

BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL BOARD

Via Zoom

April 7, 2021

Present:

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

Administration: Bruce Williams, John Barone, Scott Blood

Others: Allyson Coburn, Coco Huang (Jr. Board Rep), Lindsay LaCoss

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Angeline Alley, Chair. The agenda was reviewed. Those present were welcomed.
- II. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kelsey Root-Winchester to approve the Board minutes of April 7, 2021. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- III. Marc Shauber—The Coalition for Vermont Student Equity (CVSTE)
 - A. Representing a group advocating for implementation of components of a student weighting study. Half of the students in VT have been underweighted. Funding has been less than what should have received for students from rural communities, ELL students, or communities with high poverty. This group wants to bring equity to every student in VT. So far, they have pushed the Senate to take up Bill S13 to form a task force to implement the components. The CVSTE feels these should be implemented instead of just forming a task force. The Coalition has hired a lobbyist to push this through the Legislature. They are trying to grow the Coalition. Mr. Shauber feels BMU would be a great candidate to join them. Based on 2020 numbers, BMU would see an increase of 39 equalized pupils. The CVSTE has drafted a resolution.
 1. The Chair suggested that this be an agenda item for the May Board meeting. Mr. Shauber offered to share the resolution and to attend the May meeting.
- IV. Correspondence:
 - A. Letters of resignation received from Mallory Scahill, Maeghan Warburton, and Beth Fraser.
- V. Principals' Report:
 - A. The winter local assessment report was postponed until the May Board meeting when Board members will have had a chance to see it.
 1. Allyson Coburn: The POA survey is given to Grades K-2 three times a year. All components except the Paragraph Write are administered 1:1, so the teachers can observe the student as he/she takes the assessment. A. Coburn suggested Board members spend time looking at the report and write down any questions to ask at the May meeting.
- VI. VSBA Update (Judy Murray)

A. The Universal meals effort has been tabled. The VSBA is hopeful that the Legislature heard concerns from School Boards and administrators. Pensions are still up in the air.

J. Murray asked if any Board members have any ideas for a resolution to submit.

VII. Food Service: There is a person who has expressed an interest in applying for Dena Baker's Food Service Director position next year.

VIII. Action Items:

A. Resignations:

1. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to accept the resignations of Mallory Scahill, Beth Fraser, and Maeghan Warburton with regret. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

2. Sara Sanders has resigned as Board member from Groton because she no longer lives in the district. Motion by Kristen Murray, seconded by Paul Hazel to accept her resignation with thanks for her service. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

