

## BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Baldwin Library

November 3, 2021

Present:

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

Administration: Emilie Knisley, John Barone, Scott Blood

Others: Members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair
- II. The agenda was reviewed and approved
- III. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Judy Murray to approve the Board minutes of October 6, 2021. Motion voted on and approved with two abstentions (Kristen Murray and Kelsey Root-Winchester)
- IV. The Chair welcomed those present, and each Board member introduced him/herself and named the Town which they represent
- V. Executive Session VSA 313 (a.) (7) Student Records
  - A. Motion by Kelsey Root-Winchester, seconded by Paul Hazel to move into Executive Session at 6:02 PM pursuant to VSA 313. (a) (7) Student Records, 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. Accompanying the Board were Supt. Emilie Knisley and an attorney
  - B. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:41 PM
- VI. Action
  - A. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Allana Page to deny Parent X's request. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- VII. Principals' Report
  - A. The Board congratulated Jennifer Dube, who has been named BMU Teacher of the Year
  - B. Judy Murray: found the first session of Action Planning very valuable and informative. Judy Murray, Kristen Murray, and Kelsey Root-Winchester are community members/ Board members on the Action Planning Committee
  - C. Lunch numbers are amazing and are double from a year ago. K. Murray: is there any way to show a correlation between children eating better and doing better in school? Scott Blood: It was not that students weren't eating—they were bringing their own lunches.
- VIII. Guidance Report
  - A. J. Murray: Will we get any behavior data? A. Alley: That will be next month from the Dean of Students.
  - B. J. Murray: Had some concerns regarding the FAFSA night. There was not an explanation to go along with the slides. As a parent, she did not find it informative.

Guidance Director Dawn Blanchard didn't have responsibility over how the VSAC representative conducted the meeting. A. Alley: It was much more helpful a couple years ago.

C. A. Page: Are there other things going on in the Middle School in terms of guidance? J.

Barone: Not really. Time is the issue to be able to put into the Middle School what is needed. It is not getting the attention that it deserves.

IX. Athletic Report

A. J. Murray: Kudos to Athletic Director Todd Powers for his patience around the buses and the stress it entailed. Some games were cancelled because there was no bus available.

B. Emilie Knisley: Guidance is coming out regarding winter sports. She encouraged folks to go to the AOE website. There will be some uniform rules across the SU.

C. J. Murray: Is the \$18,000 for the field in this year's budget? S. Blood: That will be in next year's budget. J. Murray: Kudos to the boys' soccer team for their sportsmanship and school spirit in cheering on the girls.

X. Technology Report—no questions

XI. Butler Bus contract

A. The joint transportation contract between SU 23 and BMU is up. It does save money. The other option is to be part of the SU contract. Lori Blood and Linda Metcalf both looked at the contract and do not see any reason to go a different direction. K. Murray: What happened when we didn't have all buses running? A. Alley: There is a contract price. We never had an issue before when they couldn't get enough drivers to drive the buses. K. Murray: Wants clarity as to whether it an obligation for them to provide enough buses. E. Knisley: At this time, there is no penalty if not enough buses.

B. The assumption is that we want to continue with SU 23. The contract will be put out to bid

XII. 7/8 Choice Agreement

A. In elementary grades, the school choice is a 1:1 swap. In grades 7-8, up to 3 students can swap. Currently, BMU has a limit of 10 high school students that it will allow in, and 7 students from OHS are attending BMU at this time. In Elementary, it's hard to find two students that want to swap. Now, there is one student in 7-8 coming to BMU, and no one from BMU is going to Oxbow.

XIII. Board Member Replacement

A. When laws were changed with Act 46, if a Board member needs to be replaced, the School Board appoints someone until the next election. An ad will be put in the *Bridge Weekly* asking for anyone from Groton, who would be interested in serving on the Board, to contact the School Board.

XIV. Correspondence

A. Letter of retirement from Debbie Griggs.

XV. Action

A. Motion by Kelsey Root-Winchester, seconded by Allana Page to accept the letter of retirement from Debbie Griggs with regret and appreciation. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

B. School Choice: Currently we have a request from a student from Oxbow to come to BMU. Usually this is done in the spring to begin school in the fall. Paul Hazel: the most important consideration is if it's good for the student.

1. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Alison Ingerson to accept mid-year requests for school choice in Grades 7-12. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

XVI. Public Participation—none

XVII. Other Business

A. Facilities Director? This is an OESU matter

B. December agenda

1. Behavioral report

2. Will email new staff members, inviting them to attend, starting at 5:30. P. Hazel asked that a little background information be provided on each of the new staff members. K. Root-Winchester: Asked for a link to the BNN, who has done a short segment on some of the new staff members.

3. Will have a financial section, starting the budget process.

C. Starting negotiations again

D. The School Board meetings will be put back on the school calendar

E. The Board asked if the post cards could be reinstated

F. J. Murray: Asked if there could be a student presentation at an upcoming meeting

G. A. Alley: Says she has reached out to several teachers asking how we can support them and show they are appreciated. She suggested that it's important for the staff and students to see the Board at school or events.

H. A little over 400 students across the SU are doing surveillance testing, about 100 of whom are from BMU.

XVIII. Motion by Paul Hazel, seconded by Kelsey Root-Winchester 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.**