

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Garvin Library

November 6, 2019

Present:

Board Members: Angeline Alley, Paul Hazel, Allison Ingerson, Judy Murray, Kristen Murray, Julie Oliver, Wade Parker, Kelsey Root-Winchester

Student Rep: Devonte Gilmore, D J Nelson

Administration: Bruce Williams, Scott Blood, Dr. John Barone, Lori Blood

Members of the Public:

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair
- II. Those present were welcomed, and the agenda was reviewed.
 - A. Correspondence will be moved to earlier in the meeting
- III. Motion by Allison Ingerson, seconded by Paul Hazel to approve the Board minutes of October 2, 2019. Corrections: spelling of Devonte's name, Paul Hazel's name, and D J Nelson's name. Motion voted on and approved with corrections with one abstention (Wade Parker)
- IV. Eye on Education
 - A. Cape Cod Presentation
 1. Several seventh-grade students shared pictures and experiences that they had while on their field trip to Cape Cod this fall. Included in their trip was a visit to Plimoth Plantation, cranberry bogs, sand dunes, the JFK Museum, looking for horseshoe crabs, the Cape Cod potato chip factory, the Korean War memorial, and a pirate museum
 2. They shared historical facts about President John F. Kennedy and Cape Cod and interesting facts about horseshoe crabs, Water Ecosystems, Land Ecosystems, Provincetown, and Architecture (including the Nauset Lighthouse),
- V. Correspondence
 - A. Request from Madysen Harrington for early graduation
 - B. Thank you notes were shared from Donna Waelter and Julie Gandin for gas cards they were given in recognition of the number of years they have worked at BMU
 - C. Jodi Hart, Guidance Department Secretary, was congratulated on being the recipient of the Carolyn Donahue Friend of EOP Award at the VT Educational Opportunity Programs (VEOP) annual conference
 1. She was honored for working tirelessly to improve access to and success in higher education for low income and/or first-generation students and students with disabilities
- VI. Garden Project
 - A. Mallory Scahill, teacher in charge of the garden project, shared highlights from this season
 1. Student involvement in the garden, working during study hall and after school

- A. Ice breaker during first week of school
 - B. Students learning where their food comes from
 - 2. Mrs. Scahill shared comments from the students about the garden
 - 3. Future goals
 - A. Utilize the newly completed greenhouse
 - B. Increased involvement of classes utilizing the garden and greenhouse
 - C. Communication between garden and cafeteria
 - D. Possible partnership with the backpack program, send home fresh vegetables!
 - E. Student involvement in garden work
 - F. Integration between community and students
 - G. Keep better record of what we grow
 - H. Create curriculum for teachers to use for garden/greenhouse use
 - 4. Shared photos of the greenhouse, potting bench built by Todd Powers, and tables from Courtney Musty
 - 5. Thanks to custodians, cafeteria staff, community volunteers, Linda Ide, Todd Powers, Shyanne Allbee, Courtney Musty, Nancy Kane, student volunteers, and BMU School Board
 - 6. Board members expressed their appreciation to Mallory Scahill for her energy and organization
 - 7. The Board complimented the student art work on display coordinating with the Cape Cod Trip
- VII. Infinite Campus
 - A. Still waiting the launch of the student portal
 - B. School nurse starting to use Infinite Campus, using beyond what we were doing with Alma, but it's a slow process
 - C. Data conversion was highly complicated
 - 1. Bruce Williams complimented BMU on the work they have done
 - D. Can store curricula and PLP's
 - E. Judy Murray thanked Nicole Bell at the SU for her responsiveness and her help in answering questions
- VIII. Public Participation—None
- IX. Budget Review
 - A. Lori Blood shared a first draft of the '20-'21 budget (see attachment)
 - 1. She explained sections of the summary and answered questions
 - 2. Will have second draft at the December meeting
- X. Log Yard Update
 - A. Met with lawyer and asked about appealing the decision, which approved the application from the log yard.
 - 1. By consensus, the Board has decided not to appeal further.
- XI. VSBA Update
 - 1. New Executive Director is Sue Ceglowski
 - 2. Judy Murray and Angeline Alley will attend the meeting tomorrow
- XII. OESU Update (Judy Murray)

- A. Thanked Dr. John Barone and Scott Blood for the excellent ALICE presentation.
 - 1. BMU is further ahead in their ALICE training
 - B. Regional ALICE training is being scheduled at BMU
 - C. Negotiations schedules are all set
 - D. Reviewed financials before and after Act 46
 - 1. No savings were realized
 - E. Infinite Campus was discussed.
 - F. Several model policies were adopted at the SU level, so they will filter down to the school level, keeping all the codes the same.
 - G. The SU will be moving July 1st to the Copeland Building with a 10-year lease
- XIII. Negotiations Update
- A. Mostly wordsmithing at the moment.
 - B. Waiting for hard numbers on what health care costs will be.
- XIV. Action Items
- A. Motion by Julie Oliver, seconded by Allison Ingerson to approve Madysen Harrington's request for early graduation. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- XV. Other Business
- XVI. A. Food Committee—need a discussion of universal lunches and the food service in general.
 - 1. A committee will be put together with students and staff and others.
 - 2. Devonte Gilmore was asked to gather thoughts from students.
 - 3. The regional director of Abbey Group is willing to come to talk with the committee to tell what a private food service looks like.
 - 4. Angeline Alley would like to have a Board meeting November 20th focused totally on food service.
 - 5. Board members were asked to think of community members who might like to attend that meeting and/or serve on the committee.
 - 6. The Community Relations Committee will put out information, with guidance and approval of the administration.
- B. The Chair asked the Student Reps if they have any questions about how the Board does its meetings.
 - C. Paul Hazel asked about enrollment and class sizes now and projection for next year. He also asked for tuition figures for this year and projections for next year
 - D. Student ambassadors are going with Mrs. Blanchard to talk with students from other schools, who might be interested in attending BMU as tuition students
- XVII. Executive Session
- A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to move into Executive Session at 7:33 PM pursuant to VSA Sec. 313 (a) (1) contracts, the premature dissemination of which may place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:59
- XVIII. Setting the Next Agenda
- A. Tuition students, current and predicted
 - B. Class size, current and projected

C. Budget

1. Plan on two meetings a month until approved
2. Budget Timeline

D. Principals' Report

E. Report from new Guidance Director

XIX. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.