

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees

Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees
Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center
Monday, September 18, 2023
7:00pm - 8:30pm

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

Absent: Lisa Heitman, Finance Dept; Seth Hamilton, Directory of Technology

1 Pledge of Allegiance (7:00 PM)

Chad Gray, School Board President

Minutes:

Mr. Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 Call to Order

Chad Gray, School Board President

Minutes:

Mr. Gray called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

3 Adoption of Agenda

Chad Gray, School Board President

Minutes:

Dr. Parker shared the updates on the personnel report, public comment on the Ratification of the Teacher Agreement and the Resolution for Public Employers Retirement Fund for an employee were added action items.

Mr. Gray asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the updates. Mrs. Freeman motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Edwards seconded the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

4 Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Chad Gray, School Board President

Please Reference Policies

- H225 (Public Comments and Concerns) and
- B225 (Meetings) for guidance on providing public input on an agenda item.

Board policies can be found at www.mvcsc.k12.in.us

Minutes:

No one signed in to comment.

5 Public Hearing: 2024 Budget

Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer

The Notice to Taxpayers is available online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov or by calling (888) 739-9826.

Complete details of budget estimates by fund and/or department may be seen by visiting the office of this unit of government at 1806 W. State Road 234 Fortville, Indiana 46040.

Date of Public Hearing Monday, September 18, 2023

Time of Public Hearing 7:00 PM

Public Hearing Place 1806 W. State Road 234 Fortville, Indiana 46040

Date of Adoption Meeting Monday, October 16, 2023

Time of Adoption Meeting 7:00 PM

Adoption Meeting Place 1806 W. State Road 234 Fortville, Indiana 46040

Notice is hereby given to taxpayers of Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation, Hancock County, Indiana that the proper officers of Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation will conduct a public hearing on the year 2024 budget. Following this meeting, any ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation not more than seven days after the hearing. The objection petition must identify the provisions of the budget, tax rate, or tax levy to which taxpayers object. If a petition is filed, Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation shall adopt with the budget a finding concerning the objections in the petition and testimony presented. Following the aforementioned hearing, the proper officers of Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation will meet to adopt the following budget:

Minutes:

Mr. Elkins presented the information for the budget hearing. The adoption for the 2024 budget will be at the October 16 school board meeting. Information on the budget can be found online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov or by calling (888) 739-9826. He presented the posted budget document and explained the details that were shared at the August school board meeting.

Mr. Gray ended the public hearing.

Attachments:

[2024 Budget Public Hearing Notice.pdf](#)

[2024 School Budget for Mt. Vernon CSC.pptx 1 1 .pdf](#)

6 Reports

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

6.1 Good News Report

Mrs. Maria Bond, Director of Community Relations

Minutes:

Mr. Bond presented the Good News Report.

School Accolades & Notable Activities

- Congratulations to Mt. Vernon High School as they were ranked a U.S. News & World Report “Best High School” for 2023. MVHS was named to the top 40% of the nation's high schools and is now ranked 47th within Indiana. MVHS was ranked 16th in the Indianapolis metro area and was also the highest-ranked high school in Hancock County.
- MVHS Girls Cross Country student athlete, Hanna Hauser, broke the 5K school record at 18 minutes, 51 seconds.
- Both the MVHS Boys Cross Country & Girls Cross Country teams won their respective Hancock County titles.
- MVHS Boys Tennis won their county title for the fourth time in the last five season.
- MVHS Volleyball player, Ava Whitmore, earned her 1,000th assist.

Community Connections

- MVCSC is hosting free adult English classes to residents in Vernon Township. Several MVCSC teachers will be facilitating the course throughout the year. Special thanks to the Vernon Township Library who received a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Hancock County to make these classes available to our community.
- MVCSC hosted a successful job fair with 15 community members who received an interview to be an instructional assistant, custodian, or bus driver.

Noteworthy News

- **Fox 59** featured a segment on the Best Counties to Raise a Family in Indiana, and out of 30, Hancock County was named #16. FES was highlighted, along with the Towns of McCordsville and Fortville.

Attachments:

[9-2023 Board Report.pdf](#)

6.2 Spotlight on Schools: McCordsville Elementary

Mrs. Stephanie Miller

Minutes:

Mrs. Stephanie Miller presented McCordsville Elementary Spotlight.

