

# Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees Emergency Meeting

**Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees**  
Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center  
Friday, August 7, 2020  
8:00am - 9:00am

**Present:** Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology; Mrs. Gwen Scrogam, Board Secretary; Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President; Mr. Tony May, Board Member; Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent; Mr. Derek Shelton, Director of Operations; Mrs. Shannon Walls, Board Member; Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

**Absent:** Mrs. Maria Bond, Communications Director; Mrs. Laura Durig, SpEd Director; Mr. Mike McCarty, Board Member; Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum; Mrs. Beth Smith, Board Member; Lisa Heitman, Finance Dept

## 1 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

## 2 Call to Order

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

### **Minutes:**

The Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees held an Emergency Board Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

## 3 Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

### **Minutes:**

Mrs. Walls made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. May seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

## 4 Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

### **Minutes:**

There were none.

## 5 Action Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

### 5.1 MVHS Hybrid Schedule

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

---

### **Minutes:**

Mr. Casey Dodd, Mt. Vernon High School principal, informed board members that for the past couple of

weeks, in response to the unique challenges that the COVID-19 health crisis has created, he has been working on a hybrid schedule for the reopening of Mt. Vernon High School. Two goals kept in mind for the reopening were to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and maintain the most effective learning environment possible. By utilizing a hybrid schedule, it would: a) allow for greater physical distancing while allowing in-person instruction to take place; b) class sizes would be smaller; c) hallway traffic between classes would significantly decrease; d) smaller lunch sizes; e) bus transportation needs would be less; and f) traffic around the MVHS, MVMS and FES campus would decrease. He stressed this consideration is for high school students, citing considerations for implementing this schedule for high school students only. Balancing the comprehensive course offering at MVHS makes it challenging to balance class sizes like done at the elementary and middle schools; contract tracing when/if a student tests positive for the COVID-19 is also challenging as the current schedule includes a great deal more mixing of students as they switch classes during the day; students with Individual Education Plans could still attend 4-5 days per week to meet their goals; and since we are allowing virtual students to participate in extracurricular activities, we would still be able to allow all students to participate every day regardless if they were on the hybrid days at home or in school. The hybrid schedule would divide students into two groups (A and B depending on first letter of last name) and students in Group A would attend class in-person Monday, Wednesday and Friday and virtually Tuesday and Thursday of Week 1 while Group B would attend virtually Monday, Wednesday and Friday and in-person Tuesday and Thursday. Week 2, Group A would attend virtually Monday, Wednesday and Friday and in-person Tuesday and Thursday, while Group B would attend in-person Monday, Wednesday and Friday and virtually Tuesday and Thursday. Alternating weeks would continue throughout the first semester after which time the schedule will be revisited to decide if it needed to continue second semester. The decision to pursue a hybrid schedule was made after surveying parents and staff. 1446 responses were recorded which included 105 staff members. 44.2% of those surveyed favored utilizing the hybrid schedule; 24.1% favored moving forward with the original plan of in-person students attending all days each week; 8.4% favored attending virtually only; and 23.3% favored starting five days a week in-person and move to hybrid schedule if needed. Mr. Dodd therefore proposed that Mt. Vernon High School utilizes the hybrid model schedule for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Walls expressed concern with transportation issues, with regards to extra-curricular activities, for those students participating, but were not attending school in-person. She felt it could cause hardship for many parents to provide transportation to extra-curricular activities if it was not an in-person school day for their child. Mr. Dodd stated the possibility of running activity buses for students needing transportation to extra-curricular activities with pick up points throughout the district. Mrs. Freeman stated she felt the schedule was the healthy thing to do as contact tracing would be easier if the need arises, but allow students the interaction with other students.

Mr. May made a motion to approve the MVHS Hybrid Schedule for the 1st Semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Walls seconded. Mrs. Walls added her thanks to Mr. Dodd for all his hard work on this schedule as it was an example of us doing the right thing, staying ahead of the curve and getting students back in school. Mrs. Freeman agreed it was the responsible thing to do and will help keep us from having to shut down totally.

The motion carried, 3-0.

## 5.2 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

---

### **Minutes:**

Dr. Parker presented an updated 2020-2021 school calendar. This is the same calendar that was approved in May with the addition of the dates when the Quarters stop and start.

Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar with the Quarters Defined Dates. Mr. May seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

**Attachments:**

[Contingency K 2020-2021 School Calendar 3.docx](#)

## 6 Additional Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

**Minutes:**

There were no additional items.

## 7 Adjournment

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

---

**Minutes:**

Mrs. Walls made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 a.m. Mr. May seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.