

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees
Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center
Monday, March 15, 2021
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; Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent; Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Shannon Walls, Board Member; Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer; Chad Gray, School Board Member; Phil Edwards, School Board Member

Absent: Mrs. Laura Durig, SpEd Director; Mr. Tony May, Board Member; Mr. Derek Shelton, Director of Operations; Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum; Lisa Heitman, Finance Dept

1 Executive Session (5:15 p.m.)

Minutes:

The Board of Trustees held an Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

Attachments:

[Executive Session Agenda.doc](#)

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:

Mrs. Freeman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

4 Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Minutes:

Dr. Parker announced their were additions to the Personnel Report. Mrs. Walls made a motion to adopt the amended agenda as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

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. MVCSC recruited 19 substitutes within four weeks who are substituting exclusively for Mt. Vernon. This initiative increased the fill rate from 50% in the 2020 fall semester to 72% in February 2021.
2. MVCSC has named the following building winners for Teacher of the Year. Winners are selected by their school staff: FES-Delinda Deckard; MES-Beth Chaplin; MCE-Brianne Williams; MVMS-Kittie Masters; MVHS-Lynette Huth; and Admin/Preschool-Leeanna Seppala. Building winners for Staff of the Year are: FES-Nancy Price; MES-Jenny Campbell; MCE-Melissa Montague; MVMS-Lisa Lindman; MVHS-Joana Goff; and Admin./Preschool-Doris Johnson.
3. MVHS Boys Swimmer Aiden Tierney became the 1st Marauder to reach the state podium twice in one year (2nd in 100M breaststroke and state runner-up and 8th in the 100M Fly).
4. MVHS Boys' Basketball Coach Ben Rhoades was named HHC Coach of the Year and players Amhad & Armon Jarrard and Razhaun Wells were named to the 2020-21 Boys' Basketball All-HHC Team.
5. MVHS Girls' Basketball Coach Julie Shelton was named HHC Coach of the Year and players Lexi Shelton, Abby Worley and Olivia Yeley were named to the 2020-21 Girls' Basketball All-HHC Team.
6. MVCSC celebrated Black History Month and our diversity through various methods.
7. Hancock Health donated N95 masks to all staff members.

Attachments:

[3-2021 Board Report.pdf](#)

6.2 Hancock County Public Library Annual Report

Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology

Minutes:

Mr. Rollo presented the Hancock County Public Library Annual Report, per the attached, on behalf of Director Dave Gray who was not in attendance.

Attachments:

[Hanock County Public Library Annual Report.pdf](#)

6.3 Fortville-Vernon Twp. Public Library Annual Report

Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology

Melissa Dragoo, Director

Minutes:

Mr. Rollo introduced Melissa Dragoo, Director of the Fortville-Vernon Township Library, who gave the library's Annual Report. Ms. Dragoo introduced Lola Halterman, one of MVCSC's representative to the library's Board of Trustees and Catherine Witsman, County Commissioners representative to the board. She began by stating 65.7% of the library's budget is devoted to salaries and benefits with 10.1% devoted to collection. Her goal is to increase the amount spent on collection. The current collection consists of 33,339 books; 1,582 books on CD; 5,182 DVD's and Blu-rays; and 62 magazine and newspaper subscriptions. 2018-2020 statistics shows that there were 15,322 library visits; 3,480 people attended library programs and there were 4,107 wireless internet uses. Several building improvements have been made in the past two years including resurfacing parking lot, new carpet and flooring; and reconfiguration of how collection laid out. The library is a member of the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium, a consortium of over 100 public schools and institutional libraries located throughout Indiana. One benefit of the consortium is the ability to increase access to materials. Patrons have access to almost 8 million items as materials are sent back and forth with other Evergreen users. The library has responded to Covid challenges by adding curbside pickup and modifying in-person programming to make-and-take activities. Wi-fi usage has doubled over previous years since the start of Covid. Digital Content has doubled in the past year with 50,251 eBooks, 1,093 downloadable videos and 9,954 downloadable audiobooks available. Moving forward, Ms. Dragoo is focused on the Summer Reading Program and hopes to reach out to our schools to promote that.