B. Policies First Read

1. A1 Conflict of Interest

2. A20 Board Meetings, Agenda Prep, and Distribution

3. A21 Public Participation at Board Meetings

4. A22 Notice of Non-Discrimination

5. A23 Community Engagement and Vision

6. A24 Board Superintendent Relations

7. A 25 Delegation of Authority During State of Emergency

8. A30 Role and Adoption of School Board Policies

9. A31 Board Member Education

10. A32 Board Goal Setting and Evaluation

11. A33 School Visits by Board Members

12. A34 Board Relations with School Personnel

13. B1 Substitute Teachers

14. B2 Volunteers and Work Study Students

15. B3 Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace

16. B4 Drug and Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees

17. B5 Employee Harassment

18. B7 Tobacco Prohibition

19. B8 Electronic Communications Between Employees and Students

20. B20 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Background Check

21. B22 Complaints about Personnel and Instructional Materials

22. B30 Staffing and Job Description

23. B31 Educator Supervision and Evaluation

24. B32 Personnel Files

25. B33 Resignations

26. C1 Education Records

27. C2 Student Alcohol and Drugs

28. C3 Transportation

29. C4 Limited English Proficiency Students

30. C5 Firearms
31. C6 Participation of Home Study Students
32. C7 Student Attendance
33. C8 Pupil Privacy Rights
34. C9 Federal Child Nutrition Act Wellness Policy
35. C10 Prevention of Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying of Students
36. C10P Model Procedures on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying of Students
37. C11 Student Freedom of Expression
38. C12 Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX
39. C13 Homeless Students
40. C20 Student Conduct and Discipline
41. C21 Search and Seizure of Students by School Personnel
42. C22 Student Activities (Elementary)
43. C23 Student Clubs and Activities (Secondary)
44. C24 Interscholastic Sports
45. C25 Admission of Non-Resident Students
46. C27 Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature
47. C29 District Equity
48. C30 Student Medication
49. C31 Admission of Resident Students
50. C32 Eighteen-Year-Old Students
51. C33 Student Assessment
52. C34 Restraint and Seclusion
53. D1 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements
54. D3 Responsible Computer, Network, and Internet Use
55. D4 Title I Comparability Policy
56. D5 Animal Dissection
57. D6 Class Size Policy
58. D21 Educational Support Teams
59. D22 Modes of Instruction During State of Emergency
60. D31 Selecting Library Materials
61. D32 Selection of Instructional Materials
62. E1 Title I Parental Involvement Compacts
63. E20 Community Use of Facilities
64. E21 Distribution of Non-School Sponsored Literature in the Schools
65. E30 School Community Relations
66. E32 Visits by Parents, Community Members, or Media
67. F1 Travel Reimbursement
68. F1P Travel Expense Procedures
69. F30 Budgeting

C. Asst. Supt. Bruce Williams asked Board members to get any questions to either himself or Judy Murray. B. Williams had sent out a brief overview as to where we have been and where we are now. For the sake of consistency, all required policies by VSBA

have been thoroughly vetted, as well as all the recommended policies. The committees went through these very carefully and recommended these policies to the SU Board, most of which have been adopted. We need to ascertain which policies specific to a school district need to be retained. Supt. Knisley has volunteered to go through existing policies and recommend which BMU specific policies need to be retained. Paul Hazel suggested that the process should be carefully done and recommends another meeting before the Board votes. Kristen Murray: wondered if there was a matrix as to which policies are required and are model policies, which ones we already have, etc. B. Williams: There is an advantage to having commonly coded policies throughout the SU. The policies need to be adopted by BMU. B. Williams: recommends that BMU keeps its Policy Committee that meets every other month. They should also have a rep on the OESU Policy Board. B. Williams will gather all questions and get a matrix in everyone's hands a couple weeks before the next meeting. Judy Murray recommended that the BMU Policy Committee meet and then give their recommendation to the BMU Board.

IX. Public Participation

A. Lindsay LaCoss asked about the possibility of a full-time vs. a part time Preschool. Scott Blood said with the staffing we have, we offer ten hours per week to all Preschool students (3 and 4 year olds). L. LaCoss wants to access PreK for their daughter and feels there is a need for a full-time program to help families for whom there is a challenge with transportation for their child to the part-time PreK. S. Blood is receptive to more discussion on this. A. Alley: Is space an issue? S. Blood: It is more a staffing issue than a space issue. L. LaCoss will follow up with Mr. Blood. She feels there is a need in the community.

X. Executive 313 a. 1. c. Contracts.

A. Motion by Allana Ricker, seconded by Kelsey Root-Winchester to move into Executive Session at 6:48 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:00 PM

XI. Other Business

A. Angeline Alley: how did the lock-down go? Scott Blood: It was not a lockdown, but a lock out and clear the halls. Lock out allows us to keep students moving about as usual inside the building and for the administrators to monitor what is going on outside the building. VT State Police were going to be entering the building. Because the administration wanted to isolate the students and staff from that situation, they went into clear the halls. S. Blood: Was very pleased with how well students and staff did during the situation and pleased with the response of the VSP. We were able to get back to normalcy just before the students were ready to leave at noon.