McCordsville Elementary held the Boosterthon on September 14. Themes were aligned with the character education being promoted at the school. It started with the World Changer Workshop and had a goal to raise \$20,000 for student programming and supplies. Each day leading up to the event had a theme. Participation for the event included 83% of their families pledged to give to the event. The event included a fun run, activities along the track and teacher activities. Total raised was \$25,041 and is all profit. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Edwards have agreed to be slimmed by the student body for reaching their goal.

Attachments:

[MES Spotlight on Schools 9-18-23 1 .pdf](#)

6.3 Ball State Partnership Report

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

Minutes:

Mr. Smedley introduced Ms. Sarah Harris, Assistant Director of Teacher Education from Ball State University. Ms. Harris shared information on the partnership between Mt. Vernon and Ball State. The partnership is being supported from the Attract, Prepare and Retain grant by the IDOE. Mt Vernon

along with 14 other school districts in Indiana were chosen for this partnership. Mt Vernon students will benefit by taking dual credit classes up to 30 hours through Ball State. It will allow increased professional development with school and university relationship. University students being in the school environment benefit from the relationship of Mt Vernon students and teachers through field experiences. Ms. Harris introduces Amy. She is a Ball State faculty member in the school district supporting professional development for students and staff. This allows real time experience for Ball State students and a better partnership. Ms. Harris presented Mt. Vernon with a banner recognizing the partnership.

Dr. Parker stated he is delighted to have Ball State partner with Mt. Vernon. Ball State has an outstanding teacher program and Mt. Vernon is appreciative to be a part of it.

7 Consent Agenda

Chad Gray, School Board President

Minutes:

Mr Gray presented the consent agenda. Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Mrs. Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7.1 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments:

[8.21.23 Mt Vernon Executive session minutes.pdf](#)

[8.21.23 Mt Vernon Board Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

[8.21.23 Mt Vernon Pre-Bargaining Hearing Minutes.pdf](#)

7.2 Personnel Report

Minutes:

Certified Recommendations

1. Lura Abrell, MVHS Science Teacher
2. Amanda Armstrong, MVHS English Teacher
3. Ashley Ridenour, Administration Zero Hour to provide DHH Services
4. Danielle Stindle, MVHS 1.25 FTE

Certified Resignations/Retirements

1. Simone Wheeler, FES Essential Skills in Special Education
2. Christopher Ethan Crenshaw, MVHS English Teacher
3. Madison Roeder, MVMS Teacher PE/Health

Contracted Services

1. Victoria Jackson, Sign Language Interpreter Contract

CLASSIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Lourdes Legaspi, MCE FISH Room Instructional Assistant

2. Chloe Tydall, MCE Media Specialist Instructional Assistant
3. Ashley Leathers, FES Permanent Building Substitute
4. Jennifer Westfall, MVHS Permanent Substitute Teacher
5. Brenda Edwards, Transportation Full Time Bus Driver
6. Sade Johnson, Transportation Full Time Bus Driver
7. Melissa Shonk, MES Food Service Prep Cook/Cashier
8. Dee Wickham, MVMS part Time Permanent Substitute
9. Sarah Reyes, MES, Special Education Instructional Assistant
10. Tripta Rani, MCE Dream Room Special Education Instructional Assistant
11. Martha Milburn, FES High Intensity Instructional Assistant
12. Adam Zins, Transportation Bus Aide
13. Hailey Oak, MVMS High Intensity Instructional Assistant
14. Courtney Stellema, Administration Registered Behavior Tech
15. Jarod Martin, MVHS Custodian
16. Steven Hampton, FES High Intensity Instructional Assistant
17. Brian Hunt, MVMS Custodian
18. Benjamin Miles, FES Custodian

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENT

1. Julie Williams, MES Food Service Part-Time
2. Cristina Kreigh, MES Special Education Instructional Assistant
3. Alycia Pinney, MMP Instructional Assistant
4. Michael Bauchert, MVHS Custodian

CLASSIFIED CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT

1. Briann Stuck, MVMS Custodian to MES Custodian
2. Erin Costerison, Admin. High Intensity IA to Behavior Tech
3. Bill Pierce, Transportation Bus Driver to Bus Aide

