

**Missisquoi Valley School District
Board Meeting Minutes
MVU School Library
September 6, 2022**

Board Business Meeting 6:00pm

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

Date: September 6, 2022

Board Members

Devin Bachelder Chair, Don Collins, Vice Chair, Terri O'Shea, Joanne Johnston, Tobias Maguire, Peter Magnant and Renick Darnell-Martin (arrived at 6:29pm)

Absent Board Members Steven Scott and Jen Chevalier

Administration

Julie Regimbal Superintendent, Lora McAllister, Business Manager and MVU School Administration Dan Palmer and Christie Martin, Principals, John Lumsden, Athletic Director, Steve Messier, Director of Student Management, Jason Butler, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Central Office Administration: Bonnie Moulton, Director of Human Resource, J.R. Cox-Communications Coordinator, Derrick Garceau, Director of Technology and School Board Secretary-Pierrette Bouchard.

Visitors Present Kim Delorme joined remotely at 6:55pm

Correspondence, Visitors, and Public Comments

No Public Comment

To hear the public comments, follow the link below:

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

Call the Meeting to Order

Devin Bachelder called the business meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Agenda Review None

Consent Agenda

Administrative Reports

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Peter Magnant to accept the Administrative Reports. The board approved 6-0 vote.

To View the MVSD Newsletter please click the link below:

[MVSD District Monthly Newsletter](#)

Approval of August 16th, 2022 Board meeting minutes=

Terri O'Shea moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 16th, 2022, seconded by Joanne Johnston. Tobias requested adding his statement to the minutes. Devin suggested that they make that in a separate motion. Don asked if the construction project was a 15% contingency or 10%? Lora will look into it and get back to him. The Board approved on a 6-0 vote.

Tobias Maguire asked if they could add his statement verbatim to the minutes. *Tobias moved, seconded by Terri O'Shea to include his statement verbatim in the minutes as was shared with the Superintendent.*

Discussion

Peter Magnant stated that he was not in favor of adding these to the minutes. Minutes are supposed to be a summary of what takes place in the meeting. If we pick and choose what we will put in full in the minutes, then we are putting more emphasis on this statement than what others have said. The minutes have links for community members to see the board meeting for more details if they wish. Terri O'Shea understands what Peter is saying but she thought if a board member makes a request to be added to the minutes the board should respect it.

The board voted 5-1 to approve the motion.

Check Warrants

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Tobias Maguire to approve the August check warrants totaling \$4,048,658.65. The board approved 6-0 vote.

Side Letter of Agreement

Julie Regimbal stated that the side letter is not a new practice. This process was in place last year and the Association approached them to do this for one more year. The side letter addresses that due to COVID and staff shortages, a teacher can volunteer to substitute for another teacher during their prep time. The teacher volunteering to substitute will be paid \$40 per class completed.

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to approve the side letter. The board approved the motion on a 5-0-1 vote. (Devin Bachelder abstained from the vote.)

Adjournment

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Terri O'Shea to adjourn the business meeting at 6:14pm. The board approved the motion on a 6-0 vote.

MVSD District Board Regular Board Meeting
MVU School Library
6:30pm

Call Meeting to Order

Devin Bachelder called the meeting to order at 6:29pm.

Correspondence Visitors and Public Comments

None

Agenda Review

Devin welcomed Christie Martin to her first MVSD School Board meeting. They added MVU Administration to the agenda for comments and questions.

MVU Administration

Devin Bachelder asked if anyone had questions for the MVU Administration. Don Collins asked if they had data on the enrollment this year versus last year at the next board meeting? He would like the enrollment by grades and asked how many tuition students MVU has. Dan Palmer stated that they would prepare this information for the board. Peter Magnant asked about being fully staffed at MVU and was this normal? Dan Palmer reported that at the VPA Conference, other administrators from other schools were still seeking to fill multiple positions. Dan said that MVU got ahead of the curve, advertised early and were able to fill all their positions. Christie Martin added that the substitute teacher list was thin and hoped to add to the list.

For more details regarding this report, click the link:

[View MVU Administrators Report](#)

Fall Athletics Update

Devin Bachelder asked the board if they had any questions for John Lumsden? John Lumsden stated that they have had ten more students registered for athletics since the report. Tobias Maguire suggested that the coaches' contracts are signed at least two months before the first practice. The community wants to support varsity coaches and if we know we want to keep a coach that was successful from the previous season, then we should offer them a contract. If the district receives a letter of resignation, then we should post the position right away. John Lumsden stated that he has a meeting next week and will ask Athletic Directors from other parts of the State to see what they are doing. He will certainly keep this suggestion under consideration. Don asked how many student athletes are there? John responded that there are 310 registered student athletes. He has added flag football as a feeder program to football.

He has also added JV Boys' Volleyball at their request. He added that due to limited availability of the gym, he will use the Highgate and Swanton school gym for the JV practices whenever the Elementary School kids are not using them. Don asked John Lumsden if money was included in the current budget for the new programs and John replied yes. Dan Palmer stated that 40% of the MVU students participate in athletics. John wants the student athletes to feel good about themselves and be positive. Peter Magnant commented that he was glad to see that they had Hazing, Harassment and Bullying Training and did not want MVU to experience what some area schools had with the spectators. John Lumsden responded that the players and coaches attended a Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying (HHB) training presentation by Steve Messier while parents listened to a presentation on supporting student athletes. He stated that they announce MVU's expectations prior to the start of the games. He added that in years past, more was tolerated and now it is no longer acceptable. John stated that homecoming will be celebrated the week of September 12-17. Friday September 16 our student athletes will participate in the homecoming parade, a high school dance on the varsity soccer field, followed by fireworks.