Attachments:

[Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library Annual Report.pdf](#)

6.4 Textbook Adoption

Ms. Misty Hall

Minutes:

Misty Hall, Curriculum Integration, gave a Textbook Adoption Secondary English report on behalf of Scott Shipley, Curriculum Director. She began by explaining the process that goes into selecting curriculum. Last October-December a committee of teacher representatives from each grade level was formed. All secondary English teachers were surveyed and their feedback used to guide the committee. The committee researched 12 programs, taking six of those to committee to evaluate. The list was reduced to three and those three vendors gave presentations to the committee members as

well as all secondary English teachers who could attend virtually. In February, the list was reduced to one vendor, MyPerspectives by Savvas Learning, who gave a second presentation to committee members and all secondary English teachers. The committee came to consensus to choose MyPerspectives for Grades 8-11. The high school speech chose to go with McGraw-Hill and HS Etymology while 6th and 7th grade chose to keep the novel fee and add fee for current events literary magazine. In March the committee's consensus was shared with the CTA and all English teachers surveyed. 92.3% of those surveyed chose to adopt MyPerspective for the 2021-2022 school year.

It is the committee's recommendation to choose MyPerspectives by Savvas Learning for Grades 8-11; HS Speech-McGraw Hill; HS Etymology-Vocabulary for the College-Bound Student and Novel Fee Literacy Magazine Fee for 6th-7th Grade. Samples of these materials are available for anyone interested to view at the Administration Building until the April board meeting.

Attachments:

[Textbook Adoption - Report 2021 3 .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:

Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve the following Consent Items as Amended:

1. Minutes of the February 22, 2021 board meeting;
2. Claims: and
3. The following personnel items:

CERTIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

Brooke Tharp, MVMS Principal

CERTIFIED RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Brenda Denney, Mini Marauder Preschool Teacher (Retirement)

CLASSIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

Dashube Nyira Bukara, MVMS Custodian

Lillian Daniel, Transportation Mini Bus Driver (no CDL)

David Pierce, Transportation Sub Bus Driver

Robert Davis, Transportation Sub Bus Driver

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Jeana Jordan, Transportation Bus Driver

Cynthia Webster, Transportation Bus Driver

Ronald Corn, FES Custodian

Kim Corn, FES Custodian

ECA RECOMMENDATIONS

Faith Garrett, MVMS Head Swimming Coach

Amy Mozingo, MVMS Girls Head Track Coach

Wesley McKinney, MVHS Girls Soccer Varsity Assistant Coach

Chad Masters, MVHS Girls Track Assistant Coach

Jeremy Ordas, MVHS Girls Track Assistant Coach

ECA RESIGNATIONS

Nicole Rennier, MVMS Head Swimming Coach

Alexandra Martin, MVHS Girls Track Assistant Coach

Chad Soden, MVHS Girls Soccer Varsity Assistant Coach

LEAVES

Rose Dowden, MES Teacher (April 1 - April 7, 2021)

Katherine Downend, MCE Teacher (May 10 - October 18, 2021)

Mr. Gray seconded and the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

Dr. Parker introduced the new Mt. Vernon Middle School Principal Brooke Tharp who is currently Assistant Principal at Mt. Vernon High School. He stated Brooke is an institution in our district and has the respect of all her peers. He is very happy to welcome her as the next principal after a very gruelling selection process. Ms. Tharp thanked everyone for their support and is very excited for the opportunity and ready to get to work.

7.1 Regular Session Minutes

February 22, 2021 Board Meeting

Attachments:

[February 22 2021 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

7.2 Claims

Attachments:

[Claims.pdf](#)

7.3 Personnel Report

Attachments:

[noreply_mvsc.k12.in.us_20210312_161448_1_.pdf](#)

7.4 Overnight Field Trip Request

There are none.