ECA RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MVMS Non-Athletic ECA 2023-2024
2. MVHS Football Assistant Coach Recommendations
3. FES ECA Recommendations
4. Abigayle Vest, MES Elementary Wellness Club
5. Lydgia Palmer, MVHS Girls Cross Country Head Coach
6. Ben Gale, MVHS Volunteer Girls Cross Country Assistant
7. Coach Recommendations for MVMS 2023-2024 school year
8. MES ECA Recommendations 2023-2024 School Year
9. Thomas Davis, MVHS Assistant Football Coach

LEAVES

1. Lee Ann Sherman, MCE Teacher (December 1, 2023 to February 26, 2024)

Attachments:

[9.18.23 Personnel Report Summary 3.pdf](#)
[9.18.23 Peronnel Report Detail 3.pdf](#)

7.3 Claims

Attachments:

[9.18.23 Claims.pdf](#)

7.4 Construction Claims

Attachments:

[September 18 2023 Construction Claims.docx 2 .pdf](#)

7.5 Construction Change Orders

Attachments:

[FES CO 1.1 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 1.2 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 1.3 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 1.4 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 2 Sept 23 1 .pdf](#)
[FES CO 4.1 Sept 23 2 .pdf](#)
[FES CO 4.2 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 1 Sept 23 1 .pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 3 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 2.1 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 3.1 Sept 23 1 .pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 3.1 Sept 23 3 .pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 3.2 Sept 2023 1 .pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 3.3 Sept 2023 1 .pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 1.2 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 1.5 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 2.3 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 5.0 Sep 23.pdf](#)
[New Tran CO 4.0 Sept 2023.pdf](#)
[FES CO 5.1 Sept 23.pdf](#)
[FES CO 1.6 Sept 2023.pdf](#)

7.6 Monthly Fund Transfers

Attachments:

[August 2023 Monthly Fund Transfers.docx.pdf](#)

7.7 Overnight Field Trip Request

Attachments:

[8th grade DC Trip 2024 1 .pdf](#)
[7th grade Cincinnati Trip 2024.pdf](#)
[6th grade Louisville Trip 2024 1 .pdf](#)

7.8 Donation Approval

There are no Donation Approvals this month.

8 Action Items

Chad Gray, School Board President

8.1 Public Comment for Ratification of the Agreement for the 2023-24 Collective Bargaining Contract

Chad Gray, School Board President

Minutes:

Mr. Gray asked for public comment. No one was available to comment.

8.2 Ratification of the Agreement for the 2023-24 Collective Bargaining Contract

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

Minutes:

Mr. Smedley presented the Collective Bargaining agreement for board approval. He shared the CTA passed with a 98% approval. He was appreciative of everyone who participated to make this process smooth for everyone.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve the agreement. Mrs. Freeman seconded the motion.

Mrs. Freeman thanked the CTA. She understand as a former teacher how stressful this can be to serve and negotiate with administration, she has great admiration for the team. It was a long three days but she enjoyed being a part of the process and is happy to come to an agreement.

Mrs. Walls shared her appreciation to Mrs. Freeman for serving on the committee this year representing the board. Mrs. Freeman incite as a former educator helped give a different teaching perspective to the team. Mr. Gray also share his appreciation to Mrs. Freeman for her time.

Motion carried 4-0

Attachments:

[2023-24 CollectiveBargainingAgreement - FINAL 1 .pdf](#)

8.3 Math Book Textbook

Dr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum

Minutes:

Dr. Shipley presented the Business Math textbook for purchase. The book was placed in the front office of the administration building. No one was signed in to review it. Dr. Shipley commented the cost of the book will be \$40. Dr. Shipley asked for approval to purchase the Business Math textbook.

Mrs. Walls made a motion to approve the purchase of the Business Math textbook. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

[Math Business Math purchase Sept 2023 - For Board 1 .pdf](#)

8.4 2023-24 School Improvement Plans

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

Minutes:

Mr. Smedley explained that every year each school is required to submit updated school improvement plan to the Indiana Department of Education. Prior to submitting the board must approve the plan. He introduced the principals to submit their plans to the board.

