

**Missisquoi Valley School District
Board Meeting Minutes
MVU Middle/High School Library
May 23, 2023 6:00pm**

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

Date: May 23, 2023

Board Members Present

Jen Chevalier, Chairperson, Renick Darnell-Martin, Vice Chairperson, Kelly Badeau, Peter Magnant, Board Clerk, Devin Bachelder, Joanne Johnston, Don Collins, and Meaghan Conly. *(Meaghan Conly and Renick Darnell-Martin joined remotely.)*

Absent Board Members Tobias Maguire

Administration and Visitors Present

Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Derrick Garceau, (Technology Director of MVSD), MVU Administrators Dan Palmer, Christie Martin, Jennifer Desorgher, MVU Guidance Tyler Meigs, Lauren Hood from VSAC, Visitor Tyler Choiniere, Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary, Northwest Access TV Camera person.

Call the Meeting to Order

Jen Chevalier, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05PM

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Review-None

Correspondence, Visitors, and Public Comments

Tyler Choiniere thanked the Highgate grade 4 class and the teaching team for accompanying him in putting up flags in the cemetery.

Approval of the minutes

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the May 9th, 2023 board minutes. The board approved on an 8-0 vote.

First Reading of Policies

- Julie Regimbal introduced the first reading of C21 Search and Seizure policy. She explained that this policy is taken from the VSBA Model Policies. It defines searches on school property and the process. The first reading on C24 School sponsored student activities and athletics includes modifications of the policy. This policy has gone through policy groups including board members, and administration. The revisions include the following: *The District may*

MVSD Vision and Values:

The Missisquoi Valley School District supports students in finding success along the path they choose guided by our Portrait of a Graduate.

elect to offer District sponsored co-curriculars through an outside agency (i.e., town recreation department). In such cases, the co-curriculars shall be administered in coordination with District programs and in compliance with this policy and any relevant procedures referenced herein. Elementary athletics in grades 5-6 shall be coordinated between schools and follow appropriate VPA guidelines for the activities offered. In order to sustain team viability, promote access, and provide a positive experience for all student athletes, District administration will develop procedures to:

Add, expand, eliminate or cancel any team/sport.

Petition the Vermont Principals' Association to use 8th grade students on a high school team/sport.

Approve the participation of 5th & 6th grade student(s) on another Elementary or 7th and/or 8th grade team/sport

Request a change to VPA determinations of Division or League status.

Peter Magnant requested that gender be changed to all students in the policies.

Presentation and Discussion Item

Aspire Program from VSAC

Lauren Hood, VSAC, Aspiration School Specialist, explained that Aspiration is part of the VSAC Outreach and Education Department and is a partnership between VSAC and MVU. The Aspirations goal is to build a school's capacity to graduate all students with a plan for future education and training. Created in 2014 due to research published by VSAC that found a gap in aspiration rates especially of 1st generation students and their peers. They have provided professional development on Career Connections in Every Classroom and MVU Data Dive. They have also created an MVU action plan working with an Aspirations Team Committee.

Guidance Presentation

Tyler Meigs presented the 2022-2023 College and Career Data. SAT: 18 students took the SAT this school year. This does not include the students who are registered for the June 3rd test here at MVU. PSAT: 64 students in grades 10 and 11 took the test this year at MVU on Wednesday October 12th. AP testing: 61 MVU students are enrolled in our Advanced Placement classes with 102 total enrollments. 58 tests were taken this May. Scores will be released July 5th. Dual Enrollment: 55 vouchers used this school year by 49 students. Some courses taken are: Introduction to Digital Filmmaking, Introduction to Computer Science, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Introduction to Human Services, Anatomy and Physiology, Introduction to Psychology, and American Government and Politics. Early College: 10 Students from the Class of 2023 will complete their first year of college before graduation in June. 33 students enrolled in Work Based Learning (WBL) this year. Seven seniors have enrolled in the Military and two additional seniors are in the process of working with a recruiter. Branches include Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

Jennifer Desorgher presented on Pathways: Personalized Learning Current Status

All students in grades 7-10 have PLPs. (Personal Learning Plans)

Grade 7 & 8: Development: Goals, Career Exploring, Class Pages, High School and Future Planning, Reflections on Guaranteed Experiences, Grade 10: Career Exploration Class, Post High School Education Project, Careers Project, Resume

Students who are participating in Flexible Pathways create goals and collect evidence in their PLPs.

What they have learned from Pathways: There has been lots of excitement and momentum

MVSD Vision and Values:

The Missisquoi Valley School District supports students in finding success along the path they choose guided by our Portrait of a Graduate.

High interest in more independent and non-traditional opportunities, many great opportunities already exist, need better Coordination, Build capacity of staff to use PLP as a tool, Technical details and logistics matter and can be challenging.

To hear the full presentation or more details, please follow the link below:

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

Resolution

VPA and Athletics

Jen Chevalier stated that Tobias Maguire is not present this evening and has requested that we postpone voting on the VPA and Athletics resolution until the next meeting.

