

Mountain Views Supervisory Union
and
Mountain Views School District

September 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

MVSU Conference Room
and
ZOOM video-conferencing

<https://wcsu-net.zoom.us/j/81635460391?pwd=VStuU210RElOMkdyWDVuKzZqbkJUQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 3546 0391
Passcode: 425798

Agenda

START THE ZOOM RECORDING

1. Call to order
2. Amendments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Reports:
 - a. Superintendent
 - b. Directors
 - c. Students
5. Time Scheduled Appointments
 - a. New Build Update
 - b. Approval of Construction Manager
 - c. Logo update
 - d. Accept Resignation
6. Committees
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Policy Committee
 - i. Adoption- Teaching and Learning
 - ii. Second Reading- Code F3: Fire and Emergency Preparedness
 - iii. First Reading-
 - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - d. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee
 - e. Working Groups
7. Approve Minutes
8. Public Comment
9. Executive Session- 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E)
10. Executive Session- 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(B)
11. Reflection
 - a. What did we do well?
 - b. What could we do better?
12. Adjourn

AGENDA ITEM #1**Call to Order****PURPOSE:**

To begin the meeting, the Chair will determine if a quorum is present, then call the meeting to order.

WHO:

Chair: "I call this meeting to order at _____ p.m."

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

AGENDA ITEM #2**Amendments to the Agenda****PURPOSE:**

To add or delete items to the agenda. This is the only point in the meeting the agenda may be amended.

Amendments added cannot include items that statutorily require a warning to the general public, and should not include items that have a significant impact that ethically should be warned to the public. **Amendments should be the exception, not the rule.**

NOTE: Reorganizing existing items on the agenda is not the same as amending it; items can be reorganized at any point in the meeting.

WHO:

Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes, **after** the amendments are announced or after it is determined that there are no amendments.

- "Motion to adopt the agenda." Requires a second and a vote.

PURPOSE:

All meetings of the body are meetings in the public, not of the public. Members of the public shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to express opinions, so long as order is maintained.

A public body is within its rights under Open Meeting Law to limit public comment to only those items listed on its meeting agenda. However, the WCSU/WCUUSD board feels this creates a barrier preventing the public from bringing to their attention issues that are of importance to them. Thus, the board chooses to be responsive to the needs and concerns of their communities by allowing opportunities for public comment beyond just those items listed on its agenda..

WHO:

Chair

- Comments by the public or members of the body **must be addressed to the Chair or to the body as a whole**, and not to any individual member of the body or public.

MOTION REQUIRED?

No

Board Rules:**→ Public in-person meetings:**

- ◆ Persons wishing to speak must place their name and town of residence on the sign-in sheet;
- ◆ person must be acknowledged by Chair before speaking;
- ◆ speaker stands and addresses Chair or board as a whole;
- ◆ time limit of two (2) minutes per person.

→ Digital meetings:

- ◆ [Digitally raise your hand](#),
- ◆ wait to be acknowledged by the Chair,
- ◆ clearly state your name and town of residence for the minutes,
- ◆ address the Chair or the board as a whole

- If a member of the public has already spoken on a topic, they may not be recognized again until others have first been given the opportunity to comment.
- Order and decorum shall be observed by all persons present at the meeting. Neither members of the body, nor the members of the public, shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting or interrupt or disturb any member while speaking. Members of the body and members of the public are prohibited from making personal, impertinent, threatening, or profane remarks.
- Members of the body and members of the public shall obey the orders of the chair or other presiding member.

From the Superintendent

On the Monday and Tuesday prior to the start of school, I was able to tour each of our campuses. Our Buildings and Grounds team did an excellent job of preparing our schools for the return of teachers and students. Teachers had well organized and tidy classrooms and the common spaces were squeaky clean. With all of the major projects that occurred across the district this summer and the unrelenting rain, this was no easy feat.

Opening day inservice for teachers and staff was a joyful event. Keri spoke about her usual lack of enthusiasm for school inservice days but also celebrating the hard work of our teachers and staff. School Leaders introduced the new members of our team, reviewed the faculty and staff "wins" from last year, shared a tool to examine our equity data concerns including economically disadvantaged students and behavioral reports for male students, and presented the professional goals for the Leadership Team. Finally, the group screened the movie the Right to Read and heard from a panel of our teachers of the impact of their literacy work on instructional practices and student outcomes in their classrooms.

