

# Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees

**Mt. Vernon Board of School Trustees**  
Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center  
Monday, May 12, 2025  
7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Present:** Mrs. Maria Bond, Director of Community Relations; Mrs. Laura Durig, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Kellie Freeman, 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 President; Mr. Greg Elkins, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Chad Gray, School Board Member; Mrs. Carla Nugent, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Seth Hamilton, Directory of Technology; Mrs. Meghan Britt, School Board Member; Mrs. Stacy Nielsen, School Board Member

**Absent:** Mrs. Lisa Heitman, Finance Dept

## 1 Pledge of Allegiance (7:00 PM)

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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**Minutes:**

Mrs. Shannon Walls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2 Call to Order

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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**Minutes:**

Mrs. Shannon Walls called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

## 3 Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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**Minutes:**

Mrs. Freeman made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mrs. Britt seconded. Motion carried 5-0..

## 4 Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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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](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us)

Public comments at school board meetings are appreciated. Per Board Policy H225, public comments must be related to an agenda item. At times, it may be necessary to allow those who reside within the Corporation boundaries, who are parents/guardians of MVCSC students, and/or employees of MVCSC to speak before others.

Comments and concerns related to curriculum, methods of instruction, instructional materials, or Corporation

employees shall also be submitted in writing to the principal of the school and the Superintendent.

Those who wish to provide public comment on an agenda item shall sign in prior to the board meeting start time and provide their name, the organization represented (if any), and identify the agenda item to be addressed.

Time for public comments at school board meetings is limited to sixty (60) total minutes and three (3) minutes per individual.

**Minutes:**

No one was signed in to speak.

## 5 Reports

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

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### 5.1 Good News Report

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**Minutes:**

Mrs. Maria Bond gave the Good News Report

**School Accolades & Notable Activities**

[list content too large]

**Community Connections**

- Last week concluded this year's series of "Traveling Talks," where Dr. Parker travels once a semester to Fortville, Cumberland and McCordsville, offering a chance to share their thoughts, ask questions and connect.
- The 2025-2026 Ambassador Application is now open at [www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/Ambassadors](http://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/Ambassadors). Spaces are filling up so please encourage community members to apply.
- This is the time of year when all the schools have capstone events that bring in families, community members and all who support our students, including Pioneer Days, Wax Museum, Egg Drop, Kindy 500, T-Races, Spelling and Geography Bees, graduations for kindergarten, fifth grade, eighth grade and of course high school, PTO events, formal dances, prom, field days, and more.

**Attachments:**

[5-2025 Board Report 1 .pdf](#)

### 5.2 Special Recognition

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

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**Minutes:**

Dr. Parker introduced the new Ripple Award to honor individuals who go above and beyond to inspire, influence and lead within the school district. Dr. Parker presented Mr. Kern with the first "Ripple Award". Mr. Kern received this special recognition for his exceptional efforts in establishing and enhancing the new ESports program at the middle school, significantly enriching the student experience. He received grants from the Mt. Vernon Foundation and Ninestar. Mr Kern highlighted the success of the two teams that were formed and competed. Both team won the statewide club level tournament. Teams will advance to the varsity level next year. He shared how the program has fostered teamwork, competition and personal growth of the students involved.

## 6 Consent Agenda

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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### Minutes:

Ms. Walls shared the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Freeman made a motion to pass the consent agenda. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

### 6.1 Regular Session Minutes

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#### Attachments:

[4.14.25 Board Work Session Minutes.pdf](#)

[4.14.25 Board Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

[4.23.25 Executive Session Minutes.pdf](#)

[4.29.25 Board Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

### 6.2 Personnel Report

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#### Minutes:

#### **CERTIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Toni Powers, MVIS Essential Skills Teacher
- Stan Wilkison, Hancock County Career Center Contract Terms
- Samantha Tarapore, MVHS Social Studies Teacher
- Shiloh McFarland, MVMS 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher
- Andrea Arms, MVIS 5th Grade Teacher
- Casey Albright, MCE 4th Grade Teacher
- Charles Ehle, MCE 2nd Grade Teacher
- Rebecca Rhodes, MVIS Teacher
- Alexis Shelton, MVIS Behavior Teacher

