

MEETING: Blue Mountain School District

DATE: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Blue Mountain Union library

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

Administrators: Scott Blood, John Barone, Emilie Knisley, Lori Blood

BMU students: Trinity LaHaye, Davis Parker, Willow Schaffer, DJ Nelson, Devontae Gilmore

Public: Judy Colby

Call to Order

- A. Angeline called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda Review

No changes requested

Approval of Minutes for December 4, 2019

P. Hazel made a MOTION to approve the minutes of December 4, 2019. J. Oliver seconded. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Eye on Education

Trinity LaHaye (Johnson State), Davis Parker (Vermont Academy of Science & Technology), and Willow Schaffer (Lyndon, Northern VT Univ) presented to the Board their successful Early College experiences through the first half of the academic year.

- Time management is challenging, but they all feel prepared to enter freshman classes.
- Transferring credits should be okay when they complete this year.
- They will all walk with their class at graduation.
- They will give a similar presentation to the junior class, sharing their experiences.
- They meet with their BMU advisor once or twice a month.
- When asked what advice they would give to other students considering Early College:
 - All recommended joining clubs early to connect with people and help to stay on task with schoolwork.
 - Be prepared and think ahead about how you will complete the financial aid paperwork and time-consuming college application process (all are hoping to be moving on to different schools).
 - Stay connected with your senior class. They felt that they had missed out on many senior year activities.
 - All felt that raising awareness of the Early College option would increase the likelihood of students taking this route.

Correspondence, 6:18

None

OESU update, 6:18

Report from J. Murray:

- VSBA has been contracted to oversee the Superintendent evaluation.

- OESU will move their offices into the Copeland building in Bradford. Renovations to the space will begin in April 2020 for a July 2020 move in date.
- The Vermont Education Health Initiative's rates may go up 12.9%. This will be confirmed in 6-8 weeks.
- Several polices were approved, and several were tabled for further discussion.

VSBA update, 6:20

Judy could not attend the 1/8/2020 VSBA meeting, but she shared a summary of the meeting provided by a fellow Board member. Discussed at the meeting:

Healthcare bargaining

Legislative issues preview with Senator Philip Baruth

Strategic Plan monitoring report

Regional meeting scheduling

Act 173 Weighting Study that looks at per pupil cost structure and spending

Action items

Course restructure, 6:25

John Barone proposed to the Board that Senior Seminar be restructured to include "Life 101" skills: personal finances, civics, time management.

There was initial support amongst the Board; they would like to see a curriculum before voting.

- Administration will provide the Board with a proposed curriculum at the Feb or March Board meeting.

Budget review, 6:30

Lori Blood distributed the budget with assessment information now in place.

- E. Knisley said specifics regarding positions would be discussed in Executive Session due to confidentiality issues.
- Lori explained that Special Education numbers are based on new Average Daily Membership (ADM) numbers and other assessments are based on enrollment as of October 1.
- Science supply increase is due to the purchase of science kits needed with the new curriculum. Kits are replaced annually, however some costs will go down in future years since textbooks will not need to be purchased as regularly. Kits are \$1500-2000 each.
- F&P reading levels materials that are presently used up to 4th grade will now be used up to 6th grade, and the texts that are available to students will be increased.
- Contracted services for 5th grade science are a professional development expense.
- \$4500 is being added to the 4th grade tech equipment line, and not conference fees and travel.
- Reductions in Drivers Ed
- P. Hazel asked if the number of para educators is changing. Can this be itemized to know how many are in each department.
- Guidance will increase the number of college fairs so that middle and high schoolers have the opportunity to attend at least two per academic year. The increase includes transportation costs to the college fairs. There is no longer a VSAC grant to cover these expenses. Or, could BMU be a host site for college fairs?
- 104 line includes an early retirement.
- Special Education reimbursement numbers are better this year.
- Mentoring costs are related to the new model for training teachers.
- \$2300 for Guidance desks and chairs will be removed as an expense in the budget.

- The PA system needs updating and needs to be addressed.
- Transportation is up 4.5%. This includes the additional kindergarten bus for the first two weeks of school. Plus, there's a surcharge when the price of fuel increases

Public participation

None

Executive Session, 7:00**Contracts**

A MOTION to enter into Executive Session regarding contracts was made by P. Hazel and seconded by J. Murray. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Exited executive session, 8:05

A MOTION was made by K. Root-Winchester and seconded by S. Dennis to warn the 2020-2021 school budget at \$8,313,839. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Set the February agenda:

Climate survey

VSBA Legislative review

Eye on education: World Explorers presentation

Food service

CRC to set meeting re: communication with the public re: budget for Board review/approval

Adjournment, 8:30

Allison Ingerson made a MOTION to adjourn. S. Dennis seconded. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Briggs