I had the pleasure of bringing our two Student Board Representatives to the Diversity Symposium of Thought Leaders in Ithaca, New York. They presented our Critical Conversations Resource that was created by the students of Woodstock Union High School. More than 50 Superintendents, Principals and school leaders packed the room to hear from Aiden and Owen about this impressive work.

Establishing professional goals at the start of the school year is an annual opportunity to focus our work from the beginning of the school year. In addition to the [MVSU School Leader goals](#), mine include working with the Unified Arts team to investigate the impacts and opportunities of the new elementary schedules, facilitate the review of our Portrait of a Graduate and the completion of a new MVSU Strategic Plan, and to provide leadership in the realization of a new middle and high school facility. Each of these opportunities provide me the engagement with educators, students and the community that I need to stay excited about this position.

From the Director of Technology and Innovation

During the first 10 days of the school year each of our schools go through a process of cleaning up their enrollment records. Over the course of the summer some families move out of the district and fail to notify the school. At the start of the school year each school identifies students who are absent and reach out to their families. Students remain enrolled in our schools until we receive a records request from another school district, or they have 10 consecutive unexcused absences. This work is

critical to ensuring that we have accurate enrollment information when the student census period for ADM calculations begins on the 11th day of school.

Preliminary enrollment numbers suggest that our enrollment will be similar to or slightly less than our enrollment in September 2022. A more detailed enrollment report will be included in the October Board Book.

We are excited to have Tydus Percy join us as an IT Specialist. Tydus is a recent graduate of Windsor High School, and participated in the IT program at the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center last year. Tydus will be based out of the WUHSMS, but will be supporting all of our schools.

[From the Director of Student Support Services](#)

What an exciting start to the school year we have had with dedicated sessions to onboarding our special educators through partnership with district veterans. These sessions will continue throughout the school year and be designed in such a way to differentiate the supports needed for individual educators in their practice.

We welcomed many new educators with a wealth of experience, talents and interest areas that will pique the interest of and benefit our students in developing rich programming. Paraeducators from across the district met with myself, Amanda Rank as well as Jennifer Conrad and Linda Loprete from the Central Office to discuss payroll, benefits, timesheets, common practices, and other helpful information that they needed to get started on their work in the district this year.

[From the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#)

New Teacher Mentorship Program: The new teacher mentorship program is continuing in the 22-23 school year with A group of new educators partnered with veteran (to MVSU) teachers during the Base Camp event at TPVS in August. Thank you to the veteran educators willing to take on the important work of supporting our new educators, and welcome to our new district staff!

Launching the School Year/District Wide Inservice: Survey-based feedback on the district wide portions of our Fall Inservice Days showed 96% of faculty and staff felt welcome and 82% felt the morning provided a helpful direction setting for the school year. The most highly rated portions of the morning were the new staff introductions and the Right to Read Film showing.

Math and Literacy Job-Embedded PD Continues: PreK-4 LETRS, K-4 Math Pact, and 5-12 Literacy: September officially launched round 2 of job-embedded professional development. Teachers of reading and administrators in grades PreK-4 who weren't trained in LETRS will be engaging in 75 hours of learning around research-based reading instruction with Julie Brown and Kristen Hubbell. Teachers of math in grades PreK-4 who were trained in LETRS last year are engaging in 50 hours of learning around math instructional practices with Patty Kelly. And teachers of English in grades

5-12 will engage in 50 hours of learning around comprehension strategies for secondary students.

Teacher Tuition & Workshop Reimbursement: To date, 25 credit-bearing tuition reimbursement requests have been processed, totalling nearly 80 graduate credit hours. Additionally, \$4,600 of non-credit bearing professional development through external workshops, conferences, and classes have been accessed by our teachers this school year.

CIA on www.mtnview.org for Families: A public-facing page for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment is available on the district website (mtnviews.org → quick links → Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment in order to access the page). Here, families can read about district curriculum priorities and gain access to the state-mandated, publicly accessible district assessment calendar.

From the Student Representatives

Aidan:

Owen and I, along with Superintendent Sherry Sousa and Dr. Jen Stainton, represented the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board at a symposium in Ithaca, New York that took place on August 7 and 8. This symposium was created and hosted by superintendents from New York, including Ithaca Superintendent Luvelle Brown, who has worked with our district in the past. At this symposium, we presented our work around student voice in policy making, including the creation of our Student Manifesto/Critical Conversations Document. Our presentation was very successful, with an audience of over 50 administrators from around New York giving us constructive feedback that will help us as we take our next steps in this work.

