

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees
Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center
Monday, December 14, 2020
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Present: Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology; Mrs. Gwen Scrogam, Board Secretary; Mrs. Maria Bond, Communications Director; Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President; Mr. Tony May, Board Member; Mr. Mike McCarty, Board Member; Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent; Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum; Mrs. Beth Smith, Board Member; Mrs. Shannon Walls, Board Member; Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Absent: Mrs. Laura Durig, SpEd Director; Mr. Derek Shelton, Director of Operations; Lisa Heitman, Finance Dept

1 Executive Session (5:00 p.m.)

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

The Mt. Vernon Community School Board of Trustees held an Executive Session at 5:00 p.m.

Attachments:

[Executive Session Agenda.pdf](#)

2 Pledge of Allegiance (7:00 P.M.)

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

The School Board, before each meeting, offers the opportunity to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance. People attending the meeting are welcome to take part in this procedure. Those desiring not to take part may either remain in the hallway before the meeting or sit quietly in the meeting room.

Minutes:

Mrs. Freeman led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3 Call to Order

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

4 Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Minutes:

Dr. Parker announced there were additions to the Personnel Report and an additional Request to Accept a Donation. Mrs. Smith made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

5 Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

0167.3 - Public Participation at Board Meetings

May only address items listed in the agenda

Must be recognized by presiding officer.

Must provide name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate

Limited to 3 minutes duration

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually

Minutes:

There were none.

6 Reports

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

6.1 Good News

Mrs. Maria Bond, Communications Director

Minutes:

Mrs. Bond shared the following Good News:

1. MVHS had four student named as Rising Stars by the Indiana Association of School Principals: Riley Britt, Kiley Hunziker, Molly Reece and Lillian Woolston.
2. As an effort to help with staff morale, district administrators offered staff a customizable sundae bar and delivered their treat to their room or area of work.
3. MVMS National Junior Honor Society sponsored a food drive that collected nearly 2,000 items for the food pantry at MVHS.
4. MCE Student Council led a service project to collect items for "Journey Bags of Hancock County" and collected nearly 500 items. This is a service that provides clothing and toiletries for underprivileged children in Hancock County.
5. WRTV Channel 6 featured Dr. Parker along with IPS, Pike and Lawrence Townships' superintendents in a segment on handling COVID-19 in schools.

Attachments:

[12-2020 Board Report.pdf](#)

6.2 Spotlight on Schools

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Mt. Vernon Middle School - Mr. Ben Williams, Principal

McCordsville Elementary School - Mrs. Stephanie Miller, Principal

Minutes:

Mr. Ben Williams began his presentation spotlighting Mt. Vernon Middle School by acknowledging the awesome people that work at MVMS. Mt. Vernon Middle School is a Unified Champions Schools designated by the IHSA; STEM Certified by the Department of Education; a Gold Star Rated Counseling Program by the DOE; and a school where teachers want to teach, even during a Pandemic. After discussing how they wanted to approach monthly staff meetings, they decided that teachers wanted to learn from each other and the opportunity was launched for breakout sessions for the 4 T's. Teachers are teaching other teachers in various tech tools such as Google Classroom and Google Meets; Canvas, Dochub & Hyperlinks; Kami, Mentimeter, and Screencastify. And in spite of the pandemic, MVMS is still having fun with events such as band and choir concerts, virtual student of the month and much more.

Mrs. Stephanie Miller stated her presentation spotlighting McCordsville Elementary would center around what does the classroom look like? She went around to several classrooms and videoed what teachers were doing. First year teacher Savanna Chapple uses an XP-Pen StarG640 to provide synchronous instruction. Teacher Emily Cronk uses an iPad Pro to Canvas screen share. First year teacher Abigayle Price ZOOMs with all her class meeting at the same time. All grade levels are sharing the load by one teacher taking a day or a subject area for the week. They create slides and voice over the lesson. Students can type directly and it is submitted through Canvas for fluency checks. Whether a student is virtual or in-person, they are all receiving a high level of instruction. Mrs. Walls asked, when virtual, how many hours are spent connected with students. Mrs. Miller stated teachers have morning and afternoon office hours where they meet with students. Mrs. Walls also asked if students were doing virtual time with art, music and p.e. Mrs. Miller stated yes they are as these teachers are going above and beyond to keep students engaged. She added the Virtual Support Teacher concept is absolutely working as they have been helpful meeting and doing lessons with students. Dr. Parker added the principals have the opportunity to do what they want with the Virtual Support Teachers, but perimeters have been set of what is expected of them.

