

**Missisquoi Valley School District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021**

Location: The MVSD Board and Administration participated remotely for this meeting, public access was provided at the Swanton Village Complex

Date: November 16, 2021

Board Members (Remote)

Devin Bachelder Vice Chair, Terri O'Shea, Joanne Johnston, Don Collins, Tobias Maguire, Steven Scott, Jen Chevalier, Peter Magnant.

Absent Board Members Chris Shepard

Administration (Remote)

Julie Regimbal Superintendent, Lora McAllister, Beth Ann Miller, Director of After School Program, Elementary School Principals Joyce Hakey, Yeshua Pastina, Chris Dodge, Justina Jennett. MVU Principals Jay Hartman and Dan Palmer School Board Secretary Pierrette Bouchard

Robert Gervais was present in the public space provided at the Village Complex.

Visitors Present

[Visitors In Person Sign In Sheet](#)

Online Public Comments – Kelly Rainville and Casey Fitzgerald

Call the Meeting to Order

Devin Bachelder School Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence, Visitors, and Public Comments

A number of community members shared their concerns with the board regarding the decision to follow the Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health guidance and direction regarding COVID -19. Some students thanked the board for following COVID-19 safety measures.

Use the link to access [List of Names](#) who commented in person

Online public comments were made by Kelly Rainville and Casey Fitzgerald. Kelly Rainville commented regarding concerns around MVU Support Staff training and Casey Fitzgerald regarding MVU Sports' Spectators.

To hear the public comments, follow the link below:

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

Agenda Review

There are no revisions to the agenda.

Approval of November 2, 2021 Board meeting minutes

Discussion

No discussion

Terry O'Shea moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 2, 2021.

Tobias Maguire seconded the motion. Motion carried 7.0.

Presentations

Superintendent Regimbal introduced Beth Ann Miller as the Director of After School Programs and shared the presentation on After School Crossroads Information.

After School Program

Beth Ann Miller read the mission of the After School Program and their goals. The goals include the following: Improve school day performance; improve school day attendance; improve overall health and well-being; improve self-esteem and self-efficacy; encourage participants to try new things and develop new skills; provide role models and examples that help to foster responsible citizens in the local and global community; increase student access to academic support and STEAM opportunities. Beth Ann went over the Summer 2021 programs with 348 student participants along with 4246 meals served. She also went over the Fall Collaboration and Special Projects. Along with in person instruction, they have established MVSD on the Go Kits providing 5 to 10 days of materials so that students could learn a new skill, relax with a craft, or create a community project to brighten someone's day from home or while traveling. MVSD After School Programs are required to complete the SELPQA Process each year. They assemble a team of staff members, students, parents, and colleagues to conduct a series of observations based upon the provided toolkit. After the observations, the assembled team shares their findings and the coordinator organizes the information into a report for the 21C grant. She has written an After School Program Handbook that is being used as a model for other 21st Century Directors. She went over some discussions over staffing, student needs, quality programs and youth leadership.

Don Collins commended the After School Program Director for her leadership and a great first year on the job.

For additional information on the presentation, please follow the link to view the video.

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

Administrative Reports

Yeshua Pastina, Highgate Elementary School Principal, provided an overview of Highgate's Principal's Report highlighting the following Information: Name a Plow, 16th Annual Craft Fair, Professional Development for new teachers, Writing Specialist modeling for teachers, and Test To Stay Program.

For more details regarding this report click this link:

[View Highgate Elementary Administrative Report](#)

Chris Dodge, Swanton Elementary School Principal, provided an overview of Swanton's Administrative Report presenting the following highlights: Professional Development for new teachers, Test to Stay, Vaccination Clinics, Partnership with Echo, MTSS Audit and Name a Plow Visit, and Veterans' Day Collaboration

For more details regarding this report click this link:

[View Swanton Elementary Administrative Report](#)

Joyce Hakey, Franklin Elementary School Principal, gave an overview of Franklin's Principal's Report and discussed the following highlights: School Happenings, Four Winds Nature Program, Red Ribbon Week, Portrait of a Graduate, Certified staff formative and SMART goals, Veterans' Day, Ski Program, Food Drive and Facilities Update.

For more details regarding this report click this link:

[View Franklin Elementary Administrative Report](#)

Jay Hartman, MVU Principal reported that MVU received a report of allegations and complaints from the VPA that spectators exhibited inappropriate behavior and comments as a result of a soccer game between MVU and Lamoille Union held on October 27th. MVU has conducted an investigation as a result of this incident. On November 22nd, all MVU high school winter sports athletes must attend a Hazing, Harassment & Bullying (HHB) Presentation. This meeting is mandatory for athletes to participate in winter sports. They plan to address future incidences right at the game reminding them about good sportsmanship up to including prohibiting some spectators at future sporting events should this continue. Jay Hartman stated that they do not want this to represent what MVU School is about. The VSA and VPA have been working together to address these issues and improve behaviors at sporting events.

New Business

VEHI Unemployment Insurance

Lora McAllister reported that at the last meeting, the board was in agreement to transition from a straight reimbursable unemployment insurance model to VSBIT Unemployment Compensation Program. This item was warned for this meeting so that the school board could take formal action.

Tobias Maguire moved, seconded by Don Collins to authorize the board chair to sign the VSBIT Unemployment Compensation Program agreement. The board approved 8.0 vote.

