

Mohawk Valley School District #17

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING December 15, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Tristan Wright, President
Mr. Charles Chavez, Jr., Clerk
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Member
Mr. Julian Rinehart, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shanna Johnson
Mrs. Delia Salcido
Ms. Sarah Bell
Mrs. Ann Taylor
Mrs. Gina Richmond

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Mr. Tristan Wright called the Board Meeting to order at 5:00 pm

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- ❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tristan Wright

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- ❖ Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to adopt. Mr. Charlie Chavez seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ No comments.

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Matters about which the Board may engage in discussion but will take no action.

1. Administrator Reports

a) Enrollment Report

- Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Enrollment is not good
- ❖ The state of Arizona is down 50,000 students. These students are potentially dropping off the map to private schools, charter schools, and home schooling
- ❖ MVS is down 30 students from last year at this time

b) Budget Report

- Mrs. Johnson stated the following
 - ❖ Budget report will be given in Action Item #1

c) Academic Report

- Mrs. Johnson stated the following:
 - ❖ No Academic Report was given

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d) Bond Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Bond is moving along
- ❖ A conference call was held on December 2, 2020 between DLR, Arcadis, and MVS to review projects and approach to submitting projects to SFB
- ❖ Assessments are being developed and gathering proposals and estimates
- ❖ Possibly upload some projects to SFB next week
- ❖ Hope to have projects on SFB's January agenda, but more than likely it will go on the February agenda
- ❖ During this meeting a discussion was also held about the water plant and the best way to submit the BRG
- ❖ ESCO process is coming along. Mrs. Johnson shared a timeline
 - There was a MVS board work session held on December 10, 2020, Midstate presented their services
 - Midstate came on campus on December 14, 2020 to audit the campus
 - Review audit results and options the week of January 18, 2021
 - Possibly have a MVS study session February 1, 2021
 - Get MVS Governing Board's approval to proceed with proposed financing and/or projects on February 9, 2021
- ❖ Mrs. Johnson asked the board their thoughts on ESCO:
 - It was stated that because we are a small district it will be more difficult for them to find cost savings
 - It will be interesting to see what Midstate will come up with for energy cost savings
 - Curious about value of updates
 - They are trying to get a grasp on the solar we already have in place
 - They are held accountable for the savings
 - When Midstate finishes the audit, then the board's may decide how to move forward with financing and/or products
 - Mrs. Johnson is concerned about Midstate getting too fancy. She understands the control of some things but be wise without getting too technical
 - Midstate is trying to figure out the solar since no one knows anything about it
 - Mrs. Johnson mentioned that we need to consider a possible decline in enrollment if we are to borrow money
 - Mr. Jorajuria stated he did not think on how enrollment would affect all of this. We have to justify on enrollment and community change
- ❖ A flyer is going out to the community in a mass mailing this week

e) Water Plant Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Phase II of distribution lines was approved by ADEQ on December 7, 2020
- ❖ Four bids were submitted: Taylor Construction, Yuma Valley Contractors, MAC GC Electric and Walker River
- ❖ Bid tabulations were shared with the board. Taylor Construction came in as lowest bidder. Sternco still needs to review all bids before submitting their official IFC
- ❖ In the end this will be about a \$3 million dollar water plant
- ❖ Arcadis sent a quote in the amount of \$49,000 to be the project manager for the water plant
- ❖ There was a conference Zoom between Sternco, MVS, Lynne Ford, Bill Munch, DLR, and Arcadis on December 14, 2020 to discuss the components to upload to SFB and the strategy to submit
- ❖ Owner's Rep Allowance will be a separate item in the BRG package to SFB. This allows MVS to have more control in selection of representation and choice for a project manager
- ❖ WMIDD will be in a separate agreement with MVS and be a separate item in the BRG to SFB. The agreements include the electrical work and canal work

