

Mohawk Valley School District #17

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING January 12, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Tristan Wright, President
Mr. Julian Rinehart, Vice-President
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Clerk
Mrs. Ann Taylor, Member
Mrs. Gina Richmond, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shanna Johnson
Mrs. Delia Salcido
Mrs. Sherry Fajardo
Ms. Sarah Bell
Ms. Kim Hand

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Mr. Tristan Wright called the Board Meeting to order at 4:48 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. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

IV. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS as per A.R.S. 15-321

- a) President
- b) Vice-President
- c) Clerk

- ❖ Mrs. Johnson stated that it has been a tradition at MVS to elect three officers, however, policy only requires the election of a President. She stated to the board that they could continue to elect three officers or change it. She also stated that even in the absence of the president, the vice-president does not automatically run the meetings.
- ❖ Mr. Wright stated they would like to continue the tradition and have three officers. He opened up the nominations.
- ❖ Mrs. Richmond nominated Mr. Wright for President. Mrs. Taylor seconded the nomination. Mr. Wright was the elected President. Mr. Jorajuria nominated Mr. Rinehart for Vice-President. Mrs. Richmond seconded the nomination. Mr. Rinehart was the elected Vice-President. Mr. Rinehart nominated Mr. Jorajuria for Clerk. Mrs. Richmond seconded the nomination. Mr. Jorajuria was the elected Clerk.

V. ACTION TO DESIGNATE CALENDAR YEAR 2021 CRITERIA FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD as per A.R.S. 15-321

- ❖ Mrs. Johnson stated that annually, per policy, the Board must set the date and time of the monthly meetings. It was stated that the date and time should not sway and remain the second Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Posting will remain the same.

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- ❖ Mr. Jorajuria made the motion to continue meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Mr. Julian seconded the motion.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

VI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ No comments.

VII. 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 at 131 students
- ❖ One student came back after on-line school did not work. On-line school is hard
- ❖ We have gained some students and have lost some
- ❖ Attendance with Distant Learning is a challenge and a roller coaster

b) Budget Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ New COVID-19 relief money from the Federal Government
- ❖ Governor Ducey's remarks are demoralizing and stressful. Not sure what power he has.
- ❖ Educators feel deflated
- ❖ COVID leave ended December 31, 2020. Under the newest CARES Act Funding, COVID leave does not extend for educators, but does for private business. Sick leave now needs to be used
- ❖ Relief money has been set aside for broadband, for nutrition, for private schools and for Title I
- ❖ MVS will receive \$30,000 in Results Based Funding. This money is linked to student performance. Since there are no AZMerit test results from last year, it is based on FY19 test scores. This money helps balance the budget. We received \$225 per student who performed in the top 27% of schools statewide as demonstrated by the average % of pupils who obtained a passing AZMerit score
- ❖ We received \$27,000 in FY20. The money was used to balance our budget by paying staff.

c) Academic Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Mrs. Tina Noble has been nominated as the Teacher of the Year for FY21. She is an outstanding teacher among great teachers
- ❖ Benchmark testing needs to be addressed. Need to decide if it will be virtual

d) Bond Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Arcadis has been a blessing
- ❖ We have been busy submitting BRG's to SFB
- ❖ BRG's for the Roof Assessments and Structural Analysis have been submitted, but did not make the January meeting
- ❖ Submitting Assessments to SFB:
 - Roof – permission to assess
 - Structural – pulled out. Goes to a 3rd party to assess for submittal
 - Weatherization – it is fascinating to see pictures. It is ready for submittal. Hopefully it will on SFB's March meeting
 - Alarm/PA Systems – We have reached out to Sternco for this piece. Letter of need is ready

