

## BMU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

December 2, 2020

Present:

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

Administration: Emily Knisley, John Barone, Scott Blood, Linda Metcalf, Tracy Puffer

Others: Kate Lester, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Coco Huang, and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair.
- II. Motion by Allana Page, seconded by Kristen Murray to approve the Board minutes of November 4, 2020. Correction: VII, A, 2: Insert "The aggregate total of 452 days is inclusive of extended FMLA leaves". Motion voted on and approved as amended with one abstention (Kelsey Root-Winchester)
  - A. Linda Metcalf, the new Business Manager, was welcomed. Each Board member introduced him/herself. Ms. Metcalf told a little about herself and her work history.
- III. Correspondence
  - A. Two letters of resignation have been received, one from Dena Baker and the other from Deb Dailey
- IV. Business Office Report
  - A. John Barone shared documents on the enrollment history. 427 students were enrolled at BMU at the end of last year. Now 380 students are enrolled. Emilie Knisley explained that the legislature put in some protections around drops in enrollment. There has been an increase in the number of students who are home schooling because of the pandemic.
    1. Dr. Barone also shared a document on staffing and class sizes. About 26% of the student body are served by Special Education. Currently there are 8 tuition students. 4 students are out of BMU on school choice, and 3 students from other school are attending BMU on school choice.
  - B. The first draft of the budget was shared. J. Barone noted that the leadership at BMU basically made the decision to level fund almost all the lines of the current budget when putting together the draft budget for next year. There were a few increases, but they tried to offset those by lowering other line items.
    1. E. Knisley: health insurance is bargained on a statewide level. Medical insurance will increase by 9.8%. Dental insurance doesn't expect any increase. Salaries are what have been bargained.

2. Linda Metcalf wants to review all salary items with J. Barone and S. Blood. J. Barone explained that they are anticipating a few staff members being shifted around for next year.
3. They need to replace the Driver's Ed car. The plan is to lease a car, and they will be working with Wells River Chevrolet.
4. The Social Studies and English Departments are advocating for keeping Broadcast Journalism, so those funds will stay in the budget.
5. The BMU leadership would like to include a budget line item to pay the fee for students to take the PSAT and SAT and to administer those at BMU. SAT prep can be offered through VSAC.

C. Angeline Alley suggested two Board meetings in January to work on the budget. Revenue figures will be coming in December, and until those are available, there isn't a lot more the Board can do.

1. E. Knisley: asked about the roof. A. Alley: is there still a capital reserve fund? There will be an update on the capital reserve fund at the next Board meeting and the balance in that fund.

V. Principals' Report—already included in the budget report

VI. OUSU Update

- A. Last night's meeting was canceled
- B. The Policy Committee met recently. Their work will be helpful as BMU policies are being considered.

VII. VSBA update—Judy Murray

- A. School districts up north are trying to get a weighting study implemented, which would be beneficial to BMU.

VIII. Action Items

A. Request for PE credit waiver from a High School Senior

1. Motion by Kristen Murray, seconded by Allana Page to waive the PE credit for senior student Ryan Gardner. Motion voted on and approved unanimously. Dr. Barone noted that the class schedule is so tight, it drives some of the waiver requests because they simply can't access the PE class.

B. Letters of resignation by Dena Baker and Deb Dailey. Motion by Judy Murray, seconded by Paul Hazel to act on the letters collectively and to accept the requests with regret. Motion voted on and approved unanimously. It was noted that Dena Baker has worked at BMU for 40 years, and Deb Dailey is a long-time employee at BMU, as well.

IX. Public Participation

A. Tracy Puffer: She and Neil Emerson have been planning for the possibility of not being able to have spectators at basketball games. They think they have basketball streaming all set to go with their Broadcast Journalism students so they can do it with three people. They hope to stream as many basketball games as possible.

X. Executive Session (Contracts)

A. Motion by Kristen Murray, seconded by Paul Hazel to enter Executive Session at 7:13 PM pursuant to VSA 313. (a) (1) to discuss Contracts, after making a specific finding that premature

general knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:31 PM.

XI. Action

A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristin Murray to deny the request of staff member X. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

XII. Other Business

A. Student representative Coco Huang wanted to make sure the Board knew the students were pleased with the sandwich bar.

B. Dr. Barone has reached out to some Seniors about serving as the Senior representative on the Board, and he has not had anyone respond.

C. The Board will have a retreat this year with all of the districts within the SU; this date is set for January 19, 2021, time TBD, and this will be remote. It will begin with Board training and then discuss Special Education, technology, and COVID

D. The Annual Report is a report that costs us roughly \$8,000. Angeline Alley discussed having a pamphlet designed to be a snapshot of the budget and to put additional information on the BMU website. This will be discussed further at the January meeting.

E. Kristen Murray stated that remote instruction seems to be going better this time around and wanted to give the teachers a shoutout for doing a great job! She also wanted to commend teachers for being able to keep up with assignments in Infinite Campus, and wanted to make sure that teachers are doing well mentally. She had heard rumblings from other districts in the state that the Governor might move schools back to stage 1. E. Knisley and J. Barone both stated that they have heard nothing in regard to this, at this time.

F. Allison Ingerson asked if we had a shortage of subs, as her two children didn't have subs in classes. J. Barone was unaware of this. A. Ingerson will email Dr. Barone as to which classes these might be, and he will look into it.

G. Kristen Murray also wanted to say that Brookelyn Dennis is doing a great job. Her child seems to be doing well.

XIII. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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.**