

MEETING OF THE  
MONTPELIER ROXBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 15, 2019  
MINUTES

Minutes Approved: *June 5, 2019*

Present

Board: Bridget Asay, Becky Bowen, Lisa Frost, Tina Muncy, Jim Murphy, Andrew Stein, Ryan Zajac  
Administration: Superintendent Libby Bonesteel, Director of Curriculum & Technology Michael Berry,  
Principal Mike McRaith  
Public: Andi Crane, Barbarina Heyerdahl, Stephen Mills  
Absent: Michele Braun, Steve Hingtgen, Emma Harter, Hope Petraro

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Board member Lisa Frost announced her resignation from the Board effective at the conclusion of tonight's meeting due to the fact that she is relocating to New Hampshire. Board members thanked Ms. Frost for her service and wished her well. A replacement search will begin immediately.

Mr. Murphy indicated that Mr. Stein feels the Fiscal Management policy should be sent to the Finance Committee for review before the Board discusses it; that portion of the meeting was therefore moved upward on the agenda.

- Public Comment - None.

2. **Consent Agenda**

- Minutes of May 1, 2019 Meeting
- Warrants for Payroll and Accounts Payable for May 24, 2019
- New Teacher Contracts
- Policy Monitoring Report
  - In District Elementary School Transfer
- Superintendent's Report

Ms. Bowen moved, seconded by Ms. Muncy, to approve the consent agenda including minutes of the May 1, 2019 regular meeting, Warrant FY19 - 24A dated May 24, 2019 in the amount of \$1,074,895.43, Warrant FY19 - 24B dated May 24, 2019 in the amount of \$154,098.46, the recommendation to offer teaching contracts to Mary Bechtel (SEL Coordinator - District), Megan Spaulding (school nurse - UES), and Karen Heath (literacy specialist/coach/interventionist - MSMS), the policy monitoring report, and the superintendent's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Policy Discussion**

- Fiscal Management Policy [update]

Mr. Stein moved, seconded by Ms. Asay, to send the Fiscal Management policy to the Finance Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Learning Focus**

- Students: Hope Petraro and Emma Harter

Passed over.

**5. Board Discussion**

- Language Immersion Study, Mike Berry

A timeline was provided and reviewed (copy attached). Ms. Asay advised Mr. Berry of a prior committee that did a significant amount of work on foreign language issues. Mr. Berry acknowledged awareness of that committee and its work and his communication with a few members of said committee. Ms. Asay suggested that one of the tasks of the committee be to ensure that any program meet the diversity, equity and inclusion principles previously adopted by the Board. There was discussion about target audience for the program, program sustainability, as well as committee make up, time commitment, etc.

- Health Education

Board members heard from two parents/community members who said the district should do more to help students navigate the difficulties around “coming of age”, questions about sexuality beyond human biology, and combating sexual assault in the Me Too era. They encouraged the Board to be supportive, perhaps on a policy level, to help students better understand their sexuality and address issues around sexual assault.

MHS Principal Mike McRaith was asked to address the approach to the health curriculum from the high school level, from a curriculum level, and what could be done to broaden the conversation. Potential action steps were discussed.

Director of Curriculum & Technology Michael Berry provided a brief overview of health education at the middle school level.

Approaches going forward were discussed. Mr. Stein suggested an approach of defining the needs, defining the goals, charting how to address, making a plan, implementing the plan, updating the plan, etc. Following discussion, there was consensus to continue the conversation with the administration.

**6. Adjournment** On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.



Heather Michaud  
Recorder



## MRPS Language Immersion Process/Timeline 2019-2020

- Form a [committee](#) whose purpose is to make a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding the potential implementation of a Foreign Language Immersion program in MRPS.
- Members will apply to be a part the committee, while making sure to represent multiple stakeholder groups.
- The tasks of the committee will include:
  - Research existing programs
  - Determine logistics and impacts of a program in MRPS
    - space/location
    - Staffing
    - Curriculum materials and alignment
    - Enrollment process
  - Drafting final recommendation to the Superintendent

The Director of Curriculum and Technology will facilitate this committee and also:

- Provide research support to questions posed by the committee and community
- Share insights based on prior implementation experience
- Make recommendations around curricular considerations and student learning
- Identify partnerships and facilitate connections with programs (C.A.L., CESU, Middlebury Language School, etc.)
  - [Center for Applied Linguistics](#) *Details: 2 consecutive days at the start of the year and 3 days intermittently during the course of the school year to plan in all respects for the DL program start.*
- Hosting parent/community information sessions
- Serve as program leader for Immersion program (dependent upon recommendations and outcomes)
  - Program advocate and liaison
  - Model development, planning, and coordination
  - Facilitator of staff cohesion, collegiality, and development

Implementation in 2020-2021 would require a recommendation to the Superintendent by December 1, 2019 for budget planning considerations. Should the committee need more time then potential implementation would move accordingly.

## Timeline

### May 2019

- Director of Curriculum and Technology will meet with each staff to share the process and initial information about language immersion programming

### June 2019

- Create immersion program webpage for resources and information about committee updates
- Host informational meeting for community and parents outlining process
- Open applications for committee membership

### July 2019

- Committee meeting and goal setting
- Sharing of experience in implementation at [CESU](#) (invite Vicki, co-present)
- Research assignments
- Distribution of Guiding Principles for Dual Language

### August 2019

- Review guiding principles and structures for attainment or design

### September 2019

- Visit [CESU](#) program
- Meeting with C.A.L. (tentative)

### November 2019

- Finalize recommendations or adjust timeline and seek further research

### December 2019

- Submit final recommendations to Superintendent or continue research