chair

PURPOSE: Present a [new program](#) for teachers to receive grants for field trip transportation costs

5.D.	Announced Tuition - set tuition rates for FY27
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WHO: Jim Fenn, Director of Finance and Operations,
Jennifer Conrad, acting Assistant Director of Finance and Operations
Sherry Sousa, Superintendent of Schools

PURPOSE: Board adoption of annual announced tuition rates

Annually the board “announces” the tuition rate for the following year. This tuition rate reflects the cost of educating a student from out of district in our buildings. The Finance Committee reviewed elementary and middle/high school tuition rates and increased these tuition rates based on the national Consumer Price Index increase for the prior budget year. The National CPI-U from the period of July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025 increased by 2.895%. The recommended tuitions for FY2027 are:

- Middle/High School (Grades 7 - 12)- \$23,160 (currently \$22,510)
- Elementary (Grades K - 6)- \$20,250 (currently \$19,680)
- Prekindergarten- \$12,470 (currently \$12,120)

[FY27 Proposed tuition rates](#)

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Motion required that states that the board accepts the FY27 tuition rates as proposed. Motion requires a second and a vote.

5E.	Discussion of District Quality Standards
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WHO: Keri Bristow, Chair

PURPOSE: Collectively self-evaluate the district's progress through a rubric.

5.F.	Senate Education Visit Overview
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WHO: Sherry Sousa, Superintendent of Schools

PURPOSE: Review the [agenda](#) for the Senate Committee on Education visit on November 18th.

5.G.	Initial Discussion - FY27 Expense Budget
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WHO: Sherry Sousa, Superintendent of Schools
Jennifer Conrad, acting Assistant Director of Finance and Operations

PURPOSE: To see the [drivers of the FY27 Expense budget](#) and have the initial discussion. Detail budget documents are available here [FY27 Budget Folder](#)

AGENDA ITEM #6	Committee Updates
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PURPOSE:
To provide an update on the work of Committees and Working Groups.

WHO:
A. Finance Committee Update
B. Policy Committee Update

For 2nd Reading:

1. Student Activities, Clubs & Athletic Policy
 - a. [MVSU working draft \(version5\)/clean](#)

For Adoption:

1. D2: Course and Grade Advancement, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students
 - a. [Current/Draft/Clean](#)
2. C5: Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) Teams
 - a. [C5 MVSU Working Draft/Clean](#)

3. D8: Selection of Library Materials
 - a. [D8 MVSU Draft as per VSBA Template](#), [D8 MVSU Draft with Access Section, Clean](#)
 - b. [D22 Selection of Library Materials](#), [Collection Development Procedures](#), and [Reconsideration Procedures](#)
 - c. [VT Act 220](#)

C. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update

D. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee Update

E. Working Groups Update

AGENDA ITEM #7

Executive Session

PURPOSE: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (3) “the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that the public body shall make a final decision to hire or appoint a public officer or employee in an open meeting and shall explain the reasons for its final decision during the open meeting”

WHO: Keri Bristow, Chair

AGENDA ITEM #8

Approve Minutes

[October 6, 2025](#)

AGENDA ITEM #9

Public Comment 10 minutes

PURPOSE:

To hear input, concerns, etc., from the attending public.

WHO:

Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

Board Rules: Public sign-in sheet (when in-person meetings are resumed). Person stands and announces name; time limit of two (2) minutes per person.

Digital meetings: Digitally raise your hand, wait to be acknowledged by the Chair, please [identify yourself for the record](#), then address the board.

AGENDA ITEM #10	Reflection
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PURPOSE:

This is a time to process board self-evaluation and implement recommendations for improvement.

WHO:

Full board

MOTION REQUIRED?

No.

AGENDA ITEM #11	Adjourn
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PURPOSE:

Ends the meeting

WHO:

Chair calls for a member to make the motion to adjourn and notes the time.

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Needs a second and vote.