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- ❖ The 300 building septic has failed. Arcadis and DLR are on it.
- ❖ Working on getting a new septic for the 300 building
- ❖ HVAC in Science Room has failed. Arcadis is working on this

e) Water Plant Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ Arcadis has been very helpful
- ❖ Ryan Dobson has helped with submitting to SFB
- ❖ We did not make the January SFB meeting. Hopefully we will be on the February meeting
- ❖ The first submittal was December 28th. It had to be redone several times because it was rejected several times. There are two budgets that need to match in order for it to not be rejected
- ❖ SFB portal is new and is taking many attempts to get the applications correct in their system
- ❖ Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Burns have been in contact with ADEQ to advocate for us with SFB. ADEQ directors will call SFB directors to press urgency
- ❖ MVS plans to contact SFB associate director to press making the February agenda
- ❖ SFB will not allow Sternco an additional \$24,000 in construction stating they already paid this in the \$97,000 first awarded. This has been pulled from the BRG. We need to make it right by Sternco. If SFB does not cover this amount, then it could either be paid through contingency or with MVS funds
- ❖ YVC questioned a “conflict of interest” with Taylor being awarded the bid. In 2018 Taylor Engineering wrote a preliminary analysis of our water situation. The report was referenced and placed in the construction bid documents. No one thinks there is a conflict of interest
- ❖ YVC sent the question of a “conflict of interest” to Sternco in an email and not a formal protest to MVS. MVS attorney is writing an “opinion letter” as a response to YVC stating that there is not a conflict of interest. It worked in our favor that it was sent to Sternco and not to MVS
- ❖ Lynne Ford is in contact with both YVC and Taylor to clarify the conflict questions. We have worked with both companies and both have been great to us
- ❖ So many agencies to communicate with on the water plant, takes Mrs. Johnson time and effort to keep everyone informed:
 - Mr. Burns
 - ADEQ
 - Arcadis
 - Lynne Ford
 - Bill Munch
 - Sternco
 - School Board
 - Attorney
 - Taylor

f) Maintenance Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:

- ❖ We are having septic issues:
 - Lines do not match up
 - Old cesspool
 - Arcadis on it
- ❖ HVAC in Science Room has failed. Arcadis is helping with this

g) Return-to-School Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:

- ❖ Discuss in Action Items

h) General Items

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- **Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:**
 - ❖ Mrs. Johnson proposed a work session for board members. Everyone can bring ideas to this meeting that can be discussed as a board
 - ❖ Board session can be before the February Board Meeting
 - ❖ Some of the items that can be discussed are:
 - Policies
 - Communication Protocols
 - Public input in meetings
 - Audience comments
 - Roberts Rules of Order
 - Use of cell phones during meetings
 - Dropbox. Need to be careful of who has access to board members computers
 - Setting up agendas
 - Open meeting laws
 - ❖ Learning the pieces of District Operation
 - ❖ “Teach” a new thing each month
 - Budget
 - Policies
 - Acronyms
 - Curriculum
 - Ect
 - Board members commented they liked this idea
 - ❖ Mrs. Johnson also mentioned goal setting each January
 - ❖ Mrs. Johnson offered the board members MBTI Assessments. Board members were interested in taking the assessment
 - ❖ Mrs. Taylor stated the board session is a good idea. Since she is a new board member she has many questions but does not want to bog down the regular meeting
 - ❖ ASBA’s BOLTS Seminar is January 29th and February 12th
 - ❖ She stated this is a new board with new perspectives
 - ❖ There are a lot of big rocks to overcome

2. Governing Board Member Comments

- No Comments

VIII. 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 December 15, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes of December 15, 2020 – Executive Session

2. Expense Vouchers

- c) Expense #19 \$11,216.93
- d) Expense #20 \$ 2,702.89

3. Payroll Vouchers

- e) P-13 \$47,389.43
- f) P-13.1 \$ 599.35
- g) P-14 \$46,116.39

4. Student Activity Reports

- h) December 2020
- i) Year-to-Date – 12/31/2020

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5. Bank Account Reconciliations

j) Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – December 2020

6. Other

k) Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – December 2020

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

IX. ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept \$17,760 from Yuma County to Offset Internet Expenses for Families

Mrs. Johnson stated that the County gave MVS \$17,760 to offset internet expenses for families. This money will be shared with 55 families. Nineteen families already have internet.