#### **CERTIFIED RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENT**

- Elizabeth Jenkins, MCE Art Teacher (Retirement)
- Emily McMullen, FES Kindergarten Teacher
- Linda Steele, MVMS Resource Teacher
- Laura Knight, MVMS 7th Grade Math Teacher
- Camille Hull, MVMS 6th Grade Math Teacher
- Courtney Stroup, MVMS 8th Grade ELA Teacher
- Lindzy Lemmons, MVHS Spanish Teacher

#### **CERTIFIED CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT**

- Yesenia Avila-Gentry, MVMS Essential Skills Teacher to Resource Teacher
- Paula Day, MVMS ELA Intervention Teacher to MVIS Reading Specialist
- Amanda Hill, MVMS Math Intervention Teacher to MVIS Math Specialist
- Christine Young, MVMS 6th Grade Teacher to MVIS Librarian
- Jordan Gerbsch, MVHS ELA Teacher to MVHS Counselor
- Lisa Wright, MVIS 6th Grade Math Teacher to 7th Grade Math Teacher
- Dave Merica, MVCSC Assistant Director of Operations to MVIS 6th Grade Math Teacher

#### **CLASSIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Makayla Faulk, MVIS Instructional Assistant
- Luke Shelton, Temporary Summer Maintenance

- Alexis Shelton, Temporary Summer Maintenance
- Hannah Baldwin, Temporary Summer Maintenance
- Deborah Nyiransabimana, MVMS Custodian
- Tracey Hudson, MCE Temporary Custodian
- Alexis Shelton, Elementary SPED Temporary Intern
- Lisa Stone, MVCSC Food Service Sub
- Sherry Christensen, MVCSC Food Service Sub
- Sara Ross, MVCSC Food Service Sub
- Justin Delk, MCE Building Tech
- Jason Marye, Transportation Sub Bus Driver
- Justin Green, Admin P/T Building Tech

#### **CLASSIFIED CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT**

- Deborah Hargraves, Food Service Sub to MVHS Food Service Server
- Sherri Jenkins, Food Service Sub to MVIS Food Service Manager
- Stephanie Goff, MVIS High Intensity IA to MVMS High Intensity IA
- Leah Armstrong, MCE Food Service to MVIS Food Service Server
- Christie Jester, MVCSC Sub Bus Driver to Permanent Route Driver
- Cheryl Allison, MES Custodian to MVIS Custodian
- Gary Rowe, MVHS Custodian to MVIS Custodian
- Benjamin Miles, FES Custodian to MVIS
- Leann Worley, MCE P/T Custodian to MCE Full Time Custodian
- Deacon Stiff, Admin P/T Building Tech to MVIS Building Tech
- Sonjonyae Curry, MVMS Secretary to MVIS Treasurer

#### **CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS**

- Margret Stanfield, MVHS Treasurer/Attendance Secretary
- Marianny Vargas, MVMS Custodian
- Brian Decker, FES Custodian
- Jared LaFond, MVHS Permanent Building Substitute
- Svetlana Ledbetter, FES IA
- Grant Seach, FES Permanent Building Substitute
- Linda Harvey, MVCSC Transportation Driver
- Lisa Decker, MVCSC Custodian (Retirement)
- Maria Morales Perez, MVMS High Intensity IA
- Rachelle Wilkes, Food Service Sub
- Leann Worley, MCE P/T Food Service
- Andre` Williams, MVHS Color Guard IA
- Erin Walker, MVHS Custodian

#### **ECA RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Brandon Duerksen, MVHS Volunteer Football Coach
- Rodney Rivers, MVHS Freshman Assistant Football Coach (1/2 stipend)
- MVHS Dual Credit Staff 2024-25

#### **ECA RESIGNATIONS**

- Graham McMullen, MVHS Girl's Assistant Tennis Coach
- Bruce Kendall, MVHS Varsity Boys Cross Country Coach

#### **LEAVES**

- Jaime Wilson, MVHS Intermittent FMLA (March 2025 - March 2026)

- Mallory Grogran, MVMS FMLA (August 31, 2025 - November 23, 2025)
- Sharon Peterson, MVHS FMLA (May 6, 2025 - May 30, 2025)

**Attachments:**

[5.12.25 Personnel Report summary 2.pdf](#)  
[5.12.25 Personnel Report detail 2.pdf](#)

## 6.3 Claims

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**Attachments:**

[May 2025 Claims Docket.pdf](#)

## 6.4 Construction Claims

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**Attachments:**

[May 2025 Construction Claims.docx.pdf](#)

## 6.5 Construction Change Orders

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Jack Laurie Group - New Fortville Elementary (2)  
 Delaware Glass Inc. - New Fortville Elementary