Owen:

The Social Action Club at the high school underwent some significant turnover this fall with the departure of its advisor and co presidents. I've been talking with the club's new advisor, NuVu fellow Ben Johnson, about local next steps for our HSMS mascot (peer to peer education and interfacing with our school community on the issue).

Meeting with students from Ithaca and hearing keynote speeches on equity definitely provided some fresh framework on how that club can operate in the future. The HS student body is broadly definitely eager to have that mascot conversation and we plan on having it be a major facet of our leadership summit this October. We'll be bringing-on some speakers from the region and doing categorized breakout sessions regarding mascots, inclusivity and refining our manifesto on social action.

5.A.	New Build Update
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WHO:

Ben Ford, HSMS Working Group Chairperson, Sherry Sousa, Jim Fenn

PURPOSE:

Update board on design progress.

5.B.	Approval of Construction Manager
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WHO:

Ben Ford, HSMS Working Group Chairperson

PURPOSE:

Board approval of construction manager for proposed new middle/high school project.

DETAIL:

Ed Rule 6471 requires that bid openings for Construction Managers: "Opening and evaluation of all bids for construction management, shall be conducted at a warned school board meeting." Bids are due by the close of the day on Thursday September 7, 2023. Jim will present the bids received this evening for evaluation and award.

MOTION REQUIRED:

Yes. Needs a second and a vote.

5.C.	Logo Update
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Due to the demands that come with the start of the new school year no further progress has been made regarding the logo.

Letter of Resignation

Catherine Costello
11 Linden Hill
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

August 16, 2023

Mountain Views Supervisory Union
Woodstock Elementary School
70 Amsden Way Woodstock, Vermont 05091
Attn: Sherry Sousa

Dear Ms. Sherry Sousa,

Please accept this as formal notice of my resignation from the position of Special Educator at Mountain Views Supervisory Union, effective immediately, making my last day of employment August 16, 2023.

After careful consideration, I have made the decision to resign. I am leaving in order to pursue another career opportunity that will help me in my personal and professional growth. Working for Mountain Views Supervisory Union has been a wonderful experience that has afforded me many valuable opportunities to learn and grow, and I am very grateful to have been part of this organization.

I will do all in my power to minimize any inconvenience caused to anyone at Mountain Views Supervisory Union by my resignation. I will complete the following:

- Send the paperwork to Deer Creek Associates for IaAu.
- Give my Calendar that is marked with important dates to Andrea Farrington, Program Assistant to PALS.

I wish you and Mountain Views Supervisory Union continued growth and success in the future.

Sincerely,



Catherine Costello, M.Ed.

Catherine Costello, M.Ed.

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the work of Committees and Working Groups.

WHO:

- A. Finance Committee Update
- B. Policy Committee Update
 - i. Adoption- [Teaching and Learning](#)
 - ii. Second Reading- Code F3 Fire and Emergency Preparedness
([markup draft](#)) and ([clean draft](#))
- C. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update
- D. Negotiations, Hiring, & Retention Committee Update
- E. Working Groups Update

Mountain Views Supervisory Union
 Mountain Views School District
 Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
 August 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
[Zoom recording](#)

Board Members Present:

Barnard:

Carin Park (virtual)

Bridgewater:

Lara Bowers
 Ryan Townsend

Killington:

Katie Reed (virtual)

Plymouth:

Elliot Rubin
 Josh Linton

Pittsfield:

Ray Rice (virtual)

Pomfret:

Bob Crean (virtual)
 Lydia Locke (virtual)

Reading:

Woodstock:

Keri Bristow
 Ben Ford
 John Williams
 Marianne Ralph
 Matt Stout (virtual)

Superintendent:

Director of Student Support Services: Shayna Kalnitsky (virtual)

Director of Instructional Technology:

Director of Finance and Operations: Jim Fenn

Director of Buildings and Grounds:

Director of Human Resources:

Principals/ Administration: Garon Smail (virtual), Brandon Hill (virtual)

Student Representatives:

Recording Secretary: Rayna Bishop (virtual)

