

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 3, 2021: 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Flag Salute: Director Coffey called to order a regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School District Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. on March 3, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom call. Director Coffey led the board and gallery in the flag salute.

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

Set Consent and Regular Agendas

Superintendent Vivanco requests Board approval to add to letter G. Superintendent's Report, number 3, a discussion on the Mount Vernon High School schedule.

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:

Minutes

- Work Study Minutes: February 3, 2021, February 17, 2021, February 21, 2021
- Regular Meeting Minutes: February 3, 2021

Warrants

- Warrant numbers 570067 through 570245, totaling \$637, 127.46 and voids/cancellations totaling \$160.00
- Warrant numbers 570264 through 570286, totaling \$1,261,648.19
- Warrant numbers 570246 through 570263, totaling \$36,094.66
- Warrant numbers 570287 through 570422, totaling \$2,698,678.12 and voids/cancellations totaling \$18,272.01

Agreements

- Interlocal Cooperative Agreement; Northwest ESD; Skagit County Detention Center; 09/01/21 through 08/31/22
- Agreement; Therapy Travelers; 02/22/21-08/31/21
- University of Washington, Amendment to GEAR UP program UWSC10908
- University of Washington, Amendment to GEAR UP program UWSC10884

Personnel Report

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

Public Comments

- Tracy Gromus, parent and staff member, shared her concern regarding students with special needs and the lack of services they are receiving during this time.
- Anonymous parent submitted their question relating to the letter to the community from the superintendent of the Mount Vernon Christian School regarding safety protocols and efficiency.

Board Member Comments

- Director Ragusa thanked Seamar for their support with vaccinating staff. She also thanked the state leadership for opening up the opportunity for school staff to receive the vaccines. She appreciates Clint Carlton's work in keeping staff updated.
- Director Coffey commented on the letter to the greater Skagit Valley from Jeffrey Droog, who shared his plea that students get back to in person classes and said at Mount Vernon Christian they have been able to do that, suggesting all districts move in that direction. Director Coffey said that he appreciates the sentiment and knows that many agree. He feels the data has evolved gradually, and that he continues to support the district, administration, and teacher's union for their collaborative work to sort out science and the practical measure of bringing more than 6000 students back in a calculated and safe manner. There is still a lot of work and the work continues.
- Director Coffey requested the district respond to the public comment by a Ms. Gromus. Executive Director of Student Support Services, Clint Carlton, shared that the district being offering Special Education classes safely and remotely through the PLUS model since September. Most of these services are to substantially impacted students, and we acknowledge that many students in special programs find remote learning is not adequate. We continue to monitor and adjust services on an individual student basis, and still have to adhere to the same requirements in all classrooms.

Superintendent's Report

Presentation on Debate: A. Grechishkin, Student Board Representative; Student Alexa shared that she has been on the debate team for several years. She relayed information about the team and the two main categories, debate and speech, adding it is more complicated than one might think. She said the team has been able to continue to meet even through the pandemic thanks to technology. The students have practiced writing Bills for the legislature, learned to prepare for college level research, and have learned to see both sides of an issue. She expressed her appreciation to the district for their support.

Director Coffey thanked her for the polished presentation, noting it is good evidence of the learning through debate. Director Ragusa said her daughter loved debate. She asked who decides the themes and whether the participants have input to the important topics. Alexa said the themes are determined by the national chapter and students can comment. There is also a state branch that allows comment. Director Cailloux said she did a nice job, Director Samora said this skill will be helpful into the future. She said she heard some of the debate members present to Mr. Bishop's class at Jefferson and was pleased to see them giving back to the community.

Reopening Update: B. Nutting/I. Vivanco: Superintendent Vivanco shared that grades K-3 are in hybrid learning. He has visited the elementary schools and is excited to see students, parents, and staff. He also shared the incredible amount of work being done by the transportation department, and is looking forward to bringing back the 4th and 5th grade students. Sports and other activities have been occurring including soccer, football, and volleyball. It is providing a sense of normalcy, but it is still important to continue to follow social distancing and wearing masks. He appreciates the great work of staff and the community to get us to where we are today.

Bill Nutting reported on planning for the return of secondary students. The planning teams are looking at transitioning on the middle school quarter and the high school trimester, with a few days to prepare and transition. Online classes will continue for students and families preferring that option.

