



**WORK STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the Mount Vernon School District, Skagit County, Washington, held a Work Study Session on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom call.

In attendance were Board Directors Otos, Coffey, Ragusa, Samora, and Cailloux. A quorum was present. Also, in attendance was Superintendent Vivanco, Assistant Superintendent Nutting, MVHS Principal Wattawa, and staff Cesar Bernal, Kendra Monroe Smith, Ema Shirk, and a number of other school staff and community. (51 participants.)

After Director Otos called the meeting to order, Dr. Wattawa presented information related to a proposed revised schedule at the high school. She shared the current schedule does not allow all students to have opportunities to courses such as CTE pathways, electives, and enrichment opportunities. The goal is to advance the commitment to the equity vision and practices related to instruction.

This has been discussed with district and building level administration, site leadership teams, high school staff, and the Citizen Advisory Committee. Although this information is being presented to the board, additional communication is needed before moving forward, including with parents. The proposal would entail moving away from the block schedule to a 7-period per day schedule.

Director Coffey asked about the 4-year period and related credits, noting we are at 32 credits in 4 years and this sounds like it would be 28 credits. Does this represent a reduction of opportunities? Dr. Wattawa said this change would keep it at 26 or 28 – which is where we are during remote learning. It would prevent a 32-credit requirement. She noted there are pros and cons to a 30-credit diploma. Students would have the opportunity to take additional classes if they desired to do so. Director Coffey said it is not up to the school board to decide these matters, but appreciates that this decision is a collaboration of many different groups and he appreciates hearing an early update. He said he hopes a decision as important as this will not be rushed. Dr. Wattawa said this is in response to state requirements, but agrees more time to allow comment is needed.

Assistant Principal Bernal shared that there are over 450 multi-lingual learners who would be impacted. Director Ragusa asked how the stakeholder groups feel and wants to make sure we are sharing a good explanation of why and how this looks. Dr. Wattawa said she wants to hear from parents and make sure everyone understands the reasoning.

Dr. Wattawa said she believes there will be a broadening of opportunities in CTE course work. The State is asking us to be intentional and wants a connection in what students learn to make sure our course work and offerings connect with that and are rigorous. Director Samora heard a presentation given to the Citizen's Advisory Council and didn't feel like there was significant concern.

Dr. Coffey thanked the school for their work and presentation. He just wants to make sure that people have an opportunity to review and express their opinions. The way in which instruction is given also can support the change.


Dr. Cailloux inquired about the timeline for implementation. Dr. Vivanco replied that traditionally by the end of February is when scheduling work begins. That said, we need to hear from as many stakeholders as possible. He is hoping more for the end of March to allow additional communication and conversations. .

Dr. Vivanco said everyone is reviewing this recommendation from the board challenge to consider equity. Updates will be on the superintendent's blog.

No action was taken and the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.



Larry Otos, Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Board Secretary