Attachments:

[Spotlight on Mt. Vernon Middle School.pdf](#)

6.3 Certified Staff Evaluation Report (2019-2020)

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

Minutes:

Mr. Smedley gave a report on the Certified Staff Evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year. He began by stating last spring the school year ended like no other year. Along with the Governor's stay at home order, schools were advised that the state was cancelling all standardized assessments that were normally given in the spring and factored into a teacher's evaluation. Executive Order 20-20 was issued which addressed how schools would administer teacher evaluations and outlined two options districts could use when completing the evaluations. Option 1 - Conduct Performance Evaluations for 2019-2020 as planned, but they may not be based on objective measures of student achievement and growth on statewide assessment; local assessments that were not completed before the last day of in-person instruction; or observations that were not conducted prior to the last day of in-person instruction. Option 2 allows districts to carry over performance evaluations for certified staff from the 2018-2019 school year. It takes into special consideration two groups of teachers, brand new teachers and teachers new to Mt. Vernon, but came from a prior district. An agreement was made with CTA that no brand new teacher would receive an evaluation lower than an Effective and teachers who came to Mt. Vernon from prior districts carried over their evaluation from that district. Final teacher ratings showed 72 Highly Effective; 172 Effective and no one was rated Improvement Necessary or Ineffective. It was determined a fresh evaluation was warranted with administrators and Option 1 was applied. Final ratings for administrators showed 10 Highly Effective; 12 Effective and no one was rated Improvement Necessary or Ineffective.

Attachments:

[2019-20 Evaluation Report 1 .pdf](#)

7 Consent Agenda

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

The school board shall use a consent agenda (Policy #0166.1) to keep routine matters. By a single motion, the Board approves/adopts the following items or actions which reflect application of School Board Policy and/or Indiana Code. Any items marked "Consent" may be removed from the agenda by a Board Member or the Superintendent.

Minutes:

Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda as presented:

1. Minutes of the November 16, 2020 meeting;
2. Claims;
3. Request to accept the following donations: Donation of \$1,500 from the Fortville American Legion to Mt. Vernon High School to be placed in the Student Needs Account to provide for families in need during the holiday season; and donation of \$2,040 from the Fortville Elementary PTO to the Special Ed and Title Team Phonics Program;
4. Requests from Gwen Scrogam (administration building); Kay Burdine (MVMS Treasurer); and Teresa McGow (MCE Treasurer) to destroy records that are no longer needed and allowed per the Indiana Commission on Public Records Approved Retention Schedule; and
5. The following personnel items:

CERTIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

Isabelle Hoyt, FES 3rd Grade Teacher
Jackie Merica, MVMS Virtual Support Teacher
Kellie Danforth, FES 4th Grade Teacher
Ronnie Thomas, MVMS 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Dave Merica, MVMS Athletic Director/Facilities Coordinator, Cell Phone Stipend
Incentivizing Advanced Administrative Degrees
Director Salary Re-Alignment

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT/RESIGNATIONS

Kellie Danforth, FES Title 1 Instructional Assistant
Flora Jones, Bus Driver
Mackenzie Ralston, FES Instructional Assistant
Mollie Wilson, MCE Instructional Assistant
Melinda Jackson, MVHS Custodian (Retirement)

CLASSIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

Kasey Voeller, Assistant Food Service Director
William Nickerson, FES Custodian
Ashley Turner, MVHS Permanent Substitute

Bailey Miller, FES Special Education Instructional Assistant
Increase Hourly Rate for Substitute Instructional Assistants
Kaitlyn Zelepugas, MVCSC Administration Building Receptionist
Megan Devries, MES Permanent Building Substitute

