

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees
Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center
Monday, April 19, 2021
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Present: Mr. Greg Rollo, Director of Technology; Mrs. Gwen Scrogam, Board Secretary; Mrs. Maria Bond, Communications Director; Mrs. Laura Durig, SpEd Director; Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President; Mr. Tony May, Board Member; Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent; Mr. Derek Shelton, Director of Operations; Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum; Mrs. Shannon Walls, Board Member; Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer; Chad Gray, School Board Member; Phil Edwards, School Board Member

Absent: Lisa Heitman, Finance Dept

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

Minutes:

An Executive Session of the Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees was held at 5:00 p.m.

Attachments:

[Exec. 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:

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

4 Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Minutes:

Mrs. Walls made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Edwards 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:

Mrs. Margaret White, parent of students at Mt. Vernon Middle School and Fortville Elementary, addressed the board regarding curriculum issues. She questioned a movie, *The Giver*, that was shown at the middle school to her daughter's class after the class had read the book. She felt one scene in the movie was inappropriate. After e-mailing her concerns to the teacher, she was told the book had been approved by the School Board so made the decision to approach the board. Her elementary curriculum concern centered around the lack of spelling tests at Fortville Elementary, where her son attends, as opposed to McCordsville Elementary, where her daughter attended. She feels her son is struggling because of this. She questioned why curriculum is not the same across the district.

Mrs. Freeman thanked Mrs. White for taking the time to attend and share her concerns.

6 Reports

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

6.1 Good News

Mrs. Maria Bond, Communications Director

Minutes:

Mrs. Bond shared the following Good News:

1. MV celebrated Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Day with dedicated reading minutes in every school on April 12th to celebrate the birthday of Beverly Cleary, a beloved children's author.
2. MVCSC's Food Service Department collected 3,800 lbs. of non-perishable food items and donated them to the Fortville Area Resource Mission (FARM), which was a value of \$6,346.
3. FES students celebrated "Purple Up for Military Kids" to honor our military families.
4. At the annual MVEF Gala, Doris Johnson, Food Service Director, was named District Staff of the Year and Lynette Huth, MVHS Science Teacher was named District Teacher of the Year. Also, Lorraine Ewing (Class of 1969) and Linda Garrity (Class of 1973) received MVEF's Distinguished Alumni Award.
5. The Vernon Township Fire Department honored Dr. Parker with the Vernon Township Fire Department Challenge Coin. These coins are given in appreciation to recognize personnel for special achievements and to signify affiliation and support for one another.

Dr. Parker announced Mt. Vernon's Food Service Department was recently honored by the Indiana Department of Education Office of School & Community Nutrition for providing nutritious and award-winning meals to students. Only 44 schools in the state of Indiana received this honor. He presented Food Service Director Doris Johnson and Assistant Food Service Director Kasey Voeller with a framed

Golden Apple Certificate and thanked them for their amazing work this school year noting the pandemic shined a light on the strength of our Food Service Department.

Attachments:

[4-2021 Board Report 1 .pdf](#)

6.2 Spotlight on Schools

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Mt. Comfort Elementary School - Mrs. Alissa Lockwood, Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School - Mr. Mike Raters, Principal

Minutes:

Mrs. Alissa Lockwood, principal at Mt. Comfort Elementary, made a presentation spotlighting her school, focusing on celebrations. The kindergarten team held a 100th Day of school in person celebration and PLC celebration, celebrating 98% of their students were proficient in Math EL#3 (comparison) at the end of the post assessment. The 1st Grade Team held a 120th Day Celebration with 120 days of learning. They also celebrated TBRI Vocabulary "Gentle and Kind" and "With Respect" by sharing ways to show respect at school, home and to others. They also made promises to be gentle and kind with their actions, words and thoughts. The 2nd Grade Team celebrated the 102nd day of school, held a Idiom Parade and celebrated Reading EL#5 (plot). The 3rd grade team celebrated their hard work on their IREAD-3 test. 86% passed the first time, with retakes to be held in June. They also met their PLC goal for Area and Perimeter EL#5 with a growth from 3% to 70% passing the post test. The 4th Grade Team celebrated finishing the PLC cycle over adding and subtracting mixed numbers by increasing from a 4% proficiency rate to 85%. The 5th Grade Team celebrated their first room transformation day, Donut Shop, the grand finale to studying fractions and mixed numbers. They will be participating in a virtual simulation of BizTown in a few weeks. Other celebrations included increasing from 48% proficiency in Reading EL#5 (analyzing multiple texts) to 81%. Special Area Celebrations included Tournament of Books and completion of Project Lead the Way Modules for students in STEM. MCE recently wrapped up One School One Book where all staff and students read the same book, which this year was Wish.

