

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SUPERVISORY UNION

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

May 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

MVSU Conference Room
and
ZOOM video-conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wcsu-net.zoom.us/j/82360195573?pwd=dG52L0YrNVlNN1FLTGFPemlNZWJHdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 6019 5573
Passcode: 120179

Agenda

START THE ZOOM RECORDING

1. Call to order
2. Amendments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Reports
 - a. Superintendent
 - b. Student Reps
 - c. Legislative
5. Time Scheduled Appointments
 - a. Approve New Hires
 - b. Approve School Continuous Improvement Plans
 - c. Presentation: Middle School Continuous Improvement
 - d. Presentation: Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Study Tour & Curriculum Work
 - e. Review of policies related to Campus Sustainability, School Closure and Intra-District School Choice.
6. Committee Updates
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Policy Committee
 - i. For Adoption:
 1. F26 Security Cameras
 2. D24 Special Education
 3. F24 Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement
 - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee
 - e. Working Groups
7. Approve Minutes
8. Public Comment
9. Executive Session, if necessary
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 where 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 warned 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 the public, not 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 - Sherry Sousa

One of the goals from our first Strategic Plan was to increase our connections with members of Higher Education. Looking back over this school year, the District has facilitated relationships with Stanford University, Harvard Graduate School of Business, Dartmouth College, MIT and the University of North Carolina. We are working with a member of Stanford's Design Team to develop a post secondary planning curriculum for our high school students. Work with the Harvard Business School is supporting our attention to becoming a Comprehensive High School and to developing a Financial Strategic Plan. Dartmouth College has worked with us for many years, and this year is supporting our AI professional development and investigating the male student experience in our schools. MIT has provided invaluable consultation and professional development also in the topic of AI. Finally, the University of North Carolina has partnered with the High School to explore the removal of cell phones from the campus. Having access to such informed and invested collaborators can only mean that our students have the highest quality of educational experiences.

Since my last report, the Vermont House of Representatives approved HB 454, legislation to address education reform. Three amendments were added to the original document including expanding the Working Group for redistricting to include Legislative representatives; creating another Working Group to consider possible regional "voting wards"; and facilitating a Study Group to investigate the impact of the new Non Homestead classifications. The Senate received HB 454 during the third week of April, and spent time unpacking the legislation. In the last full week of April, they are taking a deeper dive in the details of the law. Concerns are rising that the Senate will only move forward on significantly reducing the number of districts and establishing a Funding Formula. This means the recommendations to address class sizes and the implications for Independent schools would be removed. My concern is that these probable changes will not result in the stated intention to provide greater equity of learning experiences for all students, nor the kinds of reductions of public education costs that were originally promised. If significant changes are made to HB454, the Legislation would head back to the House for review and possible vote before heading to the Governor's desk for his signature.

All Administrator and Director Annual Reviews were completed and shared with the Leadership Team after April break. Faculty and staff are asked to provide feedback on Administrator Standards for those on the Leadership Team they work with. Quaglia Culture data was considered for each school as part of this review. Finally, I collected observational data from our team meetings, and from conversations with families and educators to provide a comprehensive view of each administrator. Every school and district leader receives a narrative description of my recommendations and commendations, as well as copies of data tables from the Administrator Feedback Survey.

Enrollment Information:

Tuesday, April 29, 2025							
	BA	KES	RES	TPVS	WES	WUHSMS	Totals
Pre K 3	2	12	6		27		
Pre K 4	4	11	6		25		
K	6	12	5		40		
Grade 1	8	10	4		60		
Grade 2	7	11	7		27		
Grade 3	3	13	4		39		
Grade 4	9	8	5		46		
Grade 5	13	19		53			
Grade 6	6	13		36			
Grade 7						69	
Grade 8						61	
Grade 9						74	
Grade 10						86	
Grade 11						76	
Grade 12						70	
Total Pre K	6	23	12		52		93
Total K-12	52	86	25	89	212	436	900
Total by School	58	109	37	89	264	436	993
Percentage Change since Previous Month	0	0	0	0	0	-1 (-0.2%)	-1 (-0.1%)
							District Change from 1 year ago 2023-24
							-3 (-0.3%)