1. A. Alley: In talking with staff, there was nothing but positive feedback. She is impressed with how calm everyone was and how they were able to handle an unplanned situation.
2. Kristen Murray: Her children felt safe and were clueless. The scanner is scary. As a parent, it was a nail-biting experience. Is it published on the website what the expectation for parents and caregivers is in these situations? Can we educate them so it can ease anxiety? S. Blood: He and J. Barone worked very hard on the timing of making an announcement. They had known for quite a

while that things were secure, but didn't want to jump too fast in making that announcement.

3. Kelsey Root-Winchester: How long was response time for VSP? S. Blood: 12-15 minutes.

B. Angeline Alley: Update on interviews. There have been lots of interviews for 1st and 2nd grade, HS Science, HS Math, PE, and HS English. Allison Ingerson has attended the PE interviews.

1. Kelsey Root-Winchester: Do we think COVID has been a driving force in the number of interviews? S. Blood: No, he doesn't think it has impacted the vacancies. He is concerned about next year and is afraid we will have more vacancies next year. A. Ingerson: what makes you think there will be more vacancies next year? John Barone: We are anticipating possibly 3-4 retirements next year. S. Blood: in conversations with teachers, those looking at retirement are trying to hold on one more year to help the kids get back to some normalcy.

2. Kristen Murray: Do you foresee in the future the possibility of considering contracting someone to teach from a remote location? It might open up some electives. We can harness the power of the pandemic and use it for good. J. Barone: OESU has had the conversation of not wanting remote to go away. Colleges and universities have been doing on-line courses for decades. Why are we not looking at that as an option for high school or middle school, even elementary? At least for high school, it is something we need to explore. K. Murray: Now we have some students, who have some experience with remote learning. Can we supplement some in-house staffing this way? How do we not lose momentum and lose the opportunity for next year? J. Barone: We cannot replace a current position, contract wise. We may experiment next year with advanced Spanish being offered at Oxbow as a hybrid model, with J. Barone teaching. Some high school and middle school students are doing better with remote learning. K. Murray: We can share resources with other schools in OESU or neighbors to the north.

C. Angeline Alley: Air Quality.

1. Daryl Sulham is working on it and has sent blueprints to Efficiency VT and CX Associates. They may or may not be coming during April break to see if we need upgrades. Hopefully there will be more information at the June meeting.

D. Allison Ingerson: Gave a huge shout out to BNN. One of her co-workers, who watched one of the middle school basketball games, said BMU is way above everyone else in their video work and announcing of the game! The co-worker also watched a game with students reporting and loved it!

1. School bus situation: A. Ingerson noted that the bus that goes by her house went by 15 minutes early one day and missed a lot of students. She is also concerned about issues with Mark's route. B. Williams: has a direct and strong working relationship with Krista at Butler Bus. Depending on the severity of the situation, there are possible sanctions allowed per the contract. A one-time incident might not warrant that. A. Ingerson: would rather in the future that

the bus would be late instead of early. B. Williams: encouraged anyone with a bus concern to contact him.

E. Kristen Murray: concerns with SBAC testing and rescheduling needed due to school being remote this week. Is there an announcement forthcoming? J. Barone: if we are back in person next week, we will assess as much 9th grade math and science as possible. Middle School has completed ELA, with exception of one task. The Elementary is not scheduled to start until after break. S. Blood: The testing window closes May 7th, but can move it back for the full month of May, if need be. J. Barone: as soon as we know when we're back in person, we will communicate information to families.

XII. Agenda for May meeting:

- A. Winter local assessment
- B. Second read of policies
- C. Climate survey from last year
- D. Air quality report if ready
- E. The Coalition for Vermont Student Equity
- F. Judy Murray: any plans for graduation?

1. A. Alley: whoever the advisor is will reach out. The Board isn't involved in making the plans. Probably we won't hear anything until June. J. Murray: hopes they do the tour again through the towns on graduation. J. Barone: The tour is on the docket, either on graduation day or the day before.

G. Hopefully there will be some hirings confirmed at the next meeting.

XIII. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 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.