Mike Raters, Interim Principal at Mt. Vernon Middle School, introduced four students to help him with his presentation. William Smith highlighted academics. Emma Branson talked about arts and activities pointing out the many opportunities for in-school and extra-curricular activities offered at the middle that help students learn life and social skills. They include band, choir, dance team, robotics club, drama and theater, kitchen table homework club, newspaper, year book and student council.

Damarion Johnson hit on athletics stating there are 10 sports for girls and 10 for boys offered with the goal to represent Mt. Vernon with pride. Kayleigh Moran ended with the middle school's motto, T.S.I.E ("The Secret is Effort"), along with other "E's": empathy, engagement, excitement, excellence, enthusiasm and extracurriculars.

6.3 Kindergarten Roundup Report

Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum

Minutes:

Mr. Shipley presented a report on Kindergarten Roundup, which was held recently at all three elementary buildings. This year a total of 252 students registered (96 at FES; 63 at MCE; and 93 at MES). He anticipates a 23% increase in numbers from the spring to fall ADM.

Attachments:

[Kindergarten Round-up ADM data from 2017 - Sheet1 1 .pdf](#)

6.4 Future Growth Plan - Operations Budget

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Minutes:

Mr. Elkins presented an Operations Fund Review. He began by reaffirming several points made previously. The Operations Fund budget (current finances, future finances and our growth plans) is not a new story, it is an old story. The story actually began in 2010. Decisions made in the past in conjunction with DUAB included an expiration date which is fast approaching. He stressed we are currently receiving full Operations funding this year, but it is what starts to happen next year and beyond that is the issue. As of today, there is no legal mechanism to recapture the revenue to the Operations Fund that we are currently collecting through the Debt Service Fund. It would take state legislative action for that option to be put back on the table.

2020 expenses (dollars that left the Operations Fund) totaled \$9.92 million with most revenue being spent for wages & salaries and supplies & utilities. 2020 revenues mostly from Debt Increment Transfer and Property Taxes. Next year the Debt Increment Transfer will be cut by 1/3 and gone the next year while Property Tax revenues will get smaller and Partial Waiver to Protected Tax Transfer will get bigger. The Increment Transfer was approved by special legislation in 2012 and administered by DUAB. It refinanced existing debts into 2012 and 2012B Bond Series which levied for an amount equal to principle and interest of debts payments; interest used to pay investors and transferred principal equivalent to Operations (at the time CPF, Bus Replacement and/or Transportation Funds prior to 2019). It had a 10 year approval, with an expiration date, allowing to be collected and transferred to the Operations Fund \$3.36 million in 2021, \$2.10 million in 2022 and it goes away in 2023. The expiration creates a \$3.3 million of capacity in Debt Service with no rate impact but no way to recapture this revenue to Operations.

When compared to similar districts (our peers), Mt. Vernon Operations rate is the lowest among similar districts. The Debt rate has been used as a temporary source for additional operations revenue. Mrs. Freeman thanked Mr. Elkins for the comparisons to other districts as it gives us a clear picture of where we are compared to them and how we stack up to them

Revenue per student. 2019, first for the Operations Fund, shows that Mt. Vernon was receiving the lowest net levy revenue relative to our peers and that trend has continued. Mr. Elkins is most proud of the breakdown of expenditure types. Mt. Vernon was the 2nd largest district among peers, based on enrollment, in 2019 but was only 3rd of 6 with regards to Operations expenses which goes back to the efficiency we are implementing with regards to spending by not wasting money.