	April 29, 2025
Tuition Funding Source = "Operating School District"	887
Tuition Funding Source = "Other" (i.e., Exchange Students)	0
Tuition Funding Source = "Other VT School District"	106
Tuition Funding Source = "VT State Agency"	0
Tuition Funding Source = "Sponsored by Operating District"	0
Total	993

MVSU student enrollment by town (as of 4-29-25):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZlCyGmHtgOY3KdF4Rr51vM2ale8iNS1tBG289rPFx3M/edit?usp=sharing>

MVSU student enrollment by school and town (as of 4-29-25):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1X7LnEX6hWNqTxAfMRDj4SrqEt0oLXtqGxEPatxwt-tM/edit?usp=sharing>

[From the Director of Technology and Innovation](#)

From 3:15 - 4:15 pm on Thursday, May 22, 2025, we will be hosting a unique event at the WUHSMS Library for teachers, staff, students, and community members. Dartmouth [Professor Chad Elias](#) and a group of his students will be coming to the WUHSMS to lead a workshop titled How to Make AI Work for Us (Not the Other Way Around). Professor Elias is currently teaching a course titled Art and AI: Human Creativity in the Age of Machine Intelligence. Using insights from this course, Professor Elias and his students will conduct a demonstration and facilitate a dialogue with workshop participants. If you are interested in joining this free workshop please [click here to register](#).

I am excited to announce that Mark Harwood will be our new Systems and Network Administrator. Mark's strong technical skills, attention to detail, and people skills make him a natural fit for this position. Mark is currently the Systems Technician / Library Assistant at WES, but in his new role he will be moving to the WUHSMS for the 2025-26 school year. As a result, we will be looking for a new Systems Technician / Library Assistant at WES.

The 2025 VTCAP testing session has come to an end, so now we await the results. Over the past two years we have received the results from VTCAP testing in August.

[From the Director of Student Support Services](#)

With the end of year quickly approaching, the special education team is working with parents and building teams to plan for appropriate summer services in our extended school year programming (ESY). Many students will be attending Summer Soak or

visiting campus to continue their work in academic areas as well as in the areas of speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and counseling. Some of the other work happening across our buildings is the transition planning that takes place as students get ready to matriculate to new buildings such as the WUMS from BA, TPVS and KES, or to TPVS from the 4th grade classes at RES and WES. School teams meet with each other and again with parents and families to discuss each child and what is needed to facilitate a smooth and successful next year in a new school.

MTSS teams are meeting across the district anticipating one more assessment window after which instructional plans will be designed for the last intervention cycles of the school year. More and more focus is shifting to the important work of all our educators in a prevention model of instruction; aiming to decrease the needs for intervention and special education. They have also been doing a professional book read together that focuses on case studies of students receiving intervention.

[From the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#)

Arizona Learning Excursion: Last week, a group of nine traveled to Sunnyside Unified School District with Next Generation Learning Challenges, funded by the Barr Foundation. The goal of this trip was to see innovative teaching & learning in person and develop actions to try in our school. To learn more about the excursion, [read this press release](#). Attendees included students Owen Whalen (11th grade) and Anna Young (10th grade). They were joined by Vanessa Cramer (Science Department Chair & Teacher), Heather Vonada (Math Department Chair & Teacher), Aaron Cinquemani (Principal), Sherry Sousa (Superintendent), Elliot Rubin (Board Member), Sofia Bertocci (Counseling Department Chair) and Jennifer Settle (Director of CIA).

Professional Learning Update: The professional learning plan for the district is coming together and can be viewed by [clicking here](#). It includes opportunities for teacher voice/leadership, job-embedded professional development, and Late Start Wednesdays.

