

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

June 2, 2021

Present:

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

Administration: Emilie Knisley, John Barone

Others: Members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair
 - A. The agenda was reviewed. There will be no Climate Survey Review tonight. The Executive Session will follow immediately after approval of minutes. The Chair noted that committee assignments will be kept the same. Another Board member is still needed from Groton to take the place of Sara Sanders.
- II. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to approve the Board minutes of May 5, 2021. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
- III. Executive Session—contracts
 - A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to enter Executive Session at 6:03 PM pursuant to VSA 313 a. 1 (c) Contracts. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:27 PM. No Action taken
- IV. Financial Report
 - A. The Board had received a printed report. It was noted that we are trending to have a fairly healthy surplus. This is mostly due to COVID savings, since we haven't been able to provide some opportunities, and also because of Federal moneys received.
 - B. Judy Murray: Are things going well with the transition from one Business Manager to the other? Emilie Knisley: Yes, it's going just fine. She feels very comfortable. Lori Blood is still employed part-time.
- V. Correspondence
 - A. Letters of resignation have been received from James Nelson, Daryl Sulham, and Tracy Puffer.
- VI. Principal's Report
 - A. Judy Murray: With the hiring of a new high school math teacher, is there any hope for calculus? John Barone: No, it is not in the schedule. We did not receive permission from SNHU for calculus for next year.
 - B. J. Murray: What is planned for the last day of school for students? J. Barone: K-11 students will be in school, and there will be business as usual.
- VII. VSBA update
 - A. Education Lawsuits
 1. Cases in Maine and VT are looking at status/use distinctions. Important for school districts to make this distinction based on use. Look closely at any policy

related to religious schools. If tuition is billed, how will the school respond?
VSBA to ask AOE.

B. Legislative Update

1. H.439, the State's Budget Bill, has been referred to a Committee of Conference.
 - a. Section E.515—Retired teachers' pensions—out of both houses, and there will be a Task Force looking into impacts
 - b. Section B.1106--\$500K for air quality testing from the General Fund
 - c. Section E.709.1--\$4.5M in PCB testing
2. S.13—Pupil Weighting Factors Report Bill—sent to Governor to sign
3. S.100—Universal Meals Bill and H.106—Community Schools Bill (latest version contains provisions from S.100)—Task Force on Universal Lunch—draft report advocating for equity. Once complete will send to Legislature
4. H.426—School Facilities Bill—needs assessment on needs based on COVID-19. No monies for remediation—perhaps from ESSER funds?

VIII. Summer Schedule

A. There will be no Board meetings scheduled in July or August. The next meeting will be scheduled for September 1st. If something comes up in the meantime, we can have a special meeting.

IX. Action Items

A. Policies: Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Allana Page to adopt the following Policies. The motion was amended to table A30 Role and Adoption of School Board Policies and to remove it from to this list for now. The Policy committee would like the Board to weigh in on A30. They would also like to have policies, that are going to voted on, posted on the BMU website, to allow for public comment. Policy A30 will be considered again at the September meeting. Motion voted on and approved unanimously as amended.

1. B4 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees
2. B8 Electronic Communications between Employees and Students
3. C2 Student Drugs and Alcohol
4. C11 Student Freedom of Expression
5. C12 Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX
6. C13 Homeless Students
7. D1 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements
8. D4 Title One Comparability

B. Substitute pay rate

1. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to approve the substitute pay rate for 2022 as follows: Substitute and Para hourly rate \$14.29, Custodial and Food Service hourly rate \$13.50. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

C. Resignations

1. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kristen Murray to accept the resignations of Daryl Sulham, Tracy Puffer, and James Nelson with appreciation and regret. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

D. Received a student request for a waiver for .25 PE credit. Motion by Kristen Murray, seconded by Paul Hazel to grant the request. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

E. Motion by Allana Page, seconded by Kristen Murray to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Tax anticipation note. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

X. Public Participation—None

XI. Other Business: What are other districts are doing well, and what are we doing well so we can share between districts? A. Alley: This is a great OESU question that will be on the agenda at their next meeting. The discussion will be shared at the Board level.

A. Kelsey Root-Winchester asked if the September meeting will be in person? A. Alley: That information will be shared as the time draws nearer.

XII. Motion by Judy Murray, seconded by Paul Hazel to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 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.