Dr. Edwards presented Fortville Elementary School plan. Dr. Edwards shared the three elementaries worked on their plan collaboratively. He highlighted a goal from this committee was based on state

ILearn assessment. The agreed goal was a 55% pass rate in 3rd grade, a 60% pass rate in 4th grade and a 65% pass rate in 5th grade in ELA. In math the goal was based on NWEA scores to increase to 73% of students reaching their mean score or better.

Mrs. Miller presented the McCordsville Elementary School plan. The committee focused on NWEA scores. The goal is for 70% of the students to meet their ELA scores from Fall to Spring testing dates.

Second area of growth identified is to increase instructional practices for teachers by evaluating effective teacher practices. The third goal was to establish appropriate level programs for individual achievement goals when data indicates intervention is needed.

Mr Turner presented Mt. Comfort Elementary School plan. First focus is on ILearn ELA passing rate to increase by 6% points this year. Second area of focus will be PLC at work orientation results on NWEA growth data. Goal is to have 70% of the students meet or exceed their projected RIT scores from fall to spring in reading.

Dr. Katz presented Mt Vernon Middle Schools plan. The area of growth focused on having 100% of certified teachers watch a colleague's instruction video, visit a classroom and observe instruction. The teachers will reflect and implement a practice in the classroom. This practice will allow for higher levels of learning during PLC data reviews. The second area of growth is to have 100% PLC teams ensure at least 80% of students master each Essential Learning as measured by the PLC team's common assessment.

Mrs. Tharp presented the Mt. Vernon High School plan. The first area of growth goal is to have 100% of teachers to observe another teacher, reflect on the observation and discuss with peers during the year. the second will be to have 100% of teacher to establish measurable essential learning goals with their PLC teams. The overall school-wide goal is for the work of the PLC teams to support school-side achievement goals to improve SAT scores in EBRW and math by 5% overall.

Mrs. Freeman asked how it is decided to chose the teachers to help set these goals. The principals explained that department chairs and other teachers which want to participate are included.

Mr. Smedley explained the accreditation process these plans have to go through to be approved for Highly Effective schools. He expressed his appreciate for the time the administrators and teachers have put into the plans. Mrs. Freeman expressed her appreciate as well.

Mrs. Freeman motioned to approve the school improvement plans as presented. Mrs. Walls seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

[2023-2024 MES HES Plan .pdf](#)
[2023-2024 MVHS HES Plan - Final.pdf](#)
[Fortville Elementary SIP Plan 2023-24.pdf](#)
[MCE HES Plan 2023-2024.pdf](#)
[2023-2024 MVMS HES SIP Plan FINAL.pdf](#)

8.5 Resolution Electing to Join the Public Employees' Retirement Fund as Administered by the Indiana Public Retirement System

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

Minutes:

Mr. Smedley presented information on the Resolution for an employee to join the Public Employees' Retirement Fund.

Mr. Edwards motioned to approve the Resolution. Mrs. Walls seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Attachments:

9 Board Member Reports

Chad Gray, School Board President

Fortville RDC - Mr. Tony May
Cumberland RDC - Mrs. Kellie Freeman
Hancock Co. RDC - Mr. Phil Edwards
McCordsville RDC - Mrs. Shannon Walls
MVEF - Mr. Chad Gray

Minutes:

Cumberland RDC - Mrs. Kellie Freeman reported there had not been a meeting since the last board meeting.
Hancock Co. RDC - Mr. Phil Edwards was not able to attend.
McCordsville RDC - Mrs. Shannon Walls reported the McCordsville RDC did their annual RDC presentation plan.
MVEF - Mr. Chad Gray shared the MVEF golf outing was a successful event. He appreciated the members that worked on the event.

10 Announcements

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

Minutes:

Dr. Parker shared information on the open interview event held for classified staff on August 29. There were fifteen people interviewed and five were hired from the event. The next open interview event will be mid to late November. Homecoming is this week and he invited everyone to the football game on Friday night. Dr. Parker announced the MVEF is holding at Bourbon, Bags and Bingo event on October 5. He reminded everyone fall break will be October 9-13. The administration building boardroom will be an election site from October 18-November 7.

11 Adjournment

Chad Gray, School Board President

Minutes:

Mr. Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Walls seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm.