

## Welcome to a meeting of your School Board



100% of students will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in post secondary education, careers, and life.

*... Making a Difference*

## **Organization of the School Board**

The Board consists of five citizens of the School District, residing in five director districts, each of whom is elected for a 4-year term. Each director is elected by and represents all citizens of the School District. Members, by choice, serve without pay. A president and vice president are elected annually, and the legislative representative is elected every two years. Student Advisors to the Board serve as a communication link with the student body.

## **Role of the School Board**

The Mount Vernon School Board is legally responsible to the state for the governance of the District. The Board conducts the business of the District at its regular and special meetings.

Responsibilities of the School Board include:

- Advocating on behalf of students and their education
- Establishing the School District's vision and mission
- Selecting and employing the Superintendent
- Determining the instructional program
- Approving and monitoring annual budgets
- Determining and providing for facility and equipment needs

## **School Board Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board are held in the various schools throughout the District and on zoom on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Meeting agendas are available in the Superintendent's Office at 124 East Lawrence Street or online at [www.mountvernonschools.org](http://www.mountvernonschools.org). Informal and special meetings, as well as work sessions, are also held throughout the year to give the Board the opportunity to consider a specific topic. Public notice is provided through the news media and on the District's web site ([www.mountvernonschools.org](http://www.mountvernonschools.org)).

All regular, informal, and special meetings are open to the public. The Board may