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT

Tonya Brown, Hourly to Salaried Employee-Behavior Tech

ECA RECOMMENDATIONS

Terry Trowbridge, MES Art Club
Lauren Hedrick, MES Student Council
Emily Tucker, MES Special Area Team Leader
Trina Conover, MES Kindergarten Team Leader
Shona Kelly, MES Grade 1 Team Leader
Jeannine Carder, MES Grade 2 Team Leader
Beth Chaplin, MES Grade 3 Team Leader
Lynn Hartley, MES Grade 4 Team Leader
Stephanie Stanley, MES Grade 5 Team Leader
Kaitlin Stainaker, FES Team Leader
Heidi Kensinger, FES Team Leader
Emily Gardner, FES Team Leader
Jennifer Strantz, FES Team Leader
Kyra Davis, FES Team Leader
Suzanne Arnold, FES Team Leader
Angela Sprunger, FES Team Leader
Chris Sanford, MCE Math Bowl
Liz Jenkins, MCE Art Club
Ashley Schenck, MCE Student Council, Team Leader and Talent Show
Brian Boudouris, MCE Wellness Club
Ben Batman, MCE Music
Brienne Williams, MCE Team Leader
Amy McCleery, MCE Team Leader
Emily Vail, MCE Team Leader
Liz Moan, MCE Team Leader
Lauren Brewer, MCE Team Leader

Stacy Webber, MCE Team Leader

Nikki Lynch, MCE Tutor Coordinator

LEAVES

Jennifer Strantz, FES 3rd Grade Teacher (Medical Leave November 30, 2020-June 1, 2021)

Tessa Globerg, MES Teacher (Extend Maternity Leave through end of the 2020-2021 school year)

Mrs. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

7.1 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments:

[November 16 2020 Minutes.pdf](#)

7.2 Claims

Attachments:

[Claims.pdf](#)

7.3 Personnel Report

Attachments:

[Personnel Report.pdf](#)

[Personnel Report 1.pdf](#)

7.4 Overnight Field Trip Request

There are none.

7.5 Request to Accept Donation

Attachments:

[Request to Accept Donation.pdf](#)

[Additional Request to Accept Donation.pdf](#)

7.6 Request to Destroy Records

Mt. Vernon Middle School

Mt. Vernon Administration Building

Mt. Comfort Elementary School

Attachments:

[Request to Destroy Records.pdf](#)

8 Action Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

8.1 Future Growth Plan - Dual Track Selection

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Parker recapped the Future Growth Plan presented at the November board meeting. He reminded everyone that nothing will be built until student numbers warrants it. There are three options to consider. Option 1: addition/renovation of the current administration building to PK-4 (\$36,500,000) and addition/renovation of the current transportation building to administration building (\$3,800,000). Option 2: new elementary/Pre-K (\$42,000,000) and renovation of the current administration building (\$2,000,000). Option 3; new elementary school K-4 (\$34,000,000), renovation of 1/2 of the current administration building to Pre-K (\$8,000,000) and renovation of 1/2 of the current administration building (\$2,000,000). He noted as current debt will be falling off, Debt Service Fund would stay approximately the same.

Two virtual town hall meetings were held to present the plan to the community with more than 80 in attendance, 66% being a parent of current MV students, 36.2% MV staff, 57.4% MV community members and 6.4% others not listed above. 80.9% of the 47 responses to a survey regarding the Future Growth Plan indicated they were highly supportive of the proposed options to accommodate projected enrollment growth. 42.6% wanted to build a new elementary, while 27.7% wanted to renovate the current administration building. Dr. Parker's recommendation is not to go with Option 3 as it has the same price tag as Option 2.

Mr. McCarty made a motion to move forward with Option 2. Mr. May seconded.

Dr. Parker introduced representatives from Lancer + Beebe that were in attendance to answer any questions board members had. Mrs. Freeman started the discussion by saying she was torn going back and forth between Option 1 and 2 and agreed Option 3 should not be considered. She struggles with renovating the current administration building and since it is older, ten years down the road having a huge expense. How do you build a state of the art building when renovating a building this old. Mark Beebe stated they did a walk thru of the administration building, meaning looked in every mechanical room, every easily accessible space to analyze every mechanical space, etc. If the choice is to renovate this building, it will be a total renovation (new windows, plumbing, mechanical equipment, etc.) and it would be equal to a new building.