Director Cailloux asked if we are looking at returning to full staffing in transportation; Mr. Nutting said that we are currently utilizing all of our transportation staff. The timing is critical between K-5 transportation and what is needed for secondary levels. There are postings for drivers, including at most districts. This was needed before the pandemic, and the need continues. Director Coffey thanked the bargaining groups and teams for the collaborative work and administration. We are ready for any challenge.

Black History Month: Superintendent Vivanco shared that he will be presenting information on what was done in the schools in recognition of Black History month at a future board meeting.

Mount Vernon High School Schedule Discussion: Superintendent Vivanco said that at the time the board had the work study meeting on the high school schedule, we did not know the house bill would pass regarding a waiver. The waiver provides opportunity for a more transparent process. In the next few months, staff will explore, review, and learn options regarding potential schedule changes.

Old Business

Interlocal Agreement; Skagit Valley College; Career and Technical Education dual credit; 2020-21 academic year

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and approved, the interlocal agreement with Skagit Valley College regarding Career & Technical Education dual credit for the 2020-21 school year was approved. Director Cailloux abstained due to conflict of interest relating to her employment at Skagit Valley College.

Construction: Mount Vernon High School Shop

MWL Final Audit Summary: Jeremy Woolley shared the audit report from MWL for the high school building identified a cost overrun. He noted this was not related to services, but was due to delays caused by Covid. Director Ragusa wondered if the board could tour the facility. Mr. Woolley said that is possible, but it had been used as storage for items removed from the fine arts building while under construction. That will also happen with furniture and items from Old Main during construction. A tour will be scheduled as rearranging allows entrance.

Director Coffey said this contract is based on design-build, which is the same structure being planned for LaVenture addition. It has gone well on our end, and Trico is a strong organization that has performed well. Mr. Woolley replied there has been plenty of interest throughout the region regarding the presubmittal question and answer session done for LaVenture. There was representation from approximately 80 participants representing 30-40 companies.

Resolution #15/20-21 Certifying Completion of High School Shop Building: Mr. Woolley shared this resolution is for the shop building, and approval will begin the D11 process.

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution #15/20-21 certifying completion of the high school shop building.

New Business

Request to surplus vehicles: Superintendent Vivanco said the transportation department requests your approval to surplus six vehicles. He noted the mechanics do a fine job of keeping the vehicles safe and running, but there comes a time when the costs and parts for maintenance outweigh the value of the vehicles.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board agreed to surplus six vehicles including #M1, #M2, #M3, #M11, #M12, and #T4.

Interlocal Agreement; City of Mount Vernon Library; student access; 03/03/21 – 08/31/22

Upon motion by Director Cailloux, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the interlocal agreement with the City of Mount Vernon Library to provide student access from 03/03/21 – 08/31/22

Gifts to the District: Superintendent Vivanco shared information on two gifts donated to the district.

Upon motion by Director Samora, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the gifts to the district as shown:

- Kathleen Gowen donated African Drums to benefit students in LaVenture Middle School World Drumming program; value of \$600
- Mount Vernon Skagit Rotary donated funds to benefit Mount Baker Middle School Food Pantry; value \$500

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

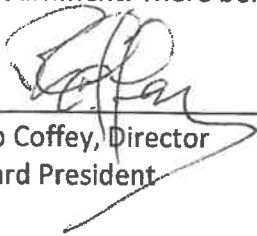
Student Comments

- Student Conde-Martinez said he is excited about the reopening and how it is being approached. He sees the precautions and innovation. He also thanked Alexa for her presentation.
- Student Grechishkin said questions continue on the opening, but the planning is evident. She replies to students when they ask that the district is waiting until everything is worked out.
- Student Rochelle said he is excited to get responses and hear opinions on the surveys. He thanked Alexa for the presentation.

Superintendent Vivanco shared that for the meeting on March 17, the Board will return to in-person meetings, following guidance from the state on the Open Public Meeting Act. The meeting will be held live and on zoom to allow both opportunities.

Director Coffey thanked Tim Papendorf and his staff for supporting the remote meetings these past several months. He believes people like to attend for brief intervals without having to drive and looks forward to offering the meetings in person and remotely.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Rob Coffey, Director
Board President



Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent
Secretary to the Board