Federal Grant Teacher VSTR Mandated Contribution

Lora McAllister explained that the district is assessed up to 25% of teachers' salary for teachers funded through the federal grant. This percentage has increased over the years from 10% to over 20% today. They have paid over \$250,000 to subsidize teacher retirement health care which appears like the district is expending this money. Lora feels that the State should investigate alternate funding or perhaps take it off the top prior to distributing the grants. Don Collins would like to move something forward but would like to rework the resolution. He would like to eliminate/revise the following: *whereas if funding is deemed necessary to support the Vermont State Teacher Retirement System, The Vermont State Legislature shall investigate alternative funding sources support the Vermont State Teachers Retirement System, ensuring that any necessary funding does not impede the ability of school districts to utilize federal grant funds for the benefit of their students, b) Utilization of funds from the education fund at the state level, accompanied by offsetting revenue sources to ensure a balanced approach. c) Thorough research and identification of a distinct funding source that is equitable, sustainable, and does not impose undue burden on Vermont school districts. 4. The Vermont State Legislature shall take immediate action to implement this resolution, including the introduction and passage of appropriate legislation to eliminate the federal grant assessment requirement for school districts and to explore alternative funding mechanisms for the Vermont State Teachers Retirement System. 5. A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Vermont State Board of Education, the Vermont Agency of Education, the Vermont State Teachers Retirement System, and all relevant stakeholders to ensure awareness and foster collaboration in addressing this issue.* Don feels that we do not need to offer solutions on what the end result should be. Jen Chevalier suggested that if Don would like to contact Tobias Maguire on the VPA and Athletics resolution and work with Lora to revise the Federal Grant resolution, we will continue this discussion and vote at the next meeting.

Business Office

a) Warrants

Joanne Johnston read the check warrants presented as follows:

- o Accounts payable: \$1,181,417.40
- o Payroll - Checks: \$48,926.37
- o Payroll - Other Disbursements: \$1,761,798.98
- o Payroll Deductions: \$609,922.27

April total: \$3,602,065.02

MVSD Vision and Values:

The Missisquoi Valley School District supports students in finding success along the path they choose guided by our Portrait of a Graduate.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the check warrants as presented totaling \$3,602,065.02. The board approved on an 8-0 vote.

Food Service Management Contract Renewals

Lora McAllister presented the School Food Service Management Contract Renewal for the 2023-2024 for Highgate, Swanton and MVU Middle/High School. The proposed contract is the fourth renewal and it is the last year. The CPI is 8.40% and the average increase in the contract is 6.6%. She recommended that the school district approve the 2023-2024 contract renewal to the Abbey Group for Highgate, Swanton and MVU.

Peter Magnant moved, seconded by Devin Bachelder to approve the renewal of the school food service management contract for Highgate, Swanton and MVU for the fourth year to the Abbey Group. The board approved the motion on an 8-0 vote.

Lora explained that there is a meal advisory committee in each school to provide feedback about the meals being offered and participation. The Food Service providers' meals must go through the process of a nutritional analysis.

New Professional Hires

Julie Regimbal reported that they filled four of the Swanton Classroom positions and are still interviewing for the remaining open positions.

Julie Regimbal presented the following list of new teachers for the board's approval:

Swanton Audrey Lavin Classroom Teacher
Swanton Brooks Bessette Classroom Teacher
MVU Jonah Moos Math Teacher
MVSD Julia Pepitone Speech Language Pathologist
Swanton Lyndale Nephew Classroom Teacher
Franklin Mark Peterman Physical Education Teacher
Swanton Cassidy Schrauwen Classroom Teacher

Don Collins moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to approve hiring the above list of teachers and authorize the board chair to sign their contracts. The board approved the motion on an 8-0 vote.

Teacher Resignation

Julie Regimbal explained that this teacher was leaving for personal reasons. A situation occurred after she signed her contract but due to an unforeseen occurrence, so she formally requested that she be released from her contract and accept her resignation. Julie recommends that the board accept her resignation.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to accept the letter of resignation from Elizabeth Schultz. The board approved the motion 8-0 vote.

Board Meeting Site Rotation Next School Year

MVSD Vision and Values:

The Missisquoi Valley School District supports students in finding success along the path they choose guided by our Portrait of a Graduate.

Jen Chevalier asked the board if they would like to vote on the board site rotation for the 2023-2024 school year. Julie Regimbal explained that the proposed rotation would go back to MVU being the first meeting site in the month and the second site will be rotated with the three elementary schools alphabetically. The principals will attend the meeting if they are the hosting school. If the administrators' reports are on the agenda for a meeting, then other principals could attend the meeting virtually to answer any questions the board members may have. It is recommended that the board approve the meeting rotation ahead of the board retreat so that the principals/administrators can plan. There are some months that they may change the meetings from the second and fourth meeting of the month to the first and third meeting of the month due to conflicts with holidays/school vacations.

Don Collins moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to go with the Superintendent's recommendation of board meeting site rotation. The board approved 8-0 vote.

For more details, please view the presentation on the following link:

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

Future Agenda Items

Continuous Improvement Plan Report, Truancy Data, Financial Report. Don suggested that he would like to hear from Maintenance on the Opening of School, School Choice. Tyler Choiniere requested that the board committees be placed on the website.

Future Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be held on June 6th at the Swanton Elementary Library at 6:00pm.

There is a Portrait of a Middle School Graduate Community Input on May 23rd at 5:15pm.

To hear the full board meeting or more details, please follow the link below:

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

Meeting Adjournment

Peter Magnant made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Joanne Johnston. The board approved the motion on an 8-0 vote and the board adjourned at 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pierrette Bouchard, School Board Secretary

In behalf of Peter Magnant, board clerk

MVSD Vision and Values:

The Missisquoi Valley School District supports students in finding success along the path they choose guided by our Portrait of a Graduate.