

**Missisquoi Valley School District
Board Meeting Minutes
Highgate Elementary School Library
May 17, 2022**

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

Date: May 17, 2022

Board Members

Devin Bachelder, Chair, Don Collins, Vice Chair Joanne Johnston, Peter Magnant, Tobias Maguire, Terri O'Shea, Steven Scott, Renick Darnell-Martin, Jen Chevalier

Absent Board Members

Administration Present

Julie Regimbal, Superintendent, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Beth Ann Miller, MVSD Director of After School Program, Elementary School Principals Joyce Hakey, Chris Dodge, Justina Jennett, Yeshua Pastina.

Visitors Present

Jim Sullivan

Call the Meeting to Order 6:30PM

Devin Bachelder, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence, Visitors, and Public Comments

Devin Bachelder stated the board received correspondence regarding proficiency based grading asking for more information. Julie Regimbal stated that more information will be provided at a parent meeting and updated information at the May 31st board meeting. Jim Sullivan commented that he would like the Ag Committee to be placed on the agenda for the May 31st board meeting. He stated that he heard from Ruth Durkee, State CTE Director, that Missisquoi Valley School District can not accept students to the Ag Program from other schools. Jim does not believe this to be true. Julie Regimbal will check into this. Devin stated that the May 31st board meeting has a full agenda and is uncertain about adding the Ag Committee to the meeting.

To hear the public comments, follow the link below:

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

Agenda Review

None

Approval of May 3, 2022 Board meeting minutes.

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin to approve the May 3rd board minutes with revisions made by Terri O'Shea. The board approved 9:0.

Presentation

Portrait of A Graduate

Julie Regimbal thanked Beth Ann Miller for her assistance with the presentation and her tremendous work in the coordination and including the Portrait of a Graduate in the After School Program this year. The presentation was broken down into four parts of a Portrait of a Graduate, Our process, Our Six Characteristics and Next Steps. The Portrait of a Graduate serves as a direction for system transformation, providing a strategic direction for the overall educational experience for students, this collective vision reinvigorates and re-engages students, educators, and community stakeholders. A district's Portrait of a Graduate is meant to complement academics and test scores as measures of preparedness. While it does not replace a focus on academic achievement, it shows the district community's commitment to investing in educational experiences that educate the whole child. With a team of students, administrators, board members, etc. MVSD has been collaborating with Up for Learning and Portrait of a Graduate for two years to create MVSD's own Portrait of a Graduate. They held monthly meetings (virtual and in-person) along with youth-led surveys for elementary, middle, and high school students, Student led presentations, SOAR Stories, Elementary student input-drawings of their "perfect school", Student videos in Public Speaking Class, Data processing & Word Clouds, Thought Exchange for students, administrators, parents, educators, and community members. To view the data results of the thought exchange, click the following link: [Portrait of a Graduate 04-28 16:32 \(thoughtexchange.com\)](#)

Julie listed the six characteristics as Responsible Citizenship, Knowledgeable & Proficient Learning, Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving Skills, Independence & Initiative, Collaborative Leadership, and Effective Communication. The next steps are to create a visual, distribute, celebrate and share the visual and use our portrait as the centerpiece of our strategic planning. Julie suggested that the board review the information prior to adopting the MVSD Portrait of a Graduate at a subsequent meeting. Don Collins suggested that they invite parents and students involved in the Portrait of a Graduate to present at a school board meeting.

To hear the full presentation, follow the link below:

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

Administrative Reports

Elementary Administrative Reports

Yeshua Pastina, Highgate Elementary Principal, provided an overview of Highgate's Principal's Report with the following highlights: Student Placements for next year, Higher Pre-K Student Numbers, SBAC Testing Update, Literacy and CLiF Night planned for May 25th, Band and Choral Concert on May 26th, Grade 6 Graduation on June 7th, Field Days on June 8th, and the Water Fun Parade on June 13th.

For more details regarding this report click the following link:

[View Highgate Elementary School Principal's Report](#)

Joyce Hakey, Franklin Elementary School Principal provided an overview of Franklin's Principal's Report including the following highlights: STEM Festival by ECHO, End of the Year Data from

Assessments, District Music Festival, Set up of Summer Programming for individual students, Planning school goals and activities for next year, Penny War, District Music Festival, PreK to K transition, Grade 6 to Grade 7 transition, Spring Concert on May 26th, Memorial Day Events on May 30th, and hiring of an Art Teacher.

For more details regarding this report click this:

[View Franklin Elementary Principal's Report](#)

Chris Dodge, Swanton Elementary School Principal, provided an overview of Swanton's Administrative Report with the following highlights: Chris thanked the staff for all their hard work towards SBAC Testing that is near completion, technology update, health and safety update, STEM Festival, Community Engagement, Summer Programming, Preschool Screening, PBIS Learning Walk, Swanton Concert on May 26th, Student Placement for next year, and Staffing Update.