**Attachments:**

[New Fortville Elementary - Jack Laurie Group .pdf](#)  
[New FES - Jack Laurie gym floor change orde.pdf](#)  
[Fortville Elementary - Security glazing CCD t.pdf](#)

## 6.6 Monthly Fund Transfers

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**Attachments:**

[April 2025 Monthly Transfers.docx.pdf](#)

## 6.7 Overnight Field Trip Request

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**Attachments:**

[Boys Soccer Overnight.pdf](#)  
[Girls Soccer Overnight.pdf](#)  
[Boys Basketball Overnight.pdf](#)  
[Girls Volleyball Overnight.pdf](#)  
[Girls Cross Country overnight.pdf](#)  
[Varsity Cheerleading.pdf](#)

## 6.8 Donation Approval

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**Minutes:**

Thank you to the Mt Vernon Athletic Boosters and Blaze 88 Foundation Inc. for their donation.

**Attachments:**

[Athletic Booster Donation.pdf](#)

[MVHS Trap Donation.pdf](#)

## 6.9 2025-2026 Cash Box Request

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**Attachments:**

[FES Cash Box Request.pdf](#)

[MVHS Cash Box Letter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[MVIS Cash Box Request.pdf](#)

[MVMS Cash Box 2025-2026.pdf](#)

[MVMS Cash Box Summer Request 2025-2026.pdf](#)

[MCE Cash Box Request.pdf](#)

[MES Cash Box Request.pdf](#)

## 7 Action Items

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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### 7.1 Body Safety and QPR for Students

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

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**Minutes:**

Mr. Smedley introduced Krista Weber and Kacie Grimm to present two important proposals aimed at enhancing student safety and well-being. The first proposal focuses on the district's QPR program, which provides state-referred suicide prevention training and includes implementing the QPR for Youth module at the high school level. This initiative will begin with select student groups next year, with plans to potentially expand to middle schools based on feedback and effectiveness. The second proposal involves a partnership with Zoe's Place, a child advocacy center specializing in forensic interviews for children who may have experienced abuse or neglect. Katie, the director of Zoe's Place, was present to answer questions. This collaboration will offer developmentally appropriate body safety presentations for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, meeting state requirements. For secondary students, customized video content tailored specifically to Mount Vernon will be developed with input from local administrators, school resource officers, and counselors. The initiative aims to create a continuum of care by connecting body safety education with Zoe's Place's support services.

Mrs. Nielsen made a motion to approve both proposals. Mrs. Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Attachments:**

[QPR for Youth Proposal.pdf](#)

[Body Safety Proposal.pdf](#)

### 7.2 Student Handbook Updates for 2025-26

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

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**Minutes:**

Mr. Smedley introduced Mr. Edwards from McCordsville Elementary to share the Elementary Handbook changes. The Elementary Handbook was updated with several key changes: the pre-arranged absences section was removed, and attendance language was revised to reflect the new policy

allowing 10 parent-verified absences. Food guidelines were updated by replacing “baked goods” with “food and treats” and consolidating candy and gum rules under a single heading. Health and safety policies were revised to remove outdated school hours and introduce new attendance notification procedures, with the first letter now sent after four absences. References to “dentist and doctor appointments” were broadened to “medical appointments.” Textbook rental fees were eliminated, clarifying fees only apply if materials are lost or damaged. Student insurance procedures were clarified, stating non-payment is considered opting out. Language about charging for extra lunch items was removed since students can purchase extras at all schools. New sections were added outlining field trip chaperone responsibilities, teacher/coach chaperone duties, and general guidelines for artificial intelligence use. Finally, the head covering policy was updated to require approval from a principal or staff member, with exceptions for religious reasons..

Mr. Clarkson, Mt Vernon Middle school shared the updates for the Middle School and new handbook for the Intermediate School. The Middle School Handbook underwent several updates, including the removal of sixth grade from the MS program and the introduction of a new behavior incentive system themed “Willy Wonka Gold,” featuring raffles and a golden marauder party for students with zero discipline issues. The behavior management table was clarified with an added column detailing discipline interventions for the current year. Field trip information was revised to provide general guidelines instead of specific itineraries, allowing for greater flexibility. Attendance policies and interventions were aligned with updated state laws and district practices to ensure consistency across schools. Dismissal times and transportation guidelines were standardized to match high school practices, including new rules prohibiting items in bus aisles. Technology use policies were enhanced based on stakeholder feedback and aligned across grade levels. Cafeteria policies were updated to ensure students without lunch money can still receive meals. Finally, athletic offerings were adjusted to limit boys’ and girls’ soccer to seventh and eighth grades, and extracurricular activity tables were updated to reflect current offerings.