7.5 Request to Accept Donation

There are none.

8 Action Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

8.1 Approval of Contract Addendum (Exhibit A, Guaranteed Maximum Price) for Middle School Renovation Project

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Minutes:

Mr. Elkins asked for approval of Contract Addendum (Guaranteed Maximum Price) for the Middle School Renovation Project. This document is an amendment to the original construction contract approved in May, 2020, guaranteeing the maximum price of the project. He reminded board members that the delivery method the board chose, which was Construction Manager at Risk, one of the legal provisions of that is that the construction manager is to develop and declare a guaranteed maximum price on the hard costs of the project. Mr. Elkins is happy to report that the original target of \$3.7 million hit the mark and includes all the alternative bids for wish list items. The bid amounts and bid winners are included in the document, per the attached.

Mrs. Walls made a motion to accept the contract for the middle school renovation project as presented. Mr. Gray seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

[a133exhibita-2019_gmp_hagerman_1_.pdf](#)

8.2 Approval of Bid for Internet

Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology

Minutes:

Mr. Rollo stated he received three proposals for our E-Rate Category I Internet Services proposal for 2021. He is recommending approval of Ninestar Connect's bid for \$31,200 per year for 2 Gig Internet Service and usable IP addresses. Ninestar has been our provider for several years. Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the bid for internet services as provided. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

[Request to Accept Bid for Internet.docx](#)

8.3 Request to Declare Technology Surplus

Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology

Minutes:

Mr. Rollo asked the board for permission to declare technology surplus, per the attached list. These items have reached the end of their typical life cycle and/or have become damaged, therefore, no longer needed for school purposes and have been removed from classrooms. Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve the technology surplus items as presented. Mr. Gray seconded.

Mrs. Freeman asked what happens to these items, are they donated? Mr. Rollo stated if still of use, he reaches out to the community to see if there is any interest. Items that are so old and not able to be repair are picked up by a vendor for recycling.

The motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

[Technology Surplus Items.doc](#)

8.4 Policy D175 Board-Staff Communications

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Mr. Gray made a motion to bring Draft Policy D175 Board-Staff Communications back to the table for further discussion as a second reading agenda item. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. At the February board meeting, members tabled approval of the policy pending further input from district attorney Amy Matthews. Board members wanted staff to feel they could approach them without it being considered unethical and wondered if the word unethical could be replaced with softer language. Mrs. Walls thanked Dr. Parker and Ms. Matthews for their help in working through this as it is very important to board members. She wants staff to know they must follow the proper chain of command, but also wants to be approachable. Of the two options presented, Option A and B, she aligns more with Option B as it does not use the term unethical conduct and redirects staff, when approached regarding confidential subjects, to their supervisor. Option A states board members, when approached by staff regarding confidential subjects, would be considered inappropriate conduct. Dr. Parker stated he knew board members struggled with the term unethical conduct. Mrs. Freeman stated she feels the board already does a good job of redirecting staff members to the proper chain of command and she also aligns more with Option B. Mr. Gray likes then notion of Option B as it does not discourage staff from contacting them, but states ultimately it is their supervisor they should be talking to first. Mrs. Freeman reminded everyone that a NEOLA policy dealing with this subject already exists, this will replace that policy.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to amend Policy D175 Board-Staff Communications to read as presented in Option B. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

[D175.pdf](#)

9 Announcements

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Parker announced that the MVHS Band's planned trip to Hawaii has been cancelled due to the many restrictions in place in Hawaii due to COVID. It was cancelled before any parents were required to make a payment. He hopes it will work out in the future for the band to go.

He wished staff and students a much needed wonderful Spring Break.

10 Adjournment

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Minutes:

Mrs. Walls made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Mr. Edwards seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.