

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SUPERVISORY UNION

MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

September 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

MVSU Conference Room
and
ZOOM video-conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wcsu-net.zoom.us/j/89435435695?pwd=V6jZEtlg2qtS3yZRVcmlGR3cjgQtAd.1>

Meeting ID: 894 3543 5695

Passcode: 989204

Agenda

START THE ZOOM RECORDING

1. Call to order
2. Amendments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Reports:
 - a. Superintendent
 - b. Directors
5. Time Scheduled Appointments
 - a. Nominations for Vice chair
 - b. Selection of new Woodstock School Board rep
 - c. Request for Quotes for an Energy Performance Contract on the New Build
 - d. 2026 VSBA/VSA Annual Conference
 - e. Strategic Plan goals update
6. Committee Updates
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Policy Committee
 - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee
 - e. Working Groups
7. Approve Minutes
8. Public Comment
9. Proposed Executive Session 1 and 2
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 the agenda may be amended.

Amendments added cannot include items that statutorily require a warning to the general public, and 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 WCSU/WCUUSD 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.

AGENDA ITEM #4	Reports
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From the Superintendent

Since our August Board meeting, my work has focused on the opening of our campuses and preparing teachers for their return. On Friday, August 28th, we welcomed all of our Faculty and Staff in the MS/HS Auditorium with introductions of new team members, celebrations from every campus, and a reminder of the common vision of our work. Recognitions were shared for Parents' pride in their child's school, hours put into planning for the new literacy and math curriculums, exciting new afterschool club offerings at TPVS, and improved student attendance at the MS/HS.

Jen Settle and I met with our new MVSU Teacher Team members on the morning of August 27th. I will say one thing we do very well is hire really good teachers. I was so impressed by their vast experience and high level questioning. Our new educators will bring new ideas, energy and curiosity to the students they will be working with.

A project that I will be working on throughout this school year is preparing our MVSU documents for the next Superintendent. Our District has deep resources for teachers, administrators and families. I feel well versed in what we offer our students but know that someone new to this position will not have that collective knowledge. I will be working with the Directors, Principals and Teachers to organize these materials in a cohesive framework that clearly articulates our systems, priorities, and pedagogy for meeting both the academic and social/emotional needs of our students. I'm calling it the Mountain Views Way.

From the Director of Technology and Innovation

Phishing Mitigation:

Vermont schools have been targeted by active phishing campaigns this summer. Cyber-criminals are gaining access to school accounts and sending out emails from these compromised accounts, collecting sensitive information used to cause harm. We have taken proactive steps to protect the people and network infrastructure in MVSU, including further increasing network monitoring and staff awareness training. Even with the strongest defenses and best-trained staff, a breach in our district is not a question of 'if' but 'when'. We are preparing containment measures for that inevitability.

Every adult with a mtnviews.org email address -- including Board Members -- is a potential target and thus included in our district-wide cybersecurity simulation training. The training consists of emails designed to mimic a real phishing attack. In the first 3 days of the simulation, our vendor sent 236 of these emails to mtnviews.org

addresses (adults only, not students). Six people clicked on the link or button which would have been dangerous had the email been a real phishing attack, and 30 people correctly reported the emails as phishing. These training emails are challenging to detect, which aligns with the increased sophistication and frequency of real attacks.

Technology Standardization:

To support a focused and equitable learning environment, WUHSMS transitioned to a single, standardized 1:1 Chromebook model for all students in grades 7-12 this school year, discontinuing the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) option in alignment with Vermont Act 72 and MVSU Board policies. Key benefits of this standard model include:

- **Equity:** Providing identical hardware and software eliminates socioeconomic barriers and ensures reliable compatibility across all classroom instruction.
- **Security:** Managed devices allow strict enforcement of CIPA-compliant content filtering, routine security patches, and robust network protocols.
- **Management:** Centralized fleet management enables seamless updates and rapid IT support, minimizing disruptions to instructional time.

From the Director of Student Support Services

During the summer the teams worked with new families to transition them from their old schools to our district. Over the past several weeks our department has been a flurry with welcoming several special educators and paraeducators, a Multi Language Learning Coordinator, a school adjustment counselor and two speech and language pathology assistants.

In efforts to intervene early, the related services team of Katie Powell, Krista Kowalec, Amy Shaw, Gina Rocque and Marijke Russo went out to all kindergarten classes this week to conduct screeners in the areas of speech and language development and gross and fine motor development. Their observations will help inform classroom teachers on areas of focus and for the class.

From the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Peer Mentorship Program: Our new teacher peer mentor program is in its seventh year, with 17 pairings this year. Previous participants have shared with us how helpful it is to have a dedicated go-to mentor for questions big and small throughout the year. August 27th was our New Teacher Onboarding day. At the Middle & High School, WUHS retired educator Timothy Brennan has designed a year-long program of professional development for locally-specific topics and some additional 1:1 support, funded by Title II.

Launching the School Year/District Wide Inservice: Survey-based feedback on the districtwide portions of our Fall Inservice Days showed 93% of faculty and staff felt welcome to the new year. Leaders shared school and district level celebrations, and set a

vision for the year grounded in the Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) and our Strategic Plan. Overall, 78% of participants felt the day held a strong connection to the PoG, and 85% left the day feeling a great sense of pride in our work.

Teacher Tuition & Workshop Reimbursement: To date, 14 credit-bearing tuition reimbursement requests and 8 workshop requests have been processed through the department of CIA and the business office. Thank you for your support of this program.