Mrs. Tharp, High school principal shared the updates for the high school handbook. The High School Handbook was updated to clarify the technology acceptable use policy, including opt-out procedures, device repair responsibilities for those without protection plans, and policy timelines. Field trip guidelines were expanded to detail chaperone and teacher-coach responsibilities, especially for overnight trips. Food service policies and counseling department procedures were revised, with updated course handbook references. Changes were made to policies on class rank for the class of 2029, early graduation, and athletic eligibility, including new rules for online course additions requiring timely enrollment and completion benchmarks. Language was added specifying that Form 16 students are ineligible for extracurricular activities, and coaches may exclude students violating the drug and alcohol policy for the rest of the year. General guidelines for artificial intelligence use were also included.

Mrs. Nielsen made a motion to accept the handbooks updates. Mrs. Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Attachments:**

[Revision Notes to the MVMS Student Handbook 2025 - 2026.pdf](#)  
[MVMS Handbook 25-26.docx.pdf](#)  
[MVIS Handbook 25-26.docx.pdf](#)  
[Elementary Handbook changes for 25 26.pdf](#)  
[MVCSC Elementary Student Handbook 2025-2026.pdf](#)  
[Student Handbook Changes for the 2025-2026 school year 1 .pdf](#)  
[Virtual 2025-2026 MVHS Student Handbook - 5.12.25 1 .pdf](#)  
[2025-2026 MVHS Student Handbook - 5.12.25 1 .pdf](#)

## **7.3 Amendment of Mt Vernon High School Course Handbook**

Mr. Chris Smedley, Assistant Superintendent

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#### **Minutes:**

Mrs. Tharp shared the Course Handbook amendments that introduced a new dual credit English

course, "Introduction to Literature," and a "Preparing for College and Careers" course for the class of 2029 to meet state requirements. Virtual program guidelines were updated to allow students to switch between virtual and in-person learning at term start, requiring justification except for medical or case conference reasons. It was also clarified that the virtual student handbook incorporates the regular student handbook, but virtual students cannot participate in athletics or extracurricular activities, with the regular handbook serving as a reference for applicable policies.

Mr. Gray made a motion to accept the course MVHS handbook amendments. Mrs. Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Attachments:**

[UPDATED 2025-2026 Course Scheduling Handbook for Cohorts 2026 2027 2028.pdf](#)  
[UPDATED 2025-2026 Course Scheduling Handbook for Cohorts 2029 Beyond 1 .pdf](#)  
[2025-2026 Course Handbook Amendments May 2025 3 .pdf](#)

## 8 Board Member Reports

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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Fortville RDC - Mrs. Stacy Nielsen  
Cumberland RDC - Mrs. Kellie Freeman  
Hancock Co. RDC - Mr. Chad Gray  
McCordsville RDC - Mrs. Shannon Walls  
MVEF - Mrs. Meghan Britt

**Minutes:**

Fortville RDC - Mrs. Stacy Nielsen shared an executive session this month.  
Cumberland RDC - Mrs. Kellie Freeman stated there was no meeting  
Hancock Co. RDC - Mr. Chad Gray was unable to attend last week.  
McCordsville RDC - Mrs. Shannon Walls shared an update on the patch development project at 500 North in McCordsville, which is advancing to the town council for the final vote and is expected to be approved.  
MVEF - Mrs. Meghan Britt share the meeting will take place next month.

## 9 Announcements

Dr. Jack Parker, Superintendent

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**Minutes:**

Dr. Parker announced that the Fortville Elementary School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for May 15, with a staff open house starting from 3-5 p.m. and a community open house from 5-7 p.m. The last day of school will be May 29, followed by graduation on May 30. The next board meeting is set for June 16 and will include the Board Scholar Program at 5:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium, followed by the regular board meeting at 7 p.m. Mrs. Walls gave a special recognition to Jackson Guthrie, a young elementary student who regularly watches board meetings online and is an avid fan of Dr. Parker.

## 10 Adjournment

Mrs. Shannon Walls, School Board President

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**Minutes:**

Mrs. Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.  
Adjourned at 7:42pm