

MEETING OF THE
MONTPELIER ROXBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 2, 2019
MINUTES

Minutes Approved: *January 16, 2019*

Present

Board: Bridget Asay, Becky Bowen, Michele Braun, Steve Hingtgen, Tina Muncy, Jim Murphy, Andrew Stein, Ryan Zajac

Administration: Superintendent Libby Bonesteel, Business Manager Grant Geisler

Students: Emma Harter, Hope Petraro

Public: Lesley Allen, Heather Anderson, Nathanael Anderson, Lindsay Armstrong, Jessa Barnard, Laura Bozarth, Samuel Brondike, Jacob Bee Ho Brown, Kara Brown, Clare Buckley, Virginia Burley, Lisa Burns, Paul Curtis, Stacie Curtis, Casey Desharnais, Jennifer Drewitz, Tim Duggan, Cheryl Ecklund, Jasper Ecklund, Kara Eggleston, Leon Eggleston, Richarda Ericson, Lawrence Forsyth, Willow Fortunoff, Anne Fraser, Abby Friedman, Paul Gambill, Suzanne Garrow, Abby Gil, Adrienne Gil, Kelly Grey, Zak Grupp, Amber Hannigan, Kate Hawley, Kali Hilke, Gary Holloway, Leah Jones, Alison Lamagna, Asa Lloyd, Morgan Lloyd, Jackson Markou, Matthew Mason, Sarah Mason, Dawn McCall, Ryan McCall, Meghan McGear, Rebecca Mulling, Kelly Murphy, Kathryn Nunnelley, Maggie Nowlan, Siobhan Padgett, Wayne Padgett, Caryn Pletzer, Kelly Stoddard Poor, Jill Remick, Alexander Rob, Jenny Sheehan, Graham Sherriff, Ronilynn Shrout, Kim Smith, Katie Stanton, Nathan Suter, Apollonia Tabacco, Sarah Truckle, John Turner, Kylie Vitti, Peter Walke, Nicole Westbom, Cassie Willner, Jason Woodard, Christine Zazhai, and others

Absent: Lisa Frost

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. **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. Muncy seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 5:32 p.m.

- 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. Muncy seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 5:33 p.m. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to leave Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

3. **Return to Open Session** 6:38 p.m.

- Public Comment - None.
 - General comment, not having to do with budget and/or afterschool presentation

4. Consent Agenda

- Minutes of December 19, 2018 Meetings
- Warrants for Payroll and Accounts Payable for January 4, 2019
- Policy Monitoring Reports
 - Board-Superintendent Relationship
 - Prevention of Hazing, Harassment and Bullying

Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Ms. Muncy, to approve the consent agenda including minutes of the December 19, 2018 regular meeting, minutes of the December 19, 2018 special meeting, Warrant FY19 - 14 dated January 4, 2019 in the amount of \$700,069.61, and the policy monitoring reports. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Learning Focus

- Alumni Panel

Six recent MHS alumni shared thoughts on their preparedness for college post graduation. They spoke to the benefits of a small school experience and opportunities afforded through the CBL program.

- Afterschool - Libby Bonesteel

Superintendent Bonesteel began the conversation by extending her apologies for the timing of her communication in regard to the afterschool programming matter. She then delivered a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached) outlining the challenges the district is facing and the plan going forward.

Alex Rob from Community Connections acknowledged and addressed some of the concerns raised in Superintendent Bonesteel's presentation and expressed a desire to adapt and change programming as needed so as to continue to serve the students of Montpelier.

6. Public Comment

- Comment on Afterschool Programming

Numerous parents/community members spoke in support of the Community Connections program and its staff. Funding, equity, access, relationships, community partners, capacity building, an RFP, and the need for a public process that allows for parental involvement and student engagement were discussed.

Following extensive discussion, Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, that the Board create an advisory committee charged with working on this issue, quickly. The committee will need to determine what is important to the community for this program and report back to the Board. The committee will be made up of two board members (Ms. Asay and Mr. Murphy volunteered), two parents, two students, Superintendent Bonesteel and two staff members. Parents interested in serving on the committee should email Mr. Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Budget

- Grant Geisler/Libby Bonesteel Presentation

An updated draft of the FY20 budget was presented; changes from the prior version were discussed, as well as the overall impact of remaining unknown factors.