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- ❖ For procurement purposes, WMIDD will need to be approved by the board as a sole source
- ❖ Westech Spare Parts will be a separate item in the BRG to SFB. This will be added to the PO with Westech once approved by SFB. Three change orders have been presented to Westech: spare parts, extra control points, and uninterruptable power supply/surge protection. Westech could potentially be a sole source for this
- ❖ There is a question about insurance on the transport of the water container. Once it leaves Westech it becomes property of MVS. Careful research is being done about the insurance
- ❖ We have been in touch with The Trust to ensure it. Also have been in touch with Jason Frazier from Westech for further explanation
- ❖ The plant is scheduled to land about the same scheduled time

f) Maintenance Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:

- ❖ We are having septic issues and do not know what is going on
- ❖ The 300 building plumbing is backing up. Research is being done to see whether the cast iron plumbing has finally completely failed or if the septic is full

g) Return-to-School Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:

- ❖ Glad we closed when we did
- ❖ Sherry Fajardo was trained to do rapid testing. 25 tests have been given by her
- ❖ We have had two positive staff
- ❖ Two staff members are in quarantine due to positive family members
- ❖ Two young children from earlier last week tested positive
- ❖ We send home letters to parents and being very transparent for each case
- ❖ Mrs. Fajardo is in continual communication with YCHD as needed
- ❖ We fully implemented temperature checks and record every child's temperature
- ❖ Continue to do temperature checks for students coming for a safe place to learn
- ❖ To date we have not had any child with a temperature through this process except for the one incident at the beginning of the process
- ❖ This Thursday and Friday will be packet days and minimal zooming for students
- ❖ Students are doing pretty well with Distant Learning except for Jr. High. They have rebelled and are not participating.
- ❖ We had poor participation in the meal delivery on Wednesday. This is very concerning for reimbursement. We changed strategies this week for meal deliveries
- ❖ This has all been very stressful to the staff. They have shifted and worked as a team to make Distant Learning work
- ❖ After Wednesday, teachers will be working from home
- ❖ The COVID situation is wearing on people. The new and extra work load is becoming very tiring
- ❖ Ms. Salcido, Mrs. Fajardo, Mrs. Salcido and Mrs. Fox have taken the brunt of the extra work. Ms. Salcido has been great. She has been the point of contact with parents
- ❖ This is a crazy times to give students grades. Ongoing discussions are taking place to make decisions on the best to way to give grades with so many circumstances out of our control
- ❖ Leaving January open assuming we are not coming back until February
- ❖ Have a quick work session in January to confirm a decision to whether or not to have in person instruction

2. Governing Board Member Comments

- No Comments

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VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

These items are adoption of a routine nature and those that normally do not require deliberations on the part of the Governing Board. A board member may pull items, which will then be discussed and voted on separately.

1. Minutes

- a) Minutes of November 10, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes of December 4, 2020 – Regular Meeting

2. Expense Vouchers

c) Expense #15	\$29,595.32
d) Expense #16	\$ 3,743.00
e) Expense #17	\$ 6,472.61
f) Expense #18	\$45,806.42

3. Payroll Vouchers

g) P-10	\$42,610.93
h) P-11	\$48,737.91
i) P-12	\$41,681.74
j) P-12.1	\$19,279.40

4. Student Activity Reports

- k) November 2020
- l) Year-to-Date – 11/30/2020

5. Bank Account Reconciliations

- m) Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – November 2020

6. Gift and Donations

7. Other

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded. Motion carries.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Wright stated that before board members make a motion to approve the action item, board members would have the opportunity to discuss the action item and then make a motion

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve FY21 December 15th Revision

Mrs. Johnson stated that the budget is based on projections, current year funding. We planned for 132 ADM and for the budget revision ADM is only 120. When the budget was adopted it was \$1,397,943 and now the December revision is \$1,267,351. We have a deficit of \$130,592.