For more details regarding this report click the following link:

[View Swanton Elementary Principal Report](#)

New Business

Side Letters

Professional Development for Apprenticeship/CTE Teachers Side Letter

Julie Regimbal presented two side letters for the board's approval. The first letter allows the district to provide additional funds to pay professional development for new teachers enrolling in the Career & Technical Teacher Education program at Vermont Technical College (VTC). The District agrees to pay the extra credits for each teacher exceeding the professional development annual allotment per teacher as outlined in the master agreement so that the Ag Program teachers can complete the requirement as outlined in their individual plan to attain an AOE Teaching License.

Renick Darnell-Martin moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to approve the additional professional development for Apprenticeship/CTE teachers. The board approved on a 9-0 vote.

Associate Nurse Side Letter

The second side letter addresses the placement of Registered Nurses with an Associate's Degree in the Bachelor's column of the Master Agreement. They will not be allowed to move on the salary scale beyond the Bachelor's column until they receive a Bachelor's Degree.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Peter Magnant to approve the side letter for placement of nurses with an Associates Degree in the Bachelors' column on the salary scale of the Professional Master Agreement. The board approved on a 9-0 vote

Board Resolutions

Terri O'Shea stated that the committee worked on a board resolution advocacy regarding the Ag Program. The quality and access to technical education in Vermont is key to the individual success of many Vermont students as well as being of prime importance to a robust

Vermont economy. The current funding and governance models of regional technical education are often at odds with the goal of increasing opportunities and access for CTE programs.

The resolution proposed is that the general assembly should require the Agency of Education to identify and propose new models of funding and governance structures to improve the quality, duration and access to career technical education in Vermont. Devin explained that the board committee is working on resolutions to submit to the VSBA as advocacy on educational issues important to our district. They guide the VSBA's positions as they represent school boards in Montpelier. Julie explained that Northwest Tech is MVSD's tech school and we must pay tuition to send them there. Don suggested that there is a tremendous need to employ people in the trades as many teachers are near retirement. Don had additional language for the tech education resolution. The board will revisit the resolution after revision.

Julie stated that there are three different statutes that speak to surety bonds. They have looked at suitable criminal liability insurance as this has become an issue with some community members. It is the near universal practice in Vermont school districts and municipalities to utilize criminal liability insurance rather than a surety bond. "The resolution proposed is that the General Assembly should provide an additional mechanism in both 16 V.S.A. § 492, 706q and 24 V.S.A. § 832 that the school district or other municipality may choose to provide suitable crime insurance coverage in lieu of a blanket bond." Julie stated that the legislators have passed an amendment that the board can choose to provide suitable crime insurance. Don felt that we should approve and submit the resolution to ascertain the importance of this issue in the future.

Tobias Maguire moved, seconded by Steve Scott to approve the surety bond resolution and send it to the VSBA. The board approved the 9-0 vote.

Old Business

Board Self-Assessment

Julie Regimbal explained that the board should review last year's goals and set updated goals for themselves. She will send a thought exchange so that the board can propose some ideas, do a self-assessment on how well that they believe the board has done in completing their goals. The results of this will help guide what the board will cover at the board retreat. Devin stated that this will help with their strategic planning and reaffirming or adjusting the goals. Peter stated that the board should focus on how well they came together on getting things done. Steve Scott did not feel comfortable in responding to this survey because he was not involved in the goals committee. Julie will meet with Terri and Devin regarding the retreat and the long-term strategic planning. Julie has contacted Phil Gore of the VSBA to facilitate the board retreat and assist with strategic board planning. The retreat has been set for July 12th at 5:00 pm. She will confirm a location at the next board meeting.

Other Business

New Teacher Hires

Julie Regimbal would like to recommend the following new educators for hire: Matthew Carroll as classroom teacher in Highgate, Brittany Moore MVU ELA Teacher, Dana Kupiec MVU Health Teacher, Wesley Kempton, MVU History Teacher and Ruth Ackerman, Franklin Art Teacher.

Jen Chevalier moved, seconded by Steve Scott to hire the list of teachers as recommended by Julie Regimbal. The board voted 9:0 to approve the motion.

Teacher Resignation

Julie stated that they have a teacher resignation because they are moving to California so he will need to be released from his contract for next year.

Joanne Johnston moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to accept the teacher resignation because the teacher is moving to California. The board voted 9:0 to approve it.

Future Agenda Items

- End of year Recovery Plan Update, Continuous Improvement Plan, Audit Report, Guidance/Post-Secondary Outcomes/PLP end of year Data, Grading/Transcript Update.

Future Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be May 31st at 6:30 PM. This meeting will be held in person at the MVU Middle and High School. The facilities committee will meet prior to the board meeting on May 31st. The board goals committee will meet on June 6th.

Other

Don Collins inquired about an updated financial report. Lora is working on updating the finances, reviewing the expenditures and each line item.. Joanne asked about teacher retention and if the improved salaries and benefits in the master agreement helped with retention. Julie said that they will have this information for the board retreat.

Meeting Adjournment

Peter Magnant moved to adjourn the meeting; Renick Darnell-Martin seconded. Motion carried 9:0. The meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.