8. Public Comment and Board Discussion

- Comment on Budget Priorities

There was discussion in regard to student servicing, as well as expressed appreciation for increased bussing.

9. **Adjournment** On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.



Heather Michaud
Recorder

Afterschool Programming

Challenges and Plans

Themes

- Lack of afterschool options in Montpelier community
 - Waitlists
 - Library swamped every afternoon
 - Liability Concerns
 - Concerns around equity of services
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- Increasing enrollment
 - 2020/2021 projected to have ~100 more students
 - Increasing safety concerns
 - Increases in single/two working parents families
 - Capacity building for future needs across district
 - Budgetary expense

Factors for administration to consider - UES

- Total current enrollment = 405 students
- Current afterschool capacity = ~70 students
 - 17% of students can access afterschool opportunity
- Enrollment projection increase by 5 in 2019-2020 then levels out
- Registration process
 - Short window
 - Creates challenges for new families and working families
 - First come/First served
 - Denied access with paperwork mistakes

Factors for administration to consider - MSMS

- Total current enrollment = 365 students
 - 95 fifth graders
- Current afterschool capacity = ~25/day
 - 7% of students can access afterschool opportunity
- Enrollment projection increases by:
 - +11 in 2019-2020 (376)
 - +15 in 2020-2021 (391)
 - +5 in 2021-2022 (396)
 - Decreases afterschool opportunity to 6% of students

Budget Considerations

- MRPS budgets \$36,000 for afterschool
 - Paid to Washington Central Supervisory Union
 - Payment goes towards one "pot" of money that could support every school CC serves, not just MRPS
- MSMS budgets \$1,610 for homework help tied to afterschool
- UES budgeted \$5,000 in additional funding for afterschool clubs
- City of Montpelier adds \$5000 to afterschool funding paid to WCSU
- Total = \$47,610 before parent contributions
 - Parents taxed twice
 - Taxpayers paying for child care to another school district

Ownership & Liability

- Community Connections owned by Washington Central Supervisory Union (WCSU)
 - Human resource support
 - Payroll
 - Accounts payable
 - insurance*
 - Legal support
 - Payment processing
 - Vans

Transporting Students

- WCSU van lease up February 2019
 - Transporting MRPS students using different insurance by employee(s) of different district
- MRPS lease two vans currently
 - Community-based learning
 - Roxbury late bus
- VT Statute 23-4 Motor Vehicles, 34A (iv)
 - *(iv) Motor vehicles with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of fewer than 11 persons, including the operator, which are owned, leased, or hired by a school, or for which services are reimbursed by a school. However, if used to transport students, these shall be considered a Type II school bus for purposes of licensure, shall display an identification sign as prescribed in subdivision 1283(a)(1) of this title, and shall be equipped with a simple system of at least two red alternating warning lights; unless the driver is a school employee or a volunteer subject to a criminal background check and is transporting no more than five persons excluding the operator; provided that the vehicle has safety belts for all persons being transported.*

Transporting Students

By Vermont law:

1. Can only transport more than 5 students at a time in a van if:
 - a. Display a school bus sign with flashing red lights and have a driver with a type II license (school bus endorsement)
2. Can only transport 5 students at a time (excluding driver) if:
 - a. The driver is a school employee or volunteer who has passed a criminal background check

Complying with this law further limits opportunities for students.

Plan

1. Bring in new provider at UES and MSMS that has the ability to:
 - a. Increase capacity without monetary support from school district
 - b. Offer scholarships and rolling scale to students in need
 - c. Increase offerings to all students at UES and MSMS
 - d. Build potential programs in preschool as well as RVS over time
 - e. Provide smoother registration process so all families have chance to participate
2. Maintain current programming at MSMS and MHS using budgeted funding as an extended day enrichment opportunity
 - a. Revise structure so that more students have access to popular programming
 - i. Transport students in accordance with Vermont law
3. Cut ties with WCSU in regards to afterschool to limit liability concerns

Future Needs

1. Growing enrollment means more support needed for new families
 - a. Need to continue growth
2. RVS will be in need of afterschool services in the next 3 years
3. Decrease liability concerns across district
4. Full day preschool potential to further attract young families