Mrs. Smith asked what the timeline was depending on which Option is chosen. Mr. Beebe said 12-14 months to renovate and 18-20 months to build new.

Mrs. Walls stated she is struggling because the cost figures are almost equal. Struggling with our community is growing and people are moving to our community for logistics and schools and may expect a different level and more innovative and creative learning space. Can we truly give them that if we renovate as the community wants as reflected in the survey.

Mrs. Freeman assumed if the administration building was gutted in renovations, we would be able to create a state of the art building. Is then the reasonable thing to do is be fiscally responsible and use what we have as the outside won't look the same and inside will look like new, but why then don't we just build a new building.

Mr. McCarty expressed concern about the current roof at the administration building. Mr. Elkins assured him that the roof is four years old and the best roof in the district, every square inch in the high quality rating.

Mrs. Walls stated she appreciates how the administration building is utilized now with the Preschool, Alumni Center and space for PLC. It is important to have room for teacher training and community use and struggles with giving up that space.

A big concern of Mrs. Freeman's is how do we know that we aren't putting ourselves in a financial bind ten years up the road. Mr. Elkins responded to that by saying we have the capacity to finance this completely through our normal budget process through structure of the Debt Service Fund and doesn't feel like anything will dramatically change in the future, which it would have to do. Assessed value grew 8% this year and we are looking at setting up financing at historically low rates. Dr. Parker stated anything we do at the elementary is subject to referendum because of the cost of the project. We may want to entertain the thought of a referendum in the future, or it is possible if we don't want to do a referendum, citizens may push us to do one.

Mr. McCarty stated we know our community is growing, we need more space as our current space will not be adequate. At this point we need to open the door without settling on the actual option. Dr. Parker said whatever you decide to do, no money will be spent, we just need to know what path we want to go down so details can be worked out. Mrs. Freeman asked if they would be stifling the process if they table the vote to January's board meeting. Would any additional information come in play that would warrant postponing. She reiterated that she is concerned about ten years up the road not having funds for teacher raises, textbooks for students. etc. as all of these things are important to her. She asked Mr. Elkins again if this fear was unfounded. Mr. Elkins responded funding will come from student enrollment. He does not believe we will get ourselves into a bind. We can also pump the brakes if circumstances change. Mrs. Smith reminded everyone that we would not build until enrollment numbers warranted it.

Mrs. Freeman feels like the administration building can be renovated into a state of the art building and if we can have that in a spot we know, is that the more responsible way to go. She voiced concern that they were not ready to make a decision. Mr. McCarty stated everyone needed to feel comfortable making these decisions and he was not sure everyone did, but the challenge is there was a time crunch as far as getting things moving. He is comfortable with the finances, but worries about continued current concerns such as traffic, parking, etc. Mrs. Walls stated with the projected growth comes more traffic and wondered if the plan presented accommodates that traffic growth. Mrs. Smith added that the designs presented regarding traffic flow included future possibilities to reroute traffic. Dr. Parker reminded members that traffic is only a problem at drop off and pick up times and special events and because our drop off/pick up schedules are at different times at the elementary and middle school/high school, it is only a problem twice a day for approximately 30 minutes. Dr. Parker wanted clarification from Mr. McCarty as he made the motion to move forward with Option 2 (building a new school), but something he said made it seem like his motion was more about renovating this building. Mr. McCarty stated he was referring to the site itself of the current administration building as the center of the campus today and as we think about traffic and flow, etc., how do you decentralize in such a way that it allows for campus growth and building growth as opposed to building a new elementary on a completely new site. Dr. Parker also reminded everyone that Option 2 did not include the price of land if we did not build on land we currently owned. He feels that if we purchase the land to the north of the administration building, there would be ample space to do what we need.