To view the full discussion, please follow the video link below:

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

Communications Plan

Julie Regimbal introduced J.R. Cox as our communications professional. He also works for public access. Why a focus on communication? According to Dr. Max Riley, Superintendent of Randolph, New Jersey, the primary purpose of the school leader is to bind the district and the community together in support of a powerful vision for student learning. The only effective tool for meeting this challenge is a comprehensive communication plan. Julie stated that in order to accomplish this, a leader needs assistance to coordinate this effort which is why MVSD has hired J.R. Cox as the communications director. J.R. has met with board members, administrators, community members and parents. He asked what are the needs, what are the challenges and what ideas do you want to implement? He has designated the following five major themes he would like to work on: calendar of events, school and district websites, board information stream, parent and community outreach, education and engagement, MVU communication and concerns. He has established the following three priorities: constant content stream such as social media, press and in person: Revamping websites including a district wide calendar that is attractive and friendly, and Refining information reporting strategies in key areas: Budget, Monthly Newsletter and communication priorities to address these themes. J.R. set a six-month timeline from August to December to achieve these goals. In August he has collected data, analyzed and created a road map; September – collecting content, establish website goals, October-Put content flow in place, website design and feedback, budget information, November-finalize the web design and begin development and December- Evaluate success, collect more data, update processes and continue with budget information. Tobias Maguire asked about a student newspaper and will it dovetail under J.R.? J.R. stated that he will talk to Kosha Patel about implementing a school newspaper. Terri O'Shea stated that she would like J.R. to reach out to people who are not on social media. She suggested that people have liked receiving postcards and she thinks it is well worth the expense. Don Collins suggested that there is a need to get the word out to vote on the budget. He suggested that fliers at local stores, quick stops and other public places may be a good way to accomplish this. J.R. said he is still establishing ways to accomplish this such as newspaper outlets and will explore other suggestions made by the board. Joanne Johnston stated that she would like the public to communicate with them such as when the budget was voted down, the board would like to hear from the community their reasons on why they objected to the first budget presented. Julie Regimbal stated that J.R. can create content on social media that will keep the public engaged. Devin Bachelder suggested that someone from the board should be delegated to sign off on board level communication. He suggested that the board chair and vice chair should obtain approval from the board so that there is one voice from the board.

Devin stated that the communication may be as a result of a board meeting conversation or message that the board has reached consensus. Peter Magnant would like to ensure the other board members know what is in the communication prior to it being sent out.

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to authorize the board chair and vice chair to approve communications to the public/community. The board approved on a 7-0 vote.

Policy Review and Prioritization for FY23

Julie Regimbal presented the board with a list of policies that are on the VSBA webpage that in several categories being Required Policies, Recommended Policies and Policies to consider. She has highlighted the policies we currently have in yellow, policies we don't have yet in blue, policies that have been removed in black and policies under review by attorneys in gray. She is asking the board about their priorities, and how they wish to accomplish more review and adoption of policies. Several board members suggested to continue having the board goals committee do it while others thought it could be done at a board meeting. She suggested that they could continue to have the board goals committee do it, a special policy committee or designate a time in the board meeting to review them. Julie stated that most of the policies have been vetted by attorneys and are straightforward and boiler plate. She thinks that they could be done in batches. She could have the board goals committee prioritize and line them up for the year. So that the public could hear them, they could do a first reading at the board meeting. Devin suggested that if the board thinks the policy needs revision, it could be sent back to the goals committee. Otherwise, if the policy is acceptable as read in the first reading at the board meeting, it can be warned to be adopted at the next meeting. Some policies need to be reviewed annually such as the Title I policy so this will be a priority. Julie will send out an email so that the board can review the policies prior to the next committee meeting.

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MVU Safety Planning

Julie explained that they have some aspects of MVU's Safety Plan that can be explained to the public and some security and emergency response measures discussion that will need to take place in executive session. Steve Messier was present to provide the public overview of the safety planning. There are two different components of the safety plan. There is the building security and the emergency operations plan (EOP) that cannot be shared in public. He explained the physical improvements that were made at MVU such as the front lobby improved security, the J Pod Connector, and alarms set up to the exterior doors so that students enter and exit through the front lobby. Jason Butler and his team continue to work on securing the doors. They are in the process of consolidating the internal and external video cameras so that there is only one system. They have software that does a quick background check as people come in. They have enhanced their partnership with local police, state police, sheriff's office and border patrol. They have an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for each individual occurrence and a reunification process for an event ensuring that our response is a solid plan. They are using ALICE training with staff with Bob Corey, Jason Barney and Steve Messier as certified instructors. They also have BARK software monitoring and filtering service that screens bullying or threatening content alerting school officials. They have a Behavioral Threat Assessment team made up of Administration, teachers and support staff to review concerning conduct and institutes a safety plan/case management. The staff is trained through Vermont School Safety Center. Upcoming – Law Enforcement has recommended that they number interior and exterior doors. They are conducting drills every month alternating between A and B Day and different classes. Any concerns that staff may have were encouraged to report to the administration. The EOP plan is not publicly shared.

To view the full discussion, please follow the video link below:

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

. Future Agenda Items

Future Agenda items include MVU Middle School Student Transition, PLP update, Tech Center

Future Meeting Dates and Sites

The next board meeting will be held on September 20, 2022 at MVU Library. .

Executive Session

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Renick Darnell-Martin to enter executive session at 8:17pm for premature public knowledge of the MVU Emergency Operations Plan would put one or more parties at a substantial disadvantage. The invited Julie Regimbal, Dan Palmer, Christie Martin, Steve Messier and Jason Butler into the executive session. The board approved 7:0.

The board exited the executive session at 8:52 pm.

Meeting Adjourn

Peter Magnant moved to adjourn the meeting, Rennick Darnell-Martin seconded. The motion carried a 7:0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.