

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 6:00 PM

Call to Order and Flag Salute: Director Otos called to order a regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. on July 21, 2021. The meeting was held in person at Madison Elementary School and via Zoom call. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Board Members presented included Director Otos, Samora, Cailloux, and Ragusa. Director Coffey was excused. A quorum was present. Superintendent Vivanco was present, as were several staff members in person and via zoom.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board set the regular and consent agendas as presented.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approved items included in the consent agenda including:

Agreements

- Contract; Read 180, grades 6-8 Intervention Materials; 2021-22
- Contract; Newsela Supplemental Materials, grades 6-8; 08/01/21 – 07/31/24

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Reassignment/Transfer; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Classified: Employment; Retirement/ Resignation/Termination
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa said at the recent Board advance, discussion was on the Commitment to students and priorities. There was in depth conversation regarding professional development and the key to equity issues. She said it is an honor to work with enthusiastic personalities and appreciated the opportunity to thank the district leadership team for their hard work.
- Director Samora agreed it was nice to meet as a team and work together. She also extended her appreciation to the district leadership team.
- Director Otos reminded about the Mount Vernon Public School Foundation Golf Tournament, August 20. He said all money goes back to the schools and students. If interested in sponsorship, opportunities are available.

Superintendent's Report

Fall Reopening Plans: Superintendent Vivanco shared the district is ready to open full time and in person. The first day for grades 1-12 will be September 1, kindergarten on September 7.

The district will follow OSPI and DOH parameters. At this time, mask covering is required. We are expecting more information between now and September on this and other health and safety matters. There are several professional development opportunities scheduled.

Director Otos said the board is asking the Superintendent to follow DOH guidelines. Director Cailloux said she is looking forward to hiring additional counselors and staff to support student mental health.

Old Business

Resolution #25/20-21 Adoption of 2021-22 Budget: Director Otos shared that Executive Director-Finance, Jennifer Larson, has reviewed the budget with the board and public at work study sessions and has had a public hearing. No further comments have come in and the budget documents are in the meeting materials.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #25/20-21 Adoption of the 2021-22 Budget is passed.

Director Ragusa thanked Ms. Larson for the many ways she presented the information to the board. She feels very confident in the work put forth and believes we have a good financial plan in place for next year and a forecast for the next four years.

Resolution #26/20-21 Designation of ASB Primary Advisors

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #26/20-21 Designation of ASB Primary Advisors for the 2021-22 school year is passed.

Resolution #27/20-21 District General Fund/Revolving Fund

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #27/20-21 District General fund/Revolving Fund for the 2021-22 school year is passed.

New Business

Ways of the World; AP World History Text Adoption: S. Thomas Stephanie Thomas, Director of Teaching & Learning, shared that the text in use is not aligned with the current core guidelines. The former curriculum alignment from the state, starts in 8000 BCE through 1900. The current core alignment begins in 1250 to 1900. This provides a much smaller depth to review during the year. Curriculum review team member, Dr. David Willer, was concerned that he didn't have the proper materials for the revised course guidelines. Several textbooks and appropriate materials were reviewed including AP World History. The selection began with an equity review as outlined in the racial policy and racial equity plan. Two texts, World Civilizations and Ways of the World, were both reviewed with the full curriculum selection process including student and staff consideration and pilot samples. The expectation for AP classes is that they are college level and robust. Teachers reviewed both sets of materials and found that Ways of the World scored higher for inclusion.

Director Ragusa inquired about the replacement cycle; particularly in light of biased material review. Director Thomas said the secondary team prepared a 5-year plan that can be adjusted as required by reassessments. Typically, materials are on a ten-year review cycle. While all courses can't be done in a single year, biased screening is occurring in the classrooms with funds allocated to ensure screening for

bias. Director Samora inquired if there was anything in the recommended text that would alarm parents; Director Thomas said that history is being reviewed from a different perspective. Depending on where you are, that perspective is important. The high school history department is cognizant of the common lenses. Director Cailloux thanked the team for the dual credit and other options such as college in the high school. Director Otos inquired if other districts were using the same curriculum; Director Thomas replied this is brand new and reflective of a new alignment for the AP course. She doesn't know if other districts have adopted the text yet, but shared the options for supporting materials are very limited and this one does meet the requirements.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approves adoption of the Ways of the World text to support AP World History.

Puzzle Piece Phonics for K-2 Foundational Skills Supplemental Material: S. Thomas

Working as a team to review the phonics for K-2 Foundation Skills were Director Stephanie Thomas, Little Mountain Principal, Susan Husband, and Madison Assistant Principal, Melissa Van Straten. The team met for a full year to review the program, and thanked the pilot team members. There was representation from five elementary schools, during a remote learning year. Madison, as a dual language school, will use the Esperanza Spanish learning program. Susan Husband said that to become a great reader, foundational skills are critical. The curriculum team determined it made sense to adopt foundational skills for K-2 levels versus a more general adoption to K-5. Materials were screened for bias including the Read Well and Puzzle Piece curricula. After piloting and many conversations reviewing in detail the materials, the Puzzle Piece Phonics was recommended. A mid-August training for K-2 teachers will be arranged, and will include ongoing professional development opportunities.

Director Ragusa commended participating teachers and students for the process. Director Cailloux inquired if teaching by phonics has returned. Director Thomas said the research around the shifting of work continues to change. The belief is that teaching these skills is directive and supportive of students becoming strong readers in grades K-2 and using the reading for learning in grades 3-5. The Treasures curriculum include phonics. The board thanked the team for the extensive and inclusive process to determine the best curriculum.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board approves adoption of the Puzzle Piece Phonics for K-2 Foundational Skills Supplemental Material.

Service Agreement; Dreambox Learning; Elementary Supplemental Math Software: Director Thomas presented information on the Dreambox Learning. In lieu of using a variety of math software, with multiple options in place, the Teaching & Learning team began the process of selecting a common tool. The Dreambox supplement is available in English and Spanish, aligns with state standards and Bridges, and was screened through the district's equity lens. The program includes inquiry-based teaching strategy with a built-in feedback feature. This is for site licenses versus buying a program. The program is very flexible allowing teachers to use small or larger groups and to help students with practice and specific work.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the Board approved the service agreement with Dreambox learning Elementary Supplemental Math Software.

American Reading Company; K-5 Professional Development: Director Thomas said this is the first of the three vendors the district will be working with for a K-5 reading adoption. This is not a request to approve curriculum, but a contract with the vendor so we can move forward.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board agreed to a vendor contract with the American Reading Company (ARC) for grades K-5.

Public Comments

Martha Sabalsa, Spanish language interpreter, said she understands the Ways of the World AP history text is only for ap students, noting that only 100 copies were bought for 97 enrolled students. She inquires why the books are not provided to all students; why the class is not taught for all students. If it is history, it should be taught to all. If not, then why.


Director Otos thanked her for her comments and said a reply would be available on the Superintendent's Friday Blog.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board