Mr. Elkins showed a slide showing our 2021 Tax Supported Funds, Debt Service, Operations and Pension Debt. Tax cap losses will be shared among all three funds when Waiver to Protected Taxes is implemented.

Mr. Elkins compared to area peers, the levy per student amount the DLGF approves to the actual amount collected per student. For Mt. Vernon it is \$1,190/\$583. Compared to Frankton-Lapel, Greenfield Central, Hamilton Hts., Southern Hancock, South Madison and Beech Grove, Mt. Vernon is the second lowest, which has a big impact, with the lowest being Beech Grove.

Operations Fund Sustainability Strategies include: a) Maximizing Debt Service Operating Balance (cash to offset waiver) to move money from Debt Service to Operations; b) Protected Tax Cap Waiver (\$2 million transfer to Operations for 2021); c) Excess Levy for transportation (\$335,090/yr. minus cap loss) which is not much, but enough for one new bus; d) \$9 million of energy savings projects approved in April, 2020; e) Local growth quotient eligibility (max lev annual increase from 4% to 5%?); f) increased Education to Operations transfer (currently at 8% and can go up to 15%); and g) Renewal of tax cap waiver legislation (short term solution).

Attachments:

[April 2021 Future Growth Plan Update Operations 1 .pdf](#)

6.5 Out of District Transfers

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Parker reminded board members that the first week window to apply for out-of-district enrollment began April 16th. The second window will be May 7-17. Getting these numbers early will enable Mt. Vernon to plan ahead and determine the need for additional teachers if necessary. He feels the transfer policy the board reinstituted in 2019 is working well, enabling us to control the number of out-of-district students. He presented a slide showing student enrollment/ADM/transfer students cohort growth from 2015 to 2021. Further data shows in 2018-19 there were 692 transfer students and 644 in 2019-20. 104 net transfer students did not return between 2018-19/2019-20. This decrease is exactly what the policy intended. 93 transfer students were new to the district generating \$602,268. While transferring to Mt. Vernon is mostly due to parent choice, data shows in district students transferring out of Mt. Vernon is due to attending charter and non-public schools. Dr. Parker showed a slide comparing net transfers to the other Hancock County school districts. Mt. Vernon has fewer net transfers students than Southern Hancock and Eastern Hancock. Open enrollment percentage took a significant decline when the new transfer policy was implemented in 2019 and a slight decline the next year. This re-emphasizes that the transfer policy is working and we are able to manage our transfer student enrollment and the other side of the growth.

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. May made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

1. Minutes of the March 15, 2021 board meeting;
2. Claims;

3. The following personnel items:

CERTIFIED CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Kelly Diehl, Change from MVMS Math Teacher to MVMS Math Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

Paula Day, Change from MVMS Special Ed to MVMS English Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

Jackie Merica, Change from MVMS Virtual Teacher to MVMS 6th Grade Teacher (New Position for 2021-2022 School Year)

Jill Mace, Change from Virtual Teacher to FES 3rd Grade Teacher (2021-2022 School Year)

Stacy Muffler, Change from FES Principal to Asst. Director of Curriculum and Instruction (2021-2022 School Year)

Sara Keljo, Change from FES 3rd Grade Teacher to Elementary Math Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

Delinda Deckard, Change from FES 4th Grade teacher to Elementary Reading Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

Dan Keeler, Change from MES 4th Grade Teacher to Elementary Math Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

Kelly Brown, Change from MCE Kindergarten Teacher to Elementary Reading Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

Katie Downend, Change from MCE 4th Grade Teacher to Elementary Math Interventionist (2021-2022 School Year)

CERTIFIED RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Karon Neal, MES 3rd Grade Teacher

Patricia Bennett, MVHS Math Teacher (Retirement)

Amanda Goodin, MMPS Special Education Preschool Teacher

Jessica Jones, MVMS Special Education Teacher

CLASSIFIED CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Angela Griffin, Change from FES Custodian to FES Head Custodian

