

MEETING OF THE
MONTPELIER ROXBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 16, 2019
MINUTES

Minutes Approved: *February 6, 2019*

Present

Board: Bridget Asay, Becky Bowen, Michele Braun, Lisa Frost, Steve Hingtgen, Tina Muncy, Jim Murphy, Andrew Stein, Ryan Zajac
Administration: Superintendent Libby Bonesteel, Business Manager Grant Geisler, Facilities Director Andrew LaRosa
Students: Emma Harter, Hope Petraro

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.
 - Public Comment – Mr. Suter: in regards to the budget, are we doing what is needed to serve all our children well? (via text)
2. **Consent Agenda**
 - Minutes of January 2, 2019 Meeting
 - Warrants for Payroll and Accounts Payable for January 18, 2019 and February 1, 2019
 - Policy Monitoring Reports
 - Federal Child Nutrition Act, Wellness Policy
 - Budget Policy

There was a request to remove the Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness policy from the consent agenda. Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Mr. Zajac, to approve the consent agenda as amended including minutes of the January 2, 2019 regular meeting, warrants for payroll and accounts payable for January 28, 2019 and February 1, 2019, and the monitoring report for the budget policy. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion in regard to the Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness policy. Ms. Muncy asks where else is Free and Reduced Lunch information made available? Superintendent Bonesteel: goes home to parents. Mrs. Braun: You're nearing compliance? When we are not in compliance, can you add what needs to be done in order to be in compliance? Superintendent Bonesteel: Yes, I can add that in the future.

Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, to approve the monitoring report for the Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions for superintendent's reports should be sent to Superintendent Bonesteel and she will answer them at the next meeting.

3. **Learning Focus**
 - Student Members: Hope Petraro and Emma Harter
 - Celebrations: Students are more accustomed to navigating proficiency based grading.

Concerns: An appreciation and full support of equity policy. Interested in surveying high school and middle school students to better/more fully gauge where things are at. Carefully planning how to implement restorative justice at the high school.

- Lead Results - Andrew LaRosa

Mr. LaRosa informed the Board of the process of testing for lead at the schools. Not as thorough as the state pilot program. Full results will be posted on the school website, as well as the action plan (once it has been finalized). Any drinking water source above 1 ppb of lead have been decommissioned. District will be looking to the state to prescribe methods of testing.

What about other contaminants? RVS is tested quarterly. Montpelier schools are on city water, it's possible additional testing will get done at some point, but before that happens Mr. LaRosa would like an action plan for what to do with results.

What about lead dust from windows in UES/MSMS? Required to encapsulate the lead, inspectors check for this.

4. Budget Discussion

- Updates from Grant Geisler, Business Manager

Equalized Pupil Count: has not been frozen by the state yet, but we expect minor changes, if any.

Changes to expenses: salary, health care, career center tuition, and afterschool--total difference about \$7,000 more.

Changes to revenue: small schools grant, total increase of about \$6,500.

Equalized residential tax rate is actually lower or about the same as last year. The increase to the residential tax rate comes from the CLA adjustment.

From last year, what this looks like for each town:

Roxbury--increase of .7%

Montpelier--increase of ~2.7%

Budget (if approved) will be \$24,073,218.

- Board Discussion

Mrs. Braun notes that we promised voters that with the merger, it would help stabilize tax rates; we should stick with the proposed budget and leave it to the administration to decide when more resources are needed for particular areas. Continued discussion on this. Mr. Stein notes that the fund balance is not in the current budget. Construction projects could require additional funds, as it is hard to predict costs. Mr. Hingtgen notes that the community here wants to prioritize our education system. Let's make our schools a model for what public schools can be. Mr. Murphy asks Business Manager Geisler that if we approve the budget, does that include capital plan (which is for capital improvement projects that can roll over year to year)? Yes. On the ballot will be two separate items, but the tax rate includes both.

- Action Items: Approve Budget and Warnings

Mrs. Braun moved, seconded by Ms. Muncy, to approve the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Mr. Stein, to approve the warning for the annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hingtgen moved, seconded by Ms. Asay, to approve the Board Chair to sign an amended warning if the equalized pupil count changes more than seven students. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Policy Reading

- First Reading: Equity Policy

Mrs. Braun recommends that 'family composition' be added to the list of marginalized groups. Conversation about making sure that the policy does not redefine hazing, harassment, and bullying, which is mandated by the state. Conversation about using the word 'will' versus the word 'must'. Other grammatical modifications were suggested.

6. Executive Session

- Motion for Approval for Executive Session for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations

Ms. Asay moved that the Board find that discussing contract negotiations in open session would put the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Ms. Bowen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- Motion to Move to Executive Session for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations

Ms. Asay moved that the Board enter into Executive Session in accordance with 1 VSA §313 to discuss contract negotiations. Ms. Bowen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to leave Executive Session.

- 7. Adjournment** On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Lisa Frost

Lisa Frost
Recorder