

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSITION BOARD (MVSD)
MEETING MINUTES
MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL LIBRARY
April 10, 2019
6:30 PM

Present: Transition Board members: Board Chairperson, Chris Shepard (Highgate), Board Clerk, Terri O'Shea (Swanton), Bob Berger (Franklin), Devin Bachelder, (Franklin), Steve Scott (Highgate), Denis Boucher (MVU), John Ho (MVU)

Others Present: Julie Regimbal, Superintendent of Schools, Lora McAllister, Business Manager, Becky Hart, Finance Manager, Tamara J Kelley, School Board Secretary Sub, and Channel 15/16 cameraperson. Community Members Meaghan Conly, Jim Sullivan

Call the Meeting to Order- Chris Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

Agenda Amendments- None at this time

Correspondence

Jay Denault requested that the board revisit adopting his articles of agreement. The board sought legal counsel. The boards' articles were already warned and can't legally be changed.

Public Comments- None at this time

Approval of the minutes

Denis Boucher made the April 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes with the rewording of Don Collins statement, seconded by Terri O'Shea. The motion passed 6-0.

Discussion: John Ho stated that the wording on page 4 from Don Collins of the April 3, 2019 needed revision. This will be revised and adjusted.

Fiscal- Review and Discuss Merged School District Budget

Terri O'Shea wanted to clear up the myth that Swanton is going to benefit from the merger, fiscally and in terms of control. The numbers do not support this and Swanton's taxes are going up, based on the cost per pupil. It's the impact of the spending for equalized pupil that will affect the tax rate. Lora's handout walks through the current year tax calculation. Julie rephrased that if you were to take these numbers and do a local budget for Franklin, the loss of equalized pupils would result in a higher tax rate on their own. Lora stated yes, but that you would have to look at both sides of

the equation. If you look at the property yield, it's projected to go up \$446 from last year, which helps the tax rate. The only variable from town to town is the common level appraisal. Everyone's CLA is going down, and right now Highgate is seeing the biggest difference. At this time, .01 on the tax rate is equal to \$192,000. Some of the things increasing the net ed spending are the step increase for teachers, health insurance increase and there are now two bond payments, one for MVU and one for Highgate and other general purpose proposed line increases. Lora also wanted to mention again, that losing Sheldon clearly has an impact when costs are divided up. Julie said that the hope in a merged budget is that it's going to smooth out the peaks and valleys, so that everyone is helping each other out and be a more stable system for tax payers. Julie asked the board for some direction for her, Lora and Becky. They still have things broken out by town, it's not necessarily how it will go to the new board, but they wanted to do it step by step. Lora and Becky have move everything, so they are in the same function and object codes. They tried to realign things that didn't match up, align expenses in the same function and object code in all the schools, it may not be completely fixed. It's hard to change a budget at a local level, and shifts can cause alarm. There was also too much money listed under ESL services, as it was duplicated so \$11,000 was removed. A new plowing expense line was added in and the repair and maintenance lines were consolidated. Put in a variance column and put Draft #2 on it. Lora reiterated that they were looking for direction on any next steps, looking for questions or ideas as to how the board would like it presented. Meaghan Conly asked if breaking the budget down could be done at the informational meeting. Julie went over the time line, May 1st is when the new board meets. This budget should be worked on and be as thoroughly done as possible, so the new board can adopt and warn the vote for June 4. The more prep done the better. Discussion and clarification over specific lines, but there are lines that still need to be reclassified and there will be a new chart of accounts. Went over the differences in lines and budgets from the different schools. Highlights has adopted a new math program and Swanton has two buildings to cover for nurses and library coverage. Lora said that there used to be a wide discrepancy with enrolment between Swanton and MVU. MVU currently has 838, Swanton currently has 611 enrolled. Highgate currently has 304 and Franklin has 142 enrolled.

Anticipated Executive Session

Where premature public knowledge would clearly place the Board or other party at a substantial disadvantage? Yes, the board needed to enter executive session for contracts.

Executive Session

Terri O'Shea made the motion to enter executive session to discuss contracts, seconded by Steve Scott. The motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri O'Shea, Board Clerk

Submitted by Tamara J Kelley, School Board Secretary