[From the Director of Finance & Operations](#)

I am currently working on TAN for FY26 which will be presented for approval at your June board meeting. Interest rates, while still high, are down from this year's rate of 6.5%. We are looking at an interest rate for FY26 around 5.75%. Because of our recent loan refinancing the amount we will be borrowing in FY26 will be about \$1,000,000 less than this year due to moving our principal payment from July to November.

You can find monthly financial reports here. [Monthly Financial Reports](#) Monthly Finance Reports through March 2025 we have spent or encumbered about 74% of our total annual budget. The April report will be completed and uploaded shortly.

From the Student Representatives

Lylah:

Due to a very busy schedule Lylah may or may not present a verbal report.

Joaquin:

I am not able to make it to this meeting due to a lacrosse game. This past month, we had the privilege of getting a visit from the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Dr. Victor Ambros. He won the prize in Medicine for his groundbreaking research on using gene therapy to treat rare childhood diseases. As a graduate of the class of '72, he had much to share about how his time at Woodstock contributed to his passion for science and success. His visit inspired many of us to think about how science and compassion can work together to improve lives.

Academically, students are feeling the pressure. With AP exams and class finals soon approaching, students are busy studying. Senior decisions have been rolling in, with the Class of 2025 seeing some great commitments – namely Dartmouth, Middlebury, West Point and Villanova. Great job Seniors!

AGENDA ITEM #5	Time Scheduled Appointments
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5.a.	Approve New Hires
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PURPOSE:

To approve the hiring of these licensed educators for FY26:

- Devyn Workman
- [Brook Hansel](#) - BA/TPVS world language teacher
- [Victoria Woods](#) - WES 2nd grade teacher
- [Alyssa Castellini](#) - TPVS/RES/WES STEM teacher
- [Joseph Cianciola](#) - WUHSMS math teacher
- [Lainey Curtis](#) - TPVS Special Educator

5.b.	MVSU Continuous Improvement Plans
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WHO: Jennifer Settle, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

PURPOSE:

To approve Continuous Improvement Plans developed by each school.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Barnard Academy | • The Prosper Valley School |
| • Killington Elementary School | • Woodstock Elementary School |
| • Reading Elementary School | |

- [Woodstock Union Middle and High School](#)

5.c.	Middle School Continuous Improvement Presentation
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WHO: Ryan Becker, 8th Grade Team Lead & Science Teacher; Melissa Fellows, 7th Grade Team Lead & Science Teacher; Laurie Smith, Middle School Social Emotional Specialist; Jennifer Settle, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

PURPOSE:

To share the continuous improvement work of the Middle School in connection with the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE).

- [Middle School Continuous Improvement Presentation](#)

5.d.	Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Study Tour & Curriculum Work
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WHO: Nate Clifford, WUHSMS Grade 10 English Teacher; Marcia Davis, WUHSMS Secondary Literacy Interventionist; Lois Fein, Reading Elementary PreK-K Teacher; Lauren Sullivan Justice, WUHSMS Grade 9 English Teacher; Jennifer Settle, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

PURPOSE:

To share learning from the Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Study Tour and how it will inform our Holocaust curriculum work.

- [Holocaust, Human rights, and Genocide Study Tour Presentation](#)

5.e.	Review of Policies
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WHO: Keri Bristow, School Board Chair

PURPOSE:

Review of Policies related to:

- [Campus Sustainability](#)
- [School Closure](#)
- [Intra-District School Choice](#)

AGENDA ITEM #6	Committee Updates
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PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the work of Committees and Working Groups.

WHO:

- 1) Finance Committee Update
- 2) Policy Committee Update For Adoption:
 - F26 Security Cameras - [VSBA version /working draft markup/clean](#)
 - D24 Special Education - [VSBA version/replaces D7 current MVSU/working draft markup/clean](#)
 - F24 Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement - [VSBA version /current MVSU/working draft markup/clean](#)
- 3) Buildings & Grounds Committee Update
- 4) Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee Update
- 5) Working Groups Update

AGENDA ITEM #7	Approve Minutes
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Mountain Views Supervisory Union
Mountain Views School District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
April 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
[Zoom recording](#)

Board Members Present:

Barnard:

