

MEETING OF THE
MONTPELIER ROXBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 6, 2019
MINUTES

Minutes Approved: *February 20, 2019*

Present

Board: Bridget Asay, Becky Bowen, Michele Braun, Lisa Frost, Steve Hingtgen (arr. 6:40 p.m.), Tina Muncy, Jim Murphy, Andrew Stein, Ryan Zajac
Administration: Superintendent Libby Bonesteel, Business Manager Grant Geisler
Students: Emma Harter, Hope Petraro

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Mr. Murphy requested the addition of a brief discussion in regard to snow days, as well as a brief discussion in regard to the MHS principal search.
 - Public Comment - None.
2. **Consent Agenda**
 - Minutes of January 16, 2019 Meeting
 - Warrants for Payroll and Accounts Payable for February 15, 2019
 - FY19 Second Quarter Financial Report
 - Fund Balance Realignment
 - Board Resolution for Peoples United Bank
 - Resignations
 - Cathy Clements
 - Rhonda Brace
 - Policy Monitoring Reports
 - Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace
 - Superintendent's Expectations
 - Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Braun moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, to approve the consent agenda including minutes of the January 16, 2019 regular meeting, Warrant FY19 - 17A dated February 15, 2019 in the amount of \$773,909.78, Warrant FY19 - 17B dated February 15, 2019 in the amount of \$38,144.50, the FY19 second quarter financial report, the proposed fund balance realignment but keeping the total amount at \$282,964.07, the board resolution for Peoples United Bank, two resignations, two policy monitoring reports, and the February 6, 2019 superintendent's report. Motion carried unanimously, Mr. Stein absent.

3. **Learning Focus**

- Student Members: Hope Petraro and Emma Harter

Celebrations: New compost sorting station MHS cafeteria; student activism with Ethnic Studies legislation; Earth Group organizing Discover Half-Earth assembly; Pops concert next week; first music of Color Dance hosted last week; student council working on a new scholarship; the Racial Justice Alliance very active this month with Black History Month; an Earth Group member spoke at a press conference led by 350Vermont involving new fossil fuel infrastructure.

Concerns: Need to support diversity and inclusion in all MRPS schools; status of Equity policy updates; Earth Group interested in working with the cafeteria to reduce food waste and trash.

- Susan Holson, VSBA

Ms. Holson provided a brief overview of the mission of the Vermont Schools Boards Association, as well as an overview of resources available to support school boards.

- Dan French, Secretary of Education

Secretary French discussed current initiatives including Acts 46, 77, 166 and 173. There was also discussion in regard to SBACs, simultaneous implementation of five major data systems within the Agency, the new uniform chart of accounts, and the new statewide accounting system. Secretary French acknowledged existing capacity issues within the Agency and his plan for addressing those issues.

4. **Snow Day Update**

Superintendent Bonesteel explained that there have already been four snow days this year and the calendar for the 2018-2019 school year only planned for three. Rather than have students return to school on Monday, June 24, 2019, Superintendent Bonesteel requested a waiver of that day for students and instead have staff return on that day for some high quality professional learning. Under the proposed plan, the District will still be meeting the state required number of days for students (175) and will also have two days to play with. Following further discussion, Mr. Hingtgen moved, seconded by Ms. Asay, to authorize the superintendent, at her discretion and in consultation with the Union, to waive up to three days in the contract for teacher-student contact for the purpose of maintaining June 21, 2019 as the last day of school for students, and to use those days as professional development days for teachers. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **MHS Principal Search**

Following discussion, Mr. Murphy proposed to appoint Mrs. Braun to the principal search committee and to appoint Ms. Muncy as alternate. There was consensus in favor of Mr. Murphy's proposal.

6. **Entry Plan Conversation**

Superintendent Bonesteel reviewed her responses to the follow-up questions on her entry plan.

7. **Policy Reading**

- Second Reading: Equity Policy

Additional changes were discussed. Once those changes are made, Superintendent Bonesteel will send the policy to the Racial Justice Alliance for their review and approval. The policy will be warned for vote on adoption at the March 6, 2019 meeting.

8. Executive Session

- For purposes of discussion of monitoring superintendent
- For purposes of discussion of contract negotiations

Ms. Asay moved that the Board find that discussing superintendent monitoring and contract negotiations in open session would put the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Ms. Frost seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 8:28 p.m.

Ms. Asay moved that the Board enter into Executive Session in accordance with 1 VSA §313 to discuss superintendent monitoring and contract negotiations. Ms. Bowen seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 8:30 p.m. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to leave Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

Action Taken

Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Mr. Zajac, to authorize the Board Chair to execute a contract addendum for the superintendent's contract extending the date for the salary decision to March 15, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Adjournment** On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.



Heather Michaud
Recorder