



MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

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 January 6, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom call. Director Otos led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

Roll Call of Members: Members present included Directors Otos, Ragusa, Coffey, Samora, and Cailloux. A quorum was present. Superintendent Vivanco was present, and student representatives Grechishkin, Conde-Martinez, and Rochelle. Also, in attendance were many staff and public.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Superintendent Vivanco requests approval to add item in Letter I. New Business, Number 2. Construction. This is to review and approve Prime Contract Change Order #012 for the Fine Arts project. The change order represents COVID related delays.

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

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, items in the consent agenda were approved as follows:

Warrants

- Warrant numbers 569338 through 569338, totaling \$100,465.32
- Warrant numbers 569339 through 566915, totaling \$1,585,198.00 and voids/cancellations, totaling \$5,390.17
- Warrant numbers 569520 through 569545, totaling \$47,736.37
- Warrant numbers 569570 through 569695, totaling \$612, 498.01

Minutes

- December 2, 2020 Work Study Meeting and Regular Meeting
- December 16, 2020 Regular Meeting

Agreements

- Washington Vocational Services; child specific adult transition services; 2020-21 school year
- Modification to Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement 403(b)

Personnel Report

- Certificated: Employment; Reassignment/Transfer; Leave
- Classified: Employment; Leave; Retirement/Resignation/Termination
- Extra/Co-Curricular Stipends and Supplemental Contracts
- Unfilled Certificated and Classified Positions

Public Comments

Public comments were received from three people:

- Ella Burton, student: expressed her opinion to encourage the board to return children to high school as soon as possible, even for partial activities such as clubs or sports.

- Shaunna Holcomb, employee: expressed her opinion to encourage the board not to open schools for in-person learning until vaccines are given to students and staff.
- Sarah Garrison, parent: expressed her wish to have the board join a class via zoom, understand how parents perceive communications from the district, and don't make attendance be more important than learning.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa commented there has been a large burden and stress on all ages regarding socializing. While the digital work is appreciated, it is not the same as learning in person with other students and staff. She also understands the importance of the mental health aspect. Administrators have done a remarkable job in safety and care in order to bring students in buildings through the plus start model.
- Director Otos thanked staff for the gift for school board recognition month.

Superintendent's Report

School Board Recognition: Dr. Vivanco thanked the board for their hard work. He has a deep appreciation for their countless hours as volunteers. The Governor's proclamation recognizing January 2021 as School Board Recognition month was read. Director Ragusa said the board is fortunate to be board members in a community that supports our schools and thanked staff for the gifts.

Reopening Update: B. Nutting/I. Vivanco: Dr. Vivanco commented the district will communicate frequently with the information available from the DOH. Each district is different and has unique challenges so what works for one, may not work for another. We follow DOH guidelines for recommendations on returning to in-person learning. The earliest anticipated timeline for a K-1 hybrid to begin would be at semester break, towards the end of January. A parent survey will be sent to help with planning.

- Director Samora agreed all districts are slightly different and Mount Vernon is larger than others in Skagit County. We are continuing to following the guidelines as the data changes. We don't want to return to in-person learning and then have to pull back, as has happened in other districts.
- Director Ragusa reflected on student Ella's comments. She said it is important to look at other types of opportunities to return students such as clubs and sports.
- Assistant Superintendent Nutting said that several schedule options have been reviewed. These include hybrid and remote learning, maintaining group sizes within the DOH guidance, and looking at half a class at a time based on morning and afternoon learning.
- Director Coffey commented he has confidence in the work the DOH has done in giving us a set of guidelines of where the risks are. They changed that rather dramatically in December when moving from 75 to 350 cases per 100,000. He shared the CDC study clearly showed that students in class, as long as wearing masks and appropriately segregated in cohorts and social distanced, don't seem to spread it much to each other. Skagit County's numbers have improved over the past few weeks.
- Dr. Vivanco shared the district is in communication with DOH regarding vaccines. They state healthcare providers and first responders are category 1A. Staff working with students is category 1B. We don't have a vaccination timeline right now for school staff in that 1B category.

Finance & Enrollment Report: J. Larson, Executive Director of Finance, presented the monthly finance report that included December data for expenditures and January data for enrollment. She noted the district is at 28.51% year to date spent. November and December Impact fees have been included, keeping in mind the received funds don't always reflect the construction month, depending on permitting. The

Impact Fee account is pledged to pay the QZAB loan. Impact fees must be used for classroom space. Regarding enrollment, Mrs. Larson commented the numbers continue in a downward trend. Typically, November, December, and January remain even. At this time, the district is 216 students below what was expected. This number represents a very large revenue price tag that OSPI will not be paying us for. Director Coffey said that represents less than a 3% drop. Mrs. Larson agreed, noting that some districts have seen a 10% enrollment drop. Director Ragusa thanked her for the presentation.

Old Business

Strategic Action Plan Adoption: Superintendent Vivanco shared the plan has been discussed during a board retreat. Director Otos commented the plan was reviewed per item, suggested made and changes incorporated. This is an important guiding document for the district.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the 2020-2021 Strategic Action Plan.

Racial Equity Action Plan Adoption: Superintendent Vivanco shared the Racial Equity Action Plan has been discussed during a board retreat. Again, this document represents a tremendous amount of work on the part of staff.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the 2020-2021 Racial Equity Plan.

New Business

Donations: Dr. Vivanco presented information on a donation to support tutoring of students.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the donation by the estate of Arden Bloom in the amount of \$5,000.

Construction: Mr. Nutting thanked the board for allowing this change order to be included in the agenda. He noted this represents work delays due to COVID impacts. It took some time to resolve the items and amounts, which has now been done and is presented for board approval.

Upon motion by Director Coffey, seconded and unanimously approved, the board agreed to the Prime Contract Change Order #012 for the Fine Arts project.

Public Comments: Dr. Vivanco said there have been several questions and answers, as well as chat received during the meeting. These inquiries will be responded to by staff, with the exception of those submitted unanimously.


Student Comments

- Student Representative Conde-Martinez said it is good to see the board in the New Year. He shared ASB is launching a few projects in honor of national mentoring month. This includes working with elementary level classes. He said hearing from Ella during public comments, it reminds him of the importance to keep mental health as a big priority for ASB. He said Zoom fatigue is real and they are working hard to determine how to help students engage.
- Student Representative Grechishkin commented on school reopening from her perspective. While it is difficult to lose her senior year, she doesn't want to return to school until it is safe. She feels it is important to prioritize mental health, but we first need to have basic safety covered.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Larry Otos, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board