FY23 Budget Draft 2

Lora McAllister presented draft 2 of the FY23 Budget with an overall increase of 5.78% with the addition of the ESSER funded opportunities. She updated the special and general education service contracts. These costs include out of district placements, in school contracted supports such as Autism Specialists, CAT Workers, School Based Clinicians, School Based Behavior Supports, tutors etc. Health insurance is projected to increase from 2.5% to 5.5%. She added 5.5% to the draft until a firmer figure has been reached. The dental insurance is estimated to range from level funded with up to 3% increase. The transportation contract will need to go out to bid for the next three years and she has included an estimate of a 3 % increase in the budget. The municipal retirement employer's share rates have gone up .5 percent, the unemployment insurance updated with a \$10,000 savings, along with a decrease of cash in lieu recipients as a result of the law change. She added \$100,000 to the Capital Construction line to aid in the increasing capital needs. She updated the new copier equipment lease and audit service contract expenses. Julie Regimbal stated that the expenditure budget will be higher due to the spending of COVID funds with the addition of nurses, behavior specialists etc. The revenue will offset these expenses. Lora responded to a board member's inquiry that no special articles for capital projects are planned at this time. Further discussions on projects may be discussed at the next facility committee meeting which will be held on December 13th. Lora went on to explain that the State of Vermont has received a lot of funding and how they apply this to the education fund may impact our property taxes.

Letter of Support

Julie Regimbal has drafted a letter of support on behalf of the school board in favor of Swanton's Enhancement Grant Application for a parking area near the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Letters of support from community partners encourage favorable prospects of grant approval.

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Don Collins to approve the Superintendent's signing and submission of the letter of support for the Swanton's Enhancement Grant Application. Board commented that they would support the Vice Chair signing the letter as well. The board approved the motion on an 8.0 vote.

Old Business

Check Warrants

FY 22 Check Warrants October

Lora McAllister read the Check Warrants

Accounts Payable:	\$	1,609,184.74
Payroll-Checks:	\$	73,382.08
Payroll and Other Disbursements:	\$	2,318,869.75
Payroll Deductions	\$	655,676.72
Total	\$	4,657,113.29

Steve Scott motioned to accept the check warrants as read. Jen Chevalier seconded. Motion carried 8.0

Financial Report

Lora McAllister reported that the carryover is down one million dollars from last projection due to increases in special education and contracted services expenses. Lora did not foresee big changes in revenues. She will be receiving an update on Special Education Extraordinary Expenses next month. The projected carryover is at 4.2 million. Devin suggested that perhaps this is an opportunity to take care of some facility projects. Peter suggested that they should look at track and field improvements. Devin suggested that we should get community feedback.

Policies for Adoption

B22 Public Complaints about Personnel

Julie reviewed the suggested revisions for the B22 Public Complaints about Personnel. The following was added under the section appeal to the board: **Such a request should be made formally and in writing and that request will be reviewed by the school board at the next regularly scheduled board hearing. The board may choose to honor the request for a hearing, or ask the board chair to respond and address the complaint in writing.** Don Collins stated that this policy encourages the community to follow a process.

Terri O'Shea moved, seconded by Jen Chevalier to adopt policy B22 Complaints about Personnel. The board approved on an 8.0 vote.

E20 Community Use of School Facilities

Julie stated that the board committee had a robust conversation about the policy and the language that Franklin has in an agreement regarding this policy. Some of the specifics are under the fee schedule procedure. Board members expressed concern regarding fees for community groups. Julie responded that there will not be a fee for local non-profit groups, education groups, and civil groups. The fees will be for-profit groups and entities. The procedure will address the fee schedule and prioritize our community and municipalities for use of the facilities. They added to the statement in the policy: "the superintendent may place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the use of facilities" **including following any public health requirements.**

Steve Scott moved, seconded by Terri O'Shea to adopt the policy E20 Community Use of Facilities. The board approved on an 8.0 vote.

Other Business

Facility Committee Update

Don Collins feels that they should be looking at track and field improvements and MVU locker room upgrades. They will discuss at the facility committee meetings. The committee has had good discussions with EEI and have some idea on the direction they should go in.

Board Goals Committee Update

Joanne Johnston stated that they had a great meeting with Kosha Patel regarding test result data. She would like to have Kosha present to the whole board. Julie stated that the testing results are preliminary with baseline data and they are looking for winter data. Data teams have put together reflective work and a plan of action has been completed for each school in response to student data. They are putting a plan in place to reduce the study halls at MVU. Tobias felt confident that the administration knows the areas of weakness and are working on addressing them. They worked on the policies following the presentation.

Negotiations Update

Julie Regimbal reported that the first negotiation session is on November 30th at 7 PM.at MVU. They are working through the ground rules but still have a few things to work on.

Future Agenda Items

- SRO
- Athletic Director's Report
- Budget
- Early College
- Proficiency
- Truancy

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 at 6:30 PM.
This meeting will be held virtually with public space available.

Julie explained that the next meeting has been changed to December 2nd. The board decided to formally change the next meeting date.

Tobias Maguire moved, seconded by Joanne Johnston to change the next regularly scheduled meeting from December 7th to December 2nd. The board approved on an 8.0 vote.

Meeting Adjourn

Terri O'Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tobias Maguire seconded. Motion carried 8.0
The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.