The funding sources to offset the deficit:

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- ESSR Grant of \$50,000. However, this grant was used in FY20. The money went mostly towards PPE
- ESG Grant of \$60,656.85. \$50,000 of this money went to staffing and benefits. \$9,075 went to technology
- Cafeteria Grant of \$5,216. Used for extra expenses to serve meals
- Early Literacy Grant of \$7,100. We did not know we were receiving this. It is still unclear what this is for. This is being researched.
- M&O Override of \$193,011 added to the budget

Mrs. Johnson stated that the ESG Grant did not come through as Governor Ducey had promised. The state did not set aside enough funding to do as promised. Larger districts in the state are seeing major funding deficits, some as large as 2 million dollars. We were short in enrollment stability promised by \$70,000. Districts were promised so districts planned accordingly. It was not known until mid-November of the reduction in funds. Mrs. Johnson also stated that if we had not done the M&O Override we would be in an even worse situation. It is now time to speak out with a letter to Governor Ducey.

Mrs. Johnson stated that Prop 208 is already in the court system. She stated that there are questions about the ability of voters to approve and levy a tax and questions about the school district's ability to exceed their revenue control limits. If this goes it through it will be until July of 2022.

Now going forward, tough decisions need to be made about staffing. Mrs. Johnson stated she looks for a reduction in force for next year. Mr. Jorajuria asked when this planning will take place. Mrs. Johnson stated the discussion to make these decisions will need to begin sometime in March when budget planning begins. She stated we have to be careful and diligent on how this is done.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve the FY21 December 15th Revision. Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve COVID Stipend for Sherry Fajardo

Mrs. Johnson stated she is recommending a COVID stipend for Mrs. Fajardo. Mrs. Fajardo has gone above and beyond with her work and extra effort to know and understand the process for positive cases and consistency communicating with YCHD. In order to keep up, she takes work home on evenings and weekends. Mrs. Fajardo never complains. Her knowledge has been instrumental in our decision making.

Mr. Wright stated that this is much warranted.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve the COVID stipend for Mrs. Fajardo. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Long-Term Sub Contract for Emilia Ortega

Mrs. Johnson stated that a long-term sub can only be paid for 120 days. Ms. Ortega was paid as an aide and now she is being shifted to a long-term sub contract.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve long-term sub contract for Ms. Ortega. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve. Mr. Charlie Chavez seconded.

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4. Action to Adjourn the Regular Governing Board Meeting and Convene into Executive Session to Discuss the Superintendent Evaluation as per A.R.S. 38-431.A.1

Mr. Tristan Wright, President moved to enter into executive session Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38.431.03.A.1 to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation at 5:47 pm.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Superintendent Evaluation

Moved back into regular session at 6:30 pm for discussion and possible action to approve Superintendent Evaluation

Mr. Wright reiterated that Mrs. Johnson is doing a great job. He stated that it feels Mrs. Johnson has carried her entire career in the last 18 months. He thanked Mrs. Johnson for her service which is valued and appreciated. He stated that Mrs. Johnson does very satisfactory work. Mrs. Johnson stated she appreciates the honesty. She also stated that in the past the board has been more passive and now the new board is more active and inquisitive, she appreciates their willingness to serve. She stated that through the bond project we are all leaving a legacy behind that both scary and exciting.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she feels that the unsatisfactory and needs improvement marks on her evaluation are indicators of her character and work ethic. She feels that now we are working towards a better direction and looks forward to working as a team.

There was no further discussion.

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to approve Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

VIII. FUTURE ITEMS

- Mrs. Johnson at this time thanked Mr. Chavez for his four years of service on the board. This was Mr. Chavez's last board meeting
- Tentative Board Session – January 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm
- Regular Board Meeting – January 12, 2021
- New board members will be sworn in at the January meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Charlie Chavez made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Governing Board members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the District Office, 5151 South Avenue 39E, Roll, Arizona.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2020
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

Designated Board Member

Date

Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

Date