

MONTPELIER ROXBURY
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETING
Montpelier High School
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
MINUTES

Approved: 01-03-2024

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

Absent: Miriam Serota-Winston (student representative)

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm
 - Public Comment

No public comment was heard.

2. **Consent Agenda**
 - Minutes of the [12-13-2023 School Board meeting](#)
 - [Draft agenda 01-03-24](#)

Emma Bay-Hansen moved, seconded by Lyn Turcotte, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the [12-13-2023 School Board meeting](#) and the [Draft agenda 01-03-24](#). Motion carried unanimously at 6:37 pm.

3. **Budget Presentation & Board Discussion**
 - [Second Draft of FY25 Budget](#) - Christina Kimball and Libby Bonesteel

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

The budget informational meeting has been rescheduled to happen on the morning of March 5th, 2024.

4. **Public Comment**

Public comment was heard from Nathan Suter regarding the expected cliff in FY29 when the Act 127 equalized residential tax rate 5% cap goes away and considering the long term weighted average daily membership per pupil spending that should be below a 10% increase from year to year through FY29, also per Act 127, and wrapping our heads around a longer term outlook and strategy, from Joe Carroll regarding reconsidering making reductions in force to student facing positions and other human resources and looking elsewhere to account for those needed reductions in the budget, from Allison Waring regarding the recently negotiated increase in MREA salaries, the impact of that

on this budget season, that our residential tax rate has been rather consistent in the last 5 years (also considering the change in education spending formula this year due to Act 127 and impacts the tax rate has year to year in relation to the Common Level of Appraisal and thus home values and how those values equate to what people pay in taxes), from Morgan Lloyd regarding considering reductions in force that are not student facing positions, from Jim Eikenberry regarding how the sustainability science position fits within our core values as a district and shouldn't be cut and what regarding potential other revenue sources such as exchange students or tuition paying students that we might investigate and pursue, from Tim Duggan regarding the lack of clarity around this complicated budget season and a request for an opportunity for a public engagement whereby the public have an opportunity learn, comment, and ask questions, from Carlton Anderson regarding Montpelier taxes, lowering enrollment, flooding, and Act 127 longer term impacts as it relates to a discussion about merging with the U32 school district, and questions about the merger process, including if it would require a vote by residents, from Lisa Burns regarding Act 127 and its goals to make education spending more efficient, PCBs, flooding, and questions about how a merger with U32 would be initiated, and again from Carlton Anderson regarding if it would and, if so, how we could promote tax savings if we pursue a merger with U32.

The board encourages the public to review the school board budget webpage (www.mrpsvt.org/budget) and to email schoolboard@mpsvt.org with any additional questions or requests for clarity.

5. Board Discussion - Budget

6. Policy Monitoring

- [B3: Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace \(monitoring report\)](#)
- [B7: Tobacco Prohibition \(monitoring report\)](#)

Mia Moore moved, seconded by Scott Lewins, to approve the policy monitoring reports for policies [B3: Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace \(monitoring report\)](#) and [B7: Tobacco Prohibition \(monitoring report\)](#). Motion carried unanimously at 7:59 pm.

7. Adjournment

Rhett Williams moved, seconded by Mia Moore, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 7:59 pm.