

MONTPELIER ROXBURY
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETING
Montpelier High School
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
MINUTES

Approved: 12-06-2023

Present

Board: Jim Murphy, Mia Moore, Jill Remick, Emma Bay-Hansen, Kristen Getler, Rhett Williams, Lyn Turcotte, Jake Feldman, Scott Lewins

Administration: Libby Bonesteel, Christina Kimball

Students: Alara Kohn, Miriam Serota-Winston

Absent:

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.
 - Public Comment

No public comment was heard.

2. **Consent Agenda**
 - Minutes of the:
 - [11-03-2023 Facilities and Energy Committee Meeting](#)
 - [11-15-2023 School Board Meeting](#)
 - [Draft agenda 12-06-2023](#)
 - Co-Curricular Contracts
 - New Hire

Jill Remick moved, seconded by Mia Moore, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the [11-03-2023 Facilities and Energy Committee Meeting](#) and [11-15-2023 School Board Meeting](#), the [Draft agenda 12-06-2023](#), the confidential co-curricular contracts, and the new hire of Elizabeth Goodwin to the position of Long-Term Substitute for Grade 1 at Union Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously at 6:36 pm.

3. **Board Business**
 - Discussion on budget direction/strategy for FY25 and beyond

Superintendent Libby Bonesteel and Business Manager Christina Kimball [presented](#) regarding FY25 budget direction and strategy. The presentation was followed by discussion and answering questions posed by board members.

4. **Public Comment**

Public comment was heard from Jim Eikenberry in favor of staying under the 10% education spending increase compared to last year, respecting the unions and doing all we

can to avoid cutting staff, the geography of Roxbury and Montpelier as it related to rural schools and different pupil weights, support for the track project, and investigating other sources of revenue, from Tina Muncy regarding getting through this budget season and then taking time to look at a long term plan for MRPS, from Joe Carroll, MREA President, regarding article 10.3 of the MREA negotiated agreement and MREA leadership interest in meeting directly with the board to discuss potential reductions in force (RIFs), Lisa Burns regarding the recent special education audit report findings, academic performance data, the prospect of closing Roxbury Village School, cutting transportation, and cutting staff and if, given those prospects, it might be valuable to look at reappropriating the \$1.9M set aside for the track project, Nancy Bruce regarding food service workers being included in non-unionized staff, consideration of the median income of Montpelier residents and impacts of tax increases to those on fixed incomes, declining enrollment and potential for the loss of more families if taxes were to increase, and the consideration of cutting some extracurricular activities, from Paul Carnahan regarding cutting transportation provided to middle schoolers, Angela Bauer regarding equitable access to school and extracurricular activities for Roxbury students as it relates to the Roxbury late bus, the Roxbury Village School afterschool program and its longevity, and how that after school program relates to ridership on the immediately-after-the-school-day within Roxbury bus route.

The board briefly continued their discussion regarding the budget after the public comment period.

5. Policy Monitoring

- [B5: Employee Unlawful Harassment \(monitoring report\)](#)
- [C3: Transportation \(monitoring report\)](#)
- [B4: Drug & Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees \(monitoring report\)](#)

Rhett Williams moved, seconded by Scott Lewins, to approve the policy monitoring reports for policies [B5: Employee Unlawful Harassment \(monitoring report\)](#), [C3: Transportation \(monitoring report\)](#), and [B4: Drug & Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees \(monitoring report\)](#). Discussion was had regarding Policy C3: Transportation and the monitoring report as it relates to prospects for increasing ridership if the Roxbury late bus route was expanded to travel into the village of Roxbury. Motion carried unanimously at 8:37pm.

6. Executive Session

- Superintendent Evaluation
 - Recommended motion: “I move to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of the Superintendent under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of Vermont Statutes (the evaluation of a public officer).

Mia Moore moved, seconded by Emma Bay-Hansen, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of the Superintendent under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of Vermont Statutes (the evaluation of a public officer). Motion carried unanimously at 8:38pm.

7. Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 pm.

Anna Bromley
Recorder