Math and Literacy Job-Embedded PD 26-27: September officially launched round 6 of job-embedded professional development in Mountain Views. Since 2022, and pre-Act 139, our district has provided professional learning in reading and math to teachers and administrators. Educators hired before 2026 will take LETRS 2, engaging in 60 hours of learning around research-based reading instruction with Julie Brown. Newly hired teachers will start us on our first year of AIM pathways to Proficient Reading, a similarly rigorous, newly developed program that reduces the hours required by more than half. Teachers of math at the elementary level will engage in two days of professional learning during our inservice days, and grade level meetings with Patty Kelly throughout the school year.

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

This month marks the completion of my first full month as Director of Finance and Operations. It has been a busy and productive month as I continue to learn the unique requirements and processes of Vermont's school system while becoming more familiar with the operations and financial needs of the Supervisory Union and our member districts.

A significant focus this month has been the Middle/High School rebuild project. I have been working with the team to explore options for moving the project forward, including reviewing financial considerations, project needs, and potential next steps. I have also met with both the Finance Committee and the Rebuild Committee as we continue to evaluate the options available to us.

Within the Business Office, our team has been working hard to close out FY26 while simultaneously getting FY27 up and running. This is a particularly demanding time of year, and I am extremely appreciative of the dedication and hard work of our staff. We have an amazing team here at the Supervisory Union, and their knowledge and commitment have been invaluable as I continue to transition into my new role.

In addition to these larger projects, I have been spending time learning our financial systems, operational processes, facilities needs, and the various state requirements that impact our work. My goal is to continue developing a strong understanding of our operations so that we can identify opportunities for greater efficiency, long-term planning, and responsible use of our resources.

As I move into my second month, I look forward to continuing to work closely with our staff, administration, committees, and School Boards to support the financial and operational needs of our schools.

From the Student Representatives

Lylah Zeitlin:

It's the start of a new school year and morale is high. There are new plans and people to implement in the routine, but overall, the transition is going well. The field hockey team has had a couple of great wins and theater is off to a great start, with casting partially finished and rehearsals fully underway. Some seniors are preparing for early decision applications, a detail I'm including in case you see my start sobbing hysterically at our next meeting or in the middle of this one.

Logan Martes:

We're back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. It has been great to reconnect with my peers and hear about what everyone has been up to over the past few months.

The senior class has already been busy, starting the month with Senior Sunrise on the first of September. It was a great opportunity for the class to come together, reconnect, and spend some time socializing before the start of the school year.

The fall sports season is officially underway, and many of our teams are looking strong. There is a lot of excitement surrounding our athletes, and we may have several teams that could be in contention for a title this season. We wish all of our athletes the best of luck as they compete throughout the fall.

I would also like to wish our senior class a successful year as they begin preparing for their next steps beyond high school. The transition into adulthood can bring many challenges and opportunities, and my hope is that every student we send out into the world is prepared to find success and make a positive impact.

Finally, I want to recognize and congratulate our staff on a very smooth start to the school year. With the influx of new students and the many moving pieces that come with the beginning of a new year, everyone has done an outstanding job making the transition seamless.

There isn't too much to report at this point, but it has been a very positive start to the school year. I'm excited about what this year will bring and look forward to all that is ahead.

5.A.	Nominations for Vice Chair
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WHO:

Keri Bristow, Board Chair

PURPOSE:

To fill the position of Vice Chair which was recently vacated by John Williams.

5.B.	Selection of new Woodstock School Board rep
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WHO:

Keri Bristow, Board Chair

PURPOSE:

[Claire VeNard letter of interest](#)

5.C	Request for Quotes for an Energy Performance Contract on the New Build
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WHO:

Matt Stout, Chair of the Finance Committee

PURPOSE:

To prepare and publish a request for proposals for the purpose of seeking vendors to quote for an Energy Performance Contract on the new build

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes

"I hereby move that the Superintendent's office prepare and publish a request for proposals for the purpose of seeking vendors to quote for an Energy Performance Contract on the new build."

5.D.	2026 VSBA/VSA Annual Conference
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WHO:
 Superintendent Sousa

PURPOSE:
[2026 VSBA/VSA Annual Conference](#): *Leading Through Change: Clarity, Courage, and Community*— October 30
[2026 VSBA/VSA Annual Pre-conference Workshop](#): *Leading Through Change: Governance Leadership in a Time of Transformation*— October 29

5.E.	Strategic Plan Goals Update
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WHO:
 Superintendent Sousa

PURPOSE:
 To hear an update on the goals of the [strategic plan](#).

AGENDA ITEM #6	Committee Updates
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PURPOSE:
 To provide an update on the work of Committees and Working Groups.

WHO:
 A. Finance Committee Update
 B. Policy Committee Update

For 1st Reading
 For 2nd Reading

- 1. School District Building Access Policy
 - a. [Draft](#)
- 2. POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS
 - a. [Draft](#)

For adoption

- 1. MVSU Pets on Campus Policy
 - a. [draft](#)

- C. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update
- D. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee Update
- E. Working Groups Update

AGENDA ITEM #7	Approve Minutes
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June 24, 2024

June 17, 2024

AGENDA ITEM #8	Public Comment 10 minutes
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PURPOSE:
 To hear input, concerns, etc. from the attending public.

WHO:
 Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?
 No

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 1 and 2
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EXECUTIVE SESSION 1
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 for personnel matter 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3).”

Requires a second and a vote to enter the session.
 Exit session

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2

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 for personnel matter 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)."

Requires a second and a vote to enter the session.

Exit session

AGENDA ITEM #10	Reflection
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PURPOSE:

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

WHO:

Full board

MOTION REQUIRED?

No.

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.