

**MONTECITO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Board Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, special procedures were followed for the board meeting. The meeting was held in the lower courtyard of Building A where the second and third grade classrooms are located.

Board Present: Mrs. Kate Murphy, President, Mrs. Susannah Osley, Clerk, Mrs. Marilyn Bachman, Member, and Mr. Chad Chase, Member.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk, Member, participated through Zoom from 575 Live Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

Staff Present: Mr. Anthony Ranii, Superintendent, Ms. Virginia Alvarez, Chief Business Official, Dr. Nick Bruski, Principal, Mr. Rusty Ito, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Autumn Noe, Executive Assistant.

**Call to Order**

Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

There was no public comment on Closed Session Items.

**Closed Session**

Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy reported that the Board was going into Closed Session at 3:32 p.m.

Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent's Goals 2020-2021  
(Government Code Section 54957), Title: Superintendent

**Reconvene to Open Session**

**Report Out of Closed Session**

The Board reconvened to Open Session and Board President, Mrs. Kate Murphy reported that there was no action taken in Closed Session.

**Opening Business**

**Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

Mrs. Petra McPhee, Mrs. Shannon Shroeder, and Mrs. Paola Rodriguez spoke to the Board requesting an exception to the inter-district transfer policy to allow part-time employees children to enroll at Montecito Union School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Kate Murphy expressed gratitude to the instructional assistants for their work at Montecito Union School during the time of COVID-19 and the stressors it brings.

Mr. Jeff Linder spoke on behalf of the Montecito Teachers Association. They wanted to express their gratitude to the administration and the facilities teams in all that they do to support staff. He explained that there have been many accommodations made for the school year to be successful.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

## **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence reported.

## **Montecito Union School Foundation**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that Mrs. Tara Fergusson was unable to attend in person, but that she provided an update for him to read. He explained that there has been work performed at the Nature Lab with the completion of the low-lying tree house, a mobile chicken coop, and the purchase of a few chickens. He also reported that a contract has been signed with Wilson Environmental Contracting for landscape design services at the Nature Lab. They are also happy to report that fundraising has begun and that the Foundation will be featured in the Montecito Giving Book, which will be coming out in November for community members to learn about the possibilities of making donations towards Montecito Union School.

***Strategic Initiative #1A: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Design and implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support that provides intervention, enrichment, and differentiation to meet the diverse needs of ALL students.)***

### **Analysis of Enrollment: In-Person, Modified Distance Learning, and Independent Study**

Mr. Anthony Ranii gave the Board an update to the different types of learning that families had the option to choose. There are 375 students with 356 students attending in-person instruction, 7 students attending independent study, and 12 students attending modified distance learning. That makes the average class size of in-person instruction to 13.7 students per class. He also explained that since the start of school five students had returned to in-person instruction from modified distance learning and one student who started in-person had changed to modified distance learning and they are expecting three more students to move from modified distance learning to in-person.

Mr. Chad Chase inquired as to the timing of when other school districts will reopen. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk inquired as to the plans for the case managers if all students were to return to in-person learning. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the full-time case manager would remain in the position all year and the two part time case managers would focus more on their disciplinary subject.

***Strategic Initiative #1D: Academic Excellence and Whole-Child Success (Create a cycle of continuous growth, support, and reflection for our specialist and enrichment programs.)***

### **Physical Education During COVID-19**

Mr. Anthony Ranii spoke to the difficulty that physical education classes have posed for learning through Zoom. The students currently participate through Zoom and the lessened mobility wearing headphones and limited range of movement being attached to a laptop has posed challenges. The physical education teachers along with administration created a new plan to include grades 3-6 having one Zoom class a week and the second week they would participate in PE on the terraces with the instructor more than 10 feet away as to not mix cohorts. He explained that the plan in the coming weeks would be to determine if this change could apply to all 3-6 PE lessons or to lessons in K-2.

Mr. Anthony Ranii also requested direction from the Board as whether or not they would like to vote on these changes or to be informed of the changes being made. The Board continued to ask clarifying questions regarding student safety.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the physical education changes presented. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

The Board continued to discuss whether or not program changes would need to be brought to the board for a formal vote. The Board agreed that they would not need to vote on these changes and that the Superintendent could make modifications to the plan, however the Board would like to be informed of the changes.