Zach Roach, Change from Part-time Maintenance to Corporation Maintenance

CLASSIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

Ryan Fite, MVHS 2nd Shift Custodian

Elizabeth Leonard, Special Education Instructional Assistant

Sally Pierce, FES Cafeteria Supervisor

Sophia DeWael, Community Relations Intern (through MVHS ICE program)

Stephanie Bechel, Transportation Sub Bus Driver in Training

Aaron Couch, FES Custodian

Mary Harris, MES Instructional Assistant

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Pamela Debaun, Food Service Worker (Retirement)

Constance Zorenes, MCE Instructional Assistant
George Eldridge, MVMS Permanent Substitute
Lola Halterman, FES Instructional Assistant (Retirement)
Dennis James, Corporation Maintenance/HVAC
Kimberlie Caudell, MES Custodian (Retirement)
Greg Worland, FES Custodian (Retirement)
Sarah Archer, MVHS Media Assistant

ECA RECOMMENDATIONS

Mike Gill, MVMS 7th Grade Baseball Volunteer
Heath Luther, MVHS Baseball Coach Volunteer
Pete Gorga, MVHS Varsity Football Coach Volunteer

ECA RESIGNATIONS

Ashley Bryan, MVHS Assistant Girls Track Coach
Rachel Dinwiddie, MVMS 7th & 8th Grade Cheer Coach

LEAVES

Bradley Grieshop, Leave of Absence (May 18, 2021 - June 9, 2021)
Heidi Kensinger, Leave of Absence (May 19, 2021 - June 9, 2021)
Brooke Chapman, Leave of Absence (July 26, 2021 - October 1, 2021)
Lindsey Crow, Leave of Absence (May 14, 2021 - October 2, 2021)
Ryan Carr, Leave of Absence (June 9 - June 13, 2021 AND July 26 - August 31, 2021)

4. Request to accept the following donations: Donation from Arkenau Landscaping in the amount of \$700.00 to the MVHS Prom Committee to help with 2021 prom expenses; and a \$500.00 donation from Psi Iota Xi Sorority to the MVHS National Honor Society to be used to further the work of their organization;

5. Settlement Agreement Under Cause #30C01-1907-CT-001388;

6. Food Service Report and Prepaid Fund Transfers; and

7. Approval of Construction Claims.

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

7.1 Regular Session Minutes

March 15, 2021 Board Meeting

Attachments:

[March 15 2021 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

7.2 Claims

Attachments:

[Claims.pdf](#)

7.3 Personnel Report

Attachments:

[Personnel Report 1.pdf](#)

[Personnel Report.pdf](#)

7.4 Overnight Field Trip Request

7.5 Request to Accept Donation

Attachments:

[Request to Accept Donation.pdf](#)

[Request to Accept Donation 1.pdf](#)

7.6 Settlement Agreement Under Cause #30C01-1907-CT-001388

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

Attachments:

[Settlement Agreement.pdf](#)

7.7 Food Service Report and Prepaid Transfers

Attachments:

[April 2021 Consent Agenda Items-Food Service.docx](#)

[Food Service Operation Analysis Report 2021.pdf](#)

7.8 Approval of Construction Claims

Attachments:

[April 2021 Construction Claims.docx](#)

8 Action Items

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

8.1 Resolution 2021-13 Electronic Funds Transfer

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

Minutes:

Mr. Gray made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-13 Authorizing the Payment for Claims for Athletic Officials Through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Mr. Edwards seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Attachments:

[Resolution 2021-13 Authorizing the Payment of Claims for Athletic Officials Through Electronic Funds Transfer EFT .docx](#)

9 Announcements

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Parker made the following announcements:

1. The Mt. Vernon Education Foundation recently held their Annual Gala which he enjoyed very much. It was a great celebration for Mt. Vernon Schools and he thanked the foundation for all their work to support our efforts.
2. The Forville Elementary principal candidate pool has closed and on track to invite candidates to interview with a selection committee with the hopes to bring a recommendation to the May board meeting.

10 Adjournment

Mrs. Kellie Freeman, Board President

Next Meeting April 19, 2021

Minutes:

Mr. May made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Mrs. Walls seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.