

MEETING OF THE
MONTPELIER BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

May 3, 2017
MINUTES

Minutes Approved: *May 31, 2017*

Present

Board: Bridget Asay, Becky Bowen, Michele Braun, Steve Hingtgen, Tina Muncy, Jim Murphy, Peter Sterling
Administration: Superintendent Brian Ricca, Principal Mike McRaith, Business Manager Grant Geisler, Director of Facilities Thom Wood
Student: Brynn Bushey
Public: Dona Bate, Stephen Beard, Cathy Butterfield, Sylvia Fagin, Hilary Goldblatt, Michelle Harper, Susan Koch, Russell Leete, Autumn Martinez, John Odum, Emma Paradis, James Plummer, Rebecca Plummer, Jill Remick, Eli Rosenberg, Stuart Russo-Savage, Nancy Sherman, Lara Slesar, Flor Diaz Smith, Sarah Squier, Nathan Suter, Anne Watson, and others
Absent: Omeed Fallahi

Item I – Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Bridget Asay.

Item II – Executive Session

- Motion for Approval for Executive Session for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and Employee Evaluation

Ms. Muncy moved that the Board find that discussing contract negotiations in open session would put the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Mr. Murphy seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:07 p.m.

- Motion to Move to Executive Session for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and Employee Evaluation

Ms. Muncy moved that the Board enter into Executive Session in accordance with 1 VSA §313 to discuss contract negotiations and an employee evaluation. Mr. Murphy seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:07 p.m. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to leave Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

Item III – Return to Open Session 7:15 p.m.

Item IV – Public Comment There was an extended public comment session in regard to the Beck Amendment which proposes to shift healthcare negotiations for all school employees to the state. Following public comment, Mr. Hingtgen introduced a “Board Resolution To Oppose Efforts in Vermont to Create a Statewide Teacher Health Care Contract” (copy attached) and moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, that the Board adopt said Resolution. Additional Board discussion ensued. Following discussion, Ms. Asay moved, seconded by Mrs. Braun, to amend the resolution to strike it and to say that the Board of School Commissioners urges the VSBA to advocate for an approach to healthcare that provides its teachers and school employees with high quality, affordable healthcare benefits and the resources needed to fund those benefits, and to advocate for collective bargaining rights of teachers, whether at the state or local level, in all of its interactions with the Legislature and the state. The motion to amend failed, the original motion passed, Ms. Bowen, Ms. Muncy and Messrs. Hingtgen, Murphy and Sterling voting in favor, Ms. Asay abstained and Chair Braun did not vote.

Item V – Consent Agenda

Superintendent Ricca requested the addition of an administrator's contract to the consent agenda.

- **Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2017 School Board Meeting**
- **Approval of Warrants for Payroll & Accounts Payable for May 12, 2017 (Limitations Policy 2.4)**
- **Approval of New Teacher Contracts (Limitations Policy 2.9)**
- **Approval of Resignations (Limitations Policy 2.9)**
- **Approval of Contract for Assistant Principal at Union Elementary School (Limitations Policy 2.7)**
- **Approval of Leave of Absence Request (Limitations Policy 2.2)**

Mr. Hingtgen moved, seconded by Ms. Bowen, to approve the consent agenda including minutes of the April 12, 2017 special meeting, Warrant 23 dated May 11, 2017 in the amount of \$574,787.40 the recommendation to offer teaching contracts to Rebakka Milles DiLauro (math/science – MSMS) and Lelia Evans (world language – MHS), the resignations of Cailin O'Hara, Erin Davey and Andrew Scott, a contract for the assistant principal position at Union Elementary School, and a teacher's leave of absence request. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Muncy requested that endorsement information be included with future hiring requests.

Item VI – Limitations Policy 2.4 – Financial Planning and Budgeting

- Proposed Bond Items for FY19, with Director of Facilities Thom Wood and Business Manager Grant Geisler

A written memo was provided (copy attached). Business Manager Geisler asked the Board to confirm a firm list of projects or, in the alternative, a firm number for a proposed bond. The MHS parking lot, UES playground, MHS bathroom and MHS auditorium projects were briefly discussed. Ms. Muncy questioned the Board's ability to approve a bond given the pending merger vote with Roxbury. Following further discussion, the majority support of the Board was to proceed with the \$6,000,000 figure.

Item VII – Governance Process Policy 4.0 – Governance Process

- First Reading of Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements Policy, with MHS Principal Mike McRaith

Ms. Asay requested that the words proficiency-based graduation requirements be used rather than the acronym PBGR. There was discussion about credits and procedures. Principal McRaith expressed support for the policy. The policy will be warned for adoption at the May 31, 2017 meeting.

Item VIII – Limitations Policy 2.6 – Asset Protection

- Review Superintendent's Report

A written report was provided and Superintendent Ricca noted changes from last year's report.

- Accept Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hingtgen moved, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to accept the report of the superintendent on limitations policy 2.6. Motion carried unanimously.

Item IX – Governance Process Policy 4.3 – Agenda Planning

- Discuss Agenda for 6/23/17 Board Retreat

Ms. Muncy requested clarification on meeting dates leading up to the summer retreat. The May 17th meeting date was rescheduled to May 31st due to lack of a quorum on the 17th. The retreat agenda discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Item X – Governance Process Policy 4.6 – Board Committee

- Update on MPS-Roxbury 706 Study Committee Work

Montpelier resident Michael Sherman expressed three concerns in regard to the potential merger with Roxbury – the grandfathering clause, transportation, and the need for a strong case detailing the benefits to Montpelier. When the time comes to put the matter to a vote, he urged the Board to put together a good publicity package – ensuring it goes to every medium possible – so everyone has an opportunity to know what they are voting on. Ms. Muncy advised of upcoming forums in Roxbury on June 5th and in Montpelier on June 6th.

Item XI – Adjourn

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.



Heather Michaud
Recorder