***Strategic Initiative #4. Safe, Efficient Facilities (Improve the safety, efficiency, accessibility, and utility of our physical structures and grounds to support student learning. Ensure all structures are properly maintained. Develop and implement a vision for our adjacent property in keeping with our Strategic Plan.)***

**2020-2021 Safety Plan**

Mr. Anthony Ranii presented the 2020-2021 Safety Plan, written by Mr. Rusty Ito. Mr. Rusty Ito explained that the plan is comprehensive including emergency drills that have been planned differently due to COVID-19, but still occur within the cohorts.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk suggested adding the 911 phone number under the contacts section of the Sheriff's department.

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to approve the 2020-2021 Safety Plan. Mr. Peter van Duinwyk seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

***Strategic Initiative #5. Staff Support (Attract, retain, and support high-quality staff as an integral part of our success. Promote staff growth in all job categories through varied and differentiated professional development consistent with high standards of excellence. Nurture a culture of inclusiveness, wellness, and balance.)***

**Supporting Staff Wellness: WooHoo! Crew**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that a group of MUS staff have come together to create the WhooHoo! Crew. The group will promote wellness for staff with weekly mindfulness emails, good natured practical jokes, and you have been Booed kits. The group will meet monthly with new ideas of wellness and community for all staff.

***Strategic Initiative #6. Financial Sustainability (Ensure financial sustainability now and into the future through intentional spending and the building of reserves over time.)***

**Report: COVID-19 and the Budget**

Ms. Virginia Alvarez reported on the budget relating to expenses that have incurred due to COVID-19 safety precautions in order to bring students back to in person learning. She explained that in complying with the California Department of Health and the Santa Barbara Public Health Department guidelines, personal protective equipment had to be purchased, work spaces that are six feet apart had to be created, and implementation and increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting were put in place. For the creation of outdoor learning areas, shade, tents, and partitions had to be purchased and assembled. She explained that with the class size lowered, existing staff were re-assigned to classroom teachers, which resulted in still needing two additional teaching positions with the addition of four instructional assistants. She also reported that Montecito Union School District will receive monies from the CARES Act to cover expenses related to COVID-19. The total amount spent is about \$713,002 with expected allocation from the CARES Act in the amount of about \$217,000. She explained that \$496,002 will impact the General Fund, which does not include the cost of staff COVID-19 testing if it is not covered by insurance.

**Resolution #20/21-04: To Adopt the "Gann Limit"**

Ms. Virginia Alvarez explained that the Board approved the Gann Limit last month, however the Santa Barbara County Office of Education directed a revise resolution reflecting the increase in the limit due to the receipt of the one-time Restart Funds from last year.

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve Resolution #20/21-04: To Adopt the "Gann Limit". Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

## **Governance**

### **Approval of New, Amended, and Eliminated Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Board Bylaws**

Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that all of the policies presented have been vetted by the policy committee and that all of the changes proposed to the policies are in reference to new laws.

Mrs. Susannah Osley made the motion to approve the amended, and eliminated board policies, administrative regulations, and board bylaws. Mr. Chad Chase seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Anthony Ranii updated the Board on the progress of the window replacement project. He explained that the project has been slower in schedule due to the window company closing due to COVID-19 pandemic. The project is planned for a completion date of November 19<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the funding has been received for the fire alarm and window replacement projects. The ADA accessible ramp at the front steps has been installed and new plantings, the ceramic urns, and the steps being painted are all in process. He also reported that local Superintendents' have visited MUS for socially distanced tours in order to explain and show the protocols that have been put in place for students to return to in person learning. He also gave the Board an update to the work he has been doing towards learning more about valuing all people.

Mrs. Susannah Osley asked for clarification to the protocols of parent teacher conferences that are scheduled. Mr. Anthony Ranii explained that the administrative team had presented the Montecito Teachers' Association with three proposals. Mrs. Kate Murphy suggested a Superintendent Coffee to check in with parents.

### **Board Reports**

There were no reports given.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes - September 15, 2020
- Special Board Meeting Minutes - September 29, 2020
- Warrants (September 1, 2020 – October 15, 2020)
- Personnel Action Items
- Williams Uniform Complaints – Q3

Mr. Peter van Duinwyk made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

### **Closing Business**

#### **Suggested Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings and Board Business**

- Board Organizational Meeting Discussion

### **Board Evaluation of the Meeting**

The Board discussed using the new video camera for Mr. Peter van Duinwyk and the Board inquired as to projecting Peter's Zoom on a TV screen.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Chad Chase made the motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Marilyn Bachman seconded. Motion carried 5-0, members Bachman, Chase, Murphy, Osley, and van Duinwyk.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mrs. Susannah Osley  
Board of Trustees Clerk