

VINALHAVEN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2020
MS Science Room
Warrant Signing: 6:00 PM Business Meeting 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Renee Jones, Rachel Noyes, Laura Lazaro, Alexandra McCarthy

Absent but observing via zoom: Caitlin Clapham

Members of Administration Team Present: Superintendent/Principal Tonya Arnold, Assistant Dean/Lead HS Teacher Bryan Feezor, Assistant Dean/Lead Elementary Teacher Blake Reidy, Tina Davidson

Member of the Public and Staff Present: Bianca Barroso, Kris Osgood, Samantha Thompson, Megan Day, Jessica Farrelly, Tim Farrelly, Dreyenn Osgood, Ingrid Stockman, Caleb Turner, Megan Grant, Justin Grant

1. Call to order by Chair Renee Jones at 6:28 pm
2. Action on minutes of January 15, 2020 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Motion A McCarthy/R Noyes/second (Vote passed 4-0-0)
3. Action on notes from Special Meeting January 29, 2020
Motion R Noyes/ A McCarthy second (Vote passed 4-0-0)
4. Adjustments to and Approval of the Agenda
Add as other review and acceptance of the Q2 Financials
Motion R Jones/ L Lazaro second (Vote passed 4-0-0)
5. Public Comment
Megan Day asked about logistics of class trip. Chaperone challenge was uncovered. Now finding a problem with airfare. Leaving Thursday instead of weekend would save significant funds so all students should purchase insurance for tickets. Only students who are on track for graduation to participate. Trip Advisors and Bryan will make sure all seniors are aware of this requirement.
6. Student Leadership Report
Presentation about the trip to Moncton, NB funded by the WIF grant. Many compliments from adults about how our students participated. Town hall style forum to discuss issues impacting lobster industry. First topic was production of lobster connected products, then about average size decreasing and quality.
Tim Farrelly reported both HS teams are headed to Augusta. Girls play Saturday and the boys play on Monday. Annual 3 on 3 tournament sign ups are beginning. Student of the Month assemblies have started up again.

A 3D printing competition is underway for March 7 and the goal is to make the most Maine related “thing”.

7. School Leaders Report

Blake reported the second K-5 assembly was very well attended. They worked out to the alphabet song, shared coding stories, shared what they learned about the flag, and the recycling club got their first message out. Ski trips 3 times this season for grades 4 and 5. March 3rd is a K-5 family literacy night. K-3 participated in Global play day last week. This is a way to support students learning to problem-solve with one another through unstructured activities.

Bryan shared that Jes Woods created a college preparation newsletter that will be going out to HS students. The staff created a kindness buck bucket, and will issue these bucks for acts of kindness caught in action. A random drawing will be added to the Student of the Month assembly, and all will get their names in the WIND.

Rearranging schedules to free Bryan up for more assistant principal time as Blake transitions out to her maternity leave.

8. New Business

Action item: Approval of chaperones for Senior Trip

Vote to approve Joe Martin and Elizabeth Martin as chaperones and Amy Lear and Craig Lear as alternate chaperones subject to appropriate background check clearances.

Motion A McCarthy/R Noyes second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Action item: Approval of spring coaches (if any)

Baseball Tom Anthony –for a 4th year

Baseball Assistant Ethan Anthony – for a 3rd year

Motion R Jones/ R Noyes second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Softball Doug Littlefield – for a 5th year

Softball Assistant Brooke Lebel

Motion R Jones/ A McCarthy second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Action item: Approval of appointments for stipend staff (None)

Action item: 2020-2021 School Calendar

DOE requires alignment with CTE which for 20-21 is starting after Labor Day and February/April Vacations

Honoring the history here, two calendars were shared; one with March two week break and one with Feb/April breaks.

March - 18-19 Attendance data chronically absent 24.67% Overall 6.91%

Feb/Apr - 17-18 Attendance data chronically absent 20.25% Overall 6.16%

School staff had been asked to weigh in on this before the meeting.

7 staff expressed desire for March break next year

6 staff expressed desire for Feb/April next year

2 staff expressed desire to start before labor day, and 4 said after Labor Day

2/3rds of the staff did not issue an opinion either way

A discussion of pros and cons of each was shared by members of the audience and the Board. The issue cited most often for the proponents of March break were cost and time for vacation given the difficulty travel poses for island residents and fisherman, but learning continuity and illness causing absenteeism were also considered. Each March year, our CTE students do not get a true break, as they have to go to each school every other day. For them, March break means every other day attendance at CTE and during Region 8's February and April break those students have to come to school here every other day. Review of attendance data for the two historical years at DOE level show higher absenteeism on March years than in the typical Feb/April break years.

Motion by A McCarthy to approve the version of the calendar that includes 2 week break in March next year L Lazaro second (Vote passed 3-1-0) subject to approval of the waiver by DOE.

Discussion and Information: 2020-2021 Budget development kick off

Discussion and Information: School leadership structure

At this point, idea generating conversations seem to indicate a majority of staff recognize the need for a full-time school level leader (Principal) focused on academic and evaluation leadership and another full-time equivalent for behavior and conflict mediation type support. The staff will have a facilitated discussion about structure, titles and job descriptions for school level administration on February 27th to finalize a proposal for the Board to consider on March 4th as part of the budget workshop.

9. Old Business

Action item: First read of new policies GCFC-R-VH Hiring Procedure-Stipends (Coaches GCFC-R-VH-1 and Advisors GCFC-R-VH-2)

Motion R Noyes/ R Jones second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Action item: Review and Approval of Coach & Advisor Job Descriptions
Approved with an added paragraph stating that the job description will be used by the evaluator to mark and provide feedback to the Coaches and Advisors.

Motion R Jones/ A McCarthy second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Action item: Facilities use fees and any update to policy KF

Approval of the Acceptance of Responsibility by School Employee for Community Use of Facilities form to be used in order to gain approval for activities/groups using the building Saturdays or Sundays.

Motion R Jones/ L Lazaro second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Table vote on fee schedule until March 18.

Discussion item: Review of adjusted budget timeline for publishing
Change from February 26 Budget Workshop to March 4

Action item: Affirm dates for next meeting based on timeline March 4 Budget Workshop, Regular Meeting March 18.

10. Superintendent Report

We held interviews and have filled the long term sub position due to Blake's maternity leave for the end of the year. Samantha Thompson is the successful candidate.

Our first Portrait of a Graduate meeting will be March 12 at the brown church. Budget building process is underway and we plan to have a first draft for you at the next meeting. March 4 will be the next meeting for budget workshop. Priority team has facilitated two sessions with the whole staff reviewing the survey data in depth. Our next session with staff will be focused on brainstorming solutions and coming together around action steps that the staff agree to pursue as a team. The priority team will also be working on how to communicate information from the survey and our work related to that to families and the community.

Special ed and middle school staff have embraced a new concept of a student support center that we plan to roll out after vacation. This would provide a break space and separate setting to get one-to-one support to reset and go back to class ready to participate fully.

11. Other – Review and acceptance of the Quarter 2 financials
Motion R Jones/ A McCarthy second (Vote passed 4-0-0)

12. Executive Session (1 MRSA, Sec 405(6)(A)) (none)

13. Adjournment 8:45 pm