Mrs. Freeman asked Mr. Beebe his opinion with making this decision, He stated he could only tell some of the pros of each option. Renovating the administration building (central campus) would allow sharing of the existing spaces such as outdoor athletic fields, parking, etc. and provide close proximity to SRO's. He felt the traffic path previously presented provided a clean way to minimize traffic issues. Building a new elementary provided flexibility of exactly what it would look like and being able to pick a location.

Mrs. Freeman asked members if they wished to move forward with the vote. Mrs. Walls stated if they table the vote until the January, 2021 meeting, would the two new board members feel comfortable voting or want to table it for another month causing more delay. Dr. Parker stated he was comfortable with moving the vote to January. Mr. May feels comfortable in the fact that the new board members can be caught up to speed to make the decision.

Mr. McCarty made a motion amend his previous motion of moving forward with Option 2 and table the vote until the January 25, 2021 board meeting. Mr. May seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

8.2 Resolution 2020-45: Approval of Fund to Fund Transfers

Minutes:

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-45 to transfer funds as presented. Mr. McCarty seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Attachments:

[Resolution 2020-45 Approving Fund to Fund Transfers 1 .docx](#)

8.3 Resolution 2020-46: Approval of Transfers within Funds

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Minutes:

Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-46 to adjust account lines within funds presented to reflect a positive or zero balance at the conclusion of the 2020 fiscal year. Mrs. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Attachments:

[Resolution 2020-46 Approving Transfers within Funds.docx](#)

8.4 Resolution 2020-47: Encumbrance of Funds

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Minutes:

Mr. McCarty made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-47 to encumber funds as presented. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Attachments:

[RESOLUTION 2020-47 Encumbrance of Funds.docx](#)

8.5 Approval of 2021 Farm Lease

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Minutes:

Mr. Elkins presented the Two-Year Farm Ground Lease Bids received for the 63 acres of land owned by MVCSC located at 100 North and 600 West in Greenfield. He asked permission to enter into a one year lease with the highest bidder, Crossroads Family Farms (Brad and Stacey Stephenson) for \$303.10 per acre for a total bid of \$19,095.30 for the period January 28, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve the Farm Lease as presented. Mrs. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

8.6 Approval of Copier Contractor

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer & Mr. Greg Rollo, Technology Director

Minutes:

Mr. Elkins asked permission to enter into a five year agreement with Sharp, our current copier contractor, to renew our current contract as presented. Mr May made a motion to approve the copier contract as presented. Mr. McCarty seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

8.7 Request to Declare Technology Surplus

Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology

Minutes:

Mr. Elkins presented a list of technology items determined to have reached the end of its typical life cycle and/or became damaged, therefore, no longer needed for school purposes. All items have been removed from the classroom and/or school use. He asked permission to declare the items surplus. Mrs. Smith made a motion to declare technology surplus as presented. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Attachments:

[Surplus Items - December 2020.pdf](#)

9 Announcements

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Parker announced that he, Mr. Elkins and Mr. May recently attended the Hancock County RDC meeting. They are looking at a new TIF district for allocation. He hoped consideration for schools would occur, but that did not happen at that point but hopefully will in the future. In a report shared by Baker and Tilley, of all projects they currently have funded, the TIF currently on the books does not have the funds to pay for what they have already planned to construct. It appears they need this TIF allocation to pay for projects they have already planned. The hope is there will be consideration for schools in the future.

Mrs. Freeman announced this was the final board meeting for Mr. McCarty, who has served 8 years on the board, and Mrs. Smith, who has served 4 years on the board. She thanked them for their strong commitment to Mt. Vernon and all who work here and their help with making the best decisions for them and the community. They truly will be missed. Mrs. Walls added Mr. McCarty has been an amazing mentor and she has appreciated his patience and tolerance when she first came on the board along with his amazing insight. She thanked him for serving the community, staff and students. She thanked Mrs. Smith for her knowledge she brought to the board and teacher perspective. Mr. May stated Mrs. Smith brought a different voice and perspective to the board and he has appreciated that. He acknowledge all the changes he and Mr. McCarty have gone through together while still having lots of fun. Mrs. Freeman presented them both with rocking chairs and thanked them again for their years of service.

10 Adjournment

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Minutes:

Mr. McCarty made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Mrs. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