1. Keri Bristow called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Amendments to the Agenda: None. Motion to approve the agenda: Ben Ford. Seconded: Josh Linton. All in favor.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Reports: The full written reports can be found in the [board book](#). A brief rundown of the Superintendent, Director of Curriculum, and Director of Instructional Technology reports was provided by Keri. The Director of Student Support Services delivered her report, and the Director of Finance and Operations discussed the happenings during his busy season.
5. Time Scheduled Discussion:
 - a. [2023/2024 Strategic Plan Goals](#): Jim shared the strategies that will be focused on during the upcoming school year.
 - b. [2023/2024 Board Work Plan](#): Keri discussed the board work plan, its purpose and how it's created.
 - c. [Mountain Views logos](#). Advanced Animations graphic designer Greg Crawford created some logo designs. The board discussed the logos presented; questions posed around how the logos appear in black and white. Keri asked Bob and Rayna to investigate the appearance of black and white, and to

- look at getting editable versions from Greg. Ben Ford motions that the board allow the use of the logos as needed while they are being refined. Seconded by Elliot Rubin. All in favor.
 - d. Prequalified Construction Managers: Ben and Jim discussed the purpose and the process. Motion by John Williams to send RFP to the three recommended firms. Seconded by Lara Bowers. All in favor.
 - e. Procurement Card Resolution: [p-Card presentation](#) by Jim. Ben Ford read aloud the resolution. Motion to pass the resolution by Ben Ford. Seconded by Josh Linton. All in favor.
6. Committees:
- a. Finance- The Finance Committee did not meet over the summer.
 - b. Policy-
 - i Adoption:
 - 1 Motion by Ben Ford to adopt the Search and Seizure policy. Seconded: John Williams. All in favor.
 - 2 Motion by Carin Park to approve the amendment (addition of the words “national origin” and one grammatical error fixed) to the EID policy. Seconded by Lara Bowers. All in favor.
 - ii Second Reading: Motion by Ben Ford to adopt the Teaching and Learning policy at the next meeting (September). Seconded: Marianne Ralph. All in favor.
 - iii First Reading: Motion by John Williams to have a second reading of the Fire and Emergency Preparedness policy at the next meeting. Seconded: Ryan Townsend. All in favor.
 - c. Buildings & Grounds- Matt Stout shared that the committee has not met. Jim shared an update on the flooded playing fields, and updated the board on summer projects.
 - d. Negotiations- no updates at this time.
 - e. MSHS Build- Ben Ford discussed the recent MSHS (New Build) Committee meeting and the progress they are making. Ben is working with the communications team on when community presentations will start.
 - f. Marianne Ralph discussed the recent PoG/Strategic Plan meeting.
7. Motion by Josh Linton to approve the minutes from June 5, 2023. Seconded: Marianne Ralph. All in favor. Motion by Ryan Townsend to approve the minutes from June 19, 2023. Seconded: Ben Ford. All in favor.
8. Public Comment: none.
9. Reflection: The board reflected on their meeting.
10. Motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Moved: Josh Linton. Seconded: Ryan Townsend. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #8	Public Comment 10 minutes
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PURPOSE:
To hear input, concerns, etc. from the attending public.

WHO:
Chair

MOTION REQUIRED?
No

Board Rules: Public sign-in sheet (when in-person meetings are resumed). Person stands and announces name; time limit of two (2) minutes per person.
 Digital meetings: Digitally raise your hand, wait to be acknowledged by the Chair, please [identify yourself for the record](#), then address the board.

WHO:

Chair calls for a member to make the motion.

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Motion required that states the statutory exemption from public session.

“Motion to enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E).”

Requires a second and a vote to enter the session.

For the record, Chair states any invitees to the executive session outside of board members.

Must exit session (no motion to exit, as motions cannot be made in an executive session), and a new motion made to enter the next executive session. Only one topic per executive session can be discussed.

WHO:

Chair calls for a member to make the motion.

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Motion required that states the statutory exemption from public session.:

“Motion to enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(B).”

Requires a second and a vote to enter the session.

For the record, Chair states any invitees to the executive session outside of board members.

AGENDA ITEM #11**Reflection****PURPOSE:**

This is a time to process board self-evaluation and implement recommendations for improvement.

WHO:

Full board

MOTION REQUIRED?

No.

AGENDA ITEM #12**Adjourn****PURPOSE:**

Ends the meeting

WHO:

Chair calls for a member to make the motion to adjourn and notes the time.

MOTION REQUIRED?

Yes. Needs a second and vote.