Carin Park (virtual)
Heather Lawler

Bridgewater:

Lara Bowers
Ryan Townsend

Killington:

Plymouth:

Elliot Rubin
Josh Linton

Pittsfield:

Pomfret:

Bob Crean (virtual)
Lydia Locke (virtual)

Reading:

Anna Sessa

Woodstock:

Keri Bristow
John Williams
Sarit Werner
Matt Stout
Sam DiNatale

Student Representatives:

Lylah Zeitlin
Joaquin Jones-Welker

Superintendent: Sherry Sousa

Director of Student Support Services: Shayna Kalnitsky (virtual)

Director of Finance and Operations: Jim Fenn

Director of Buildings and Grounds: Joe Rigoli

Principals/Administration: Aaron Cinquemani, Maggie Mills (virtual), Mary Guggenberger (virtual), Devyn Workman (virtual), Lori Beland (virtual)

Recording Secretary: Rayna Bishop

Visitors: Rep. Charlie Kimball, Sen. Allison Clarkson

1. Keri called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Amendments to the Agenda: Keri added two executive sessions to the agenda.
3. Public comments were heard.
4. Reports: The written report can be found in the [board book](#). The Student Representatives discussed their reports. State Representative Charlie Kimball and State Senator Allison Clarkson delivered a legislative update and answered board questions.
5. Time Scheduled Discussion:
 - A. Retirements/Resignations: Motion by Anna Sessa to accept the notices of departure for the licensed educators as presented. Seconded by Ryan Townsend. All in favor.
 - B. Approve New Hires: Motion by Sam DiNatale to approve the new hires as presented. Seconded by Anna Sessa. All in favor.

- C. WUHSMS Recruitment Efforts: Principal Dr. Aaron Cinquemani and Guidance Counselor Sofia Bertocci delivered a presentation on the efforts to increase student enrollment from choice towns. The report can be viewed [here](#).
 - D. Annual Report: Supt. Sousa shared the [MVSD Annual Report](#). This prompted discussions about Intra-district School Choice and class sizes.
6. Committees:
- A. Finance- Matt Stout provided a short update.
 - B. Policy- Motion by Anna Sessa to adopt F26 and D24 at the next meeting, seconded by John Williams. All in favor. Elliot delivered an update on the Student Activities, Clubs, and Athletics policy.
 - C. Buildings & Grounds- Lara Bowers and Joe Rigoli delivered updates.
 - D. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention- update will be delivered in executive session due to confidential nature.
 - E. Working Groups- no updates.
- 7. Motion by Ryan Townsend to approve March 10, 2025, minutes. Second: John Williams. All in favor.
 - 8. Public comments were heard to advocate for teacher reps.
 - 9. Executive Sessions: The board indicated they would be moving into their executive sessions and took a ten-minute break to clear the room and Zoom. Motion by Sam DiNatale to enter executive session at 9:01 p.m. for a contractual matter. Seconded by Ryan Townsend. All in favor. Return to the public session at 9:09 p.m. Motion by John Williams to authorize James Fenn and Joe Rigoli to execute the contract as discussed. Seconded by Anna Sessa. All in favor. Motion by Anna Sessa to enter the next executive session at 9:10 p.m. for a negotiations matter, seconded by Josh Linton. All in favor. No action taken upon exit at 9:15 p.m. Motion by Anna Sessa at 9:16 p.m. to enter the next executive session to discuss a student matter, seconded by Ryan Townsend. All in favor. Exited at 9:40 p.m. with no action taken.
 - 10. Reflection: The board reflected on their meeting.
 - 11. Motion to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. by Anna Sessa, seconded by Ryan Townsend. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #8

Public Comment 10 minutes

PURPOSE:

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

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 #9	Executive Session
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WHO:

Chair calls for a member to make the motion.

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Motion required that states the purpose and the statutory exemption from public session.:

"Motion to enter executive session regarding a contractual matter under 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(?)."

Requires a second and a vote to enter the session.

AGENDA ITEM #10	Reflection
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PURPOSE:

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

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.