Mrs. Fajardo stated that families who already have Beamspeed will be able to switch to MVS account. Those families that do not have Beamspeed will be provided with a modem and a router. Beamspeed has been asked to have the setup done within the next two weeks. MVS will only be charged \$40 per family with the highest package. This offer will go through June 30, 2021.

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to accept \$17,760 from Yuma County to offset internet expenses for families. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mrs. Gina Richmond seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Delivery Method of Returning to In-Person Instruction

Mrs. Johnson stated she will attempt to show both sides, of Returning to In-Person or not.

- There is no easy answer
- We need to be careful and not play God
- Cannot please everyone
- Be careful comparing ourselves to others
- Whatever we decide we have to be a united team
- Maybe trying to make a decision too far in advance. It is almost as if this situation needs to be revisited every few weeks
- Working closely with YCHD
- Mrs. Fajardo has become very knowledgeable
- Proposing a bus route with a couple of stops to bring in high needs students and those that have internet issues to work in the library
- COVID Vaccinations are beginning to rollout to school staff in Yuma County
- We have 8-10 staff signed up to receive the vaccine this week. 8-10 more are willing once slots become available

Return to School things to consider as it is decided when to return:

- Have all three benchmarks in the moderate category for two consecutive weeks is weeks away, possibly into March or beyond
- Fixing one problem creates another – having students away from school is hard on students and families

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- In touch with YCHD with each case and other questions and verify correspondence with them through email
- We will be reaching out to families asking if anyone is positive or in quarantine, asking families to keep us informed

Mrs. Johnson's Recommendations:

- If at all possible, back in school January 25, 2021. Early February at the latest. But, only if the transmission in our community and among our staff and student families is declining or at least holding steady

Comments:

- Mr. Rinehart stated that his concern is that if we open up too soon, then close back down in two weeks, rather open and stay open
- Mr. Jorajuria stated he totally agrees with Mr. Rinehart's comment
- Mrs. Taylor stated she is torn. This is harming kids and is concerned about the teachers
- Mr. Wright stated he does not want to set up an opening date or like Mr. Rinehart stated, opening and closing
- Mrs. Johnson went over figures on the AZDHS website
- Mr. Jorajuria asked if anything has been read on predictions/projections as to when to open
- Mrs. Johnson stated that once we get through the New Year exposures and now vaccines are out, there should start to be a decline in cases. She also stated it will be a while before vaccines get out to the general public
- Mrs. Johnson stated that vaccines are being offered to educators
- Mr. Tristan stated that if a staff member declines the vaccine at least it has been offered to them
- Mrs. Johnson stated that she is asking to do a bus route for those students who need a safe place
- It was stated that it will be interesting to see benchmarks by area
- Mr. Jorajuria stated that it is hard to be brave when no other school is being brave, especially when a well-loved community members has passed
- Mrs. Taylor suggested revisiting in January or February. She stated things are trending down now that vaccines are available. She stated she feels comfortable opening up
- At this time discussion continued on whether to open up or not
- Mrs. Johnson stated that she is hearing from the discussion that we should stay closed for a while and revisit at a later date, either February 9th or have a special board meeting
- Mr. Wright stated that if there is a way we can stay productive and communicate with each other and be proactive to make some moves
- Mrs. Johnson stated she gets snagged as to how other schools in the County have remained open and been okay
- Mrs. Johnson stated we would revisit in February or maybe at the end of January. If necessary we may call a special board meeting
- Mrs. Richmond asked if a blood test were to be available would the same protocols be implemented

Final Decision:

- Remain closed
- Revisit on February 9th
- If things are better a special board meeting will be called if needed
- Implement bus route for a safe place for students. It will be controlled

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to remain closed, revisit on February 9th, if things get better, have a special board meeting and implement a bus route for a safe place for students. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mrs. Ann Taylor seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

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X. FUTURE ITEMS

- Work Session to lead into Board Meeting – February 9, 2021 at 5:00 pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Tristan Wright asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Ann Taylor made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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 15th day of January, 2021
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

Designated Board Member

Date

Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

Date