

BMU School Board Meeting

Via Zoom

August 5, 2020

Present:

Board Members: Angeline Alley, Sara Dennis, Paul Hazel, Kristen Murray, Judy Murray, Allana Page, Allison Ingerson, Kelsey Root-Winchester, Sarah Sanders

Administration: Emilie Knisley, John Barone, Scott Blood

Others: Shamrah Despins, Coco Huang, Maggie Emerson and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair. The agenda was reviewed. It was agreed to switch items VI and VII, moving the Junior Board member candidates before the Principals' report.
- II. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to approve the Board minutes of July 13, 2020. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Sara Dennis)
- III. Correspondence—None
- IV. Guidance Report—Received in packet
 - A. The PSAT's will be given at BMU this year. All safety protocols will be in place.
- V. Junior Board member candidates
 - A. Each student, Shamrah Despins, Coco Huang, and Maggie Emerson, told a little about herself and why she would like to serve as a Junior Board member.
 - B. Board members elected Coco Huang to serve as Junior Board member.
 - C. The Chair thanked each student for coming tonight and for her interest in serving.
- VI. Principals' Report—Reopening
 - A. Board members raised questions and concerns, regarding issues including equity, enforcement of protocols, how do students learning remotely accompany the class outside, how students who show symptoms will be handled, substitute shortage and how will it be addressed, any other staff shortages, children who have allergies, house guests who have come from out of state, paperless health checks
 - B. John Barone and Scott Blood answered questions.
 1. They feel that they are starting the school year in a good place. The only opening remaining is long-term sub for a high school science teacher. They will be hiring two full time building based subs, who will be hired as support staff. One will be covering for the science teacher. As far as they know, all full-time staff are returning. Paul Hazel: asked about bus staff, cafeteria staff with extra duties, custodial. Angeline Alley: will discuss contracted hours in executive session. Emilie Knisley: Little Rivers will be helping with health care needs. John Barone and Scott Blood: all duties will be covered by current staff. Stressed the importance of communicating with parents. Masks will be required for students and staff. They will take a constructive approach rather than punitive approach. They will send home one mask for each student in a mailing. Extra disposable masks will be on hand. OESU is providing face shields

for specific staff. Kate Dunn is the COVID-19 coordinator. John Barone: virtual learning—asking students and staff to commit to one semester, but not limited to one semester. All students and staff will be doing virtual learning every Wednesday. Scott Blood: elementary grades—encouraging teachers to use menus to limit screen-time. Kelsey Root-Winchester: concerned about broadband issues in our district. Scott Blood: Asking kids to participate in direct instruction but do other learning activities off the screen. If a child is home and doesn't have adequate internet, he/she will be referred to EST to make accommodations. John Barone: Grades 7-12. On Wednesdays, up to 30 minutes will be allotted for direct instruction, then an activity to be done off screen and submit at end of the day. Teachers will be expected to monitor their classes, as well as teach students remotely. If student or teacher is home but able to participate, they are asked to attend classes remotely and teach remotely. John Barone: There are 8 tuition students right now in Gr. 9-12, who are coming to BMU. John Barone: encouraging teachers to take students outside. Working to boost the wireless signal. The teacher will take a laptop outside so can share lesson with students learning remotely. Scott Blood: realize there will be a bit of loss of instructional time, due to extra hand washing, etc. Need to be flexible. Emilie Knisley: balancing so many needs, such as public health needs and the need for students to be around other children. Challenge after challenge. Judy Murray: how much time will be spent on cleaning, etc? John Barone: when teachers enter the room, they have to wipe down the room, set up the room, take two sets of attendance, etc. Because the state has moved to proficiencies, the time requirements for various courses are not in place. Scott Blood: It will take the first several weeks to get routines in place. John Barone: classes will be differentiated for instruction. Each teacher needs to post lesson plans on line so Scott Blood and John Barone can view them. They need to be sure to include differentiation. Will be having trainings for the teachers. The protocols will be in the Staff Handbook. Kristen Murray: how will a delay in the start of school effect the required number of school days? Emilie Knisley: We are assuming we will have 170 days, but the Legislature will make that decision. Teachers and support staff will be coming in early for planning, training, setting up classrooms a certain way, concept maps, etc. Scott Blood: if a student shows symptoms of illness, he/she will go home, and the family will work with their PCP and with the Dept. of Health. John Barone: if a visitor comes into the home from a hot spot, the student would have to quarantine and learn remotely. John Barone: in packet going home, there will be a list of the questions that children must be asked each morning. Angeline Alley: how will the virtual parent meeting be handled? Board members offered to help monitor chat or perhaps have a moderator. Physical Education: will be outside as much as possible. No use of the gym in the elementary. If they need to be inside, the PE class will be in the home room classroom.

VII. OESU update—none

- VIII. VSBA Update
 - A. Held special meeting in July. Put Boards in charge of overseeing opening plans. With the work that J. Barone, S. Blood, and COVID committee have done, the Board has confidence in their decisions. The Board will have that as an agenda item for September meeting.
- IX. Public participation--None
- X. Negotiations Update—in Executive Session
- XI. Action Items—none
- XII. Executive Session—VSBA Sec. 313 (a) (1) contracts
 - A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to move into Executive Session at 7:30 PM
 - B. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:43 PM
- XIII. Action—None
- XIV. Other Business
 - A. CRC meeting—no need to meet, since the administration is having the in-person/virtual meeting on August 17th
 - B. Policy Committee—still working on BMU policies, but we will have this pared down by the end of the school year
 - C. Negotiations Committee—will be meeting August 10th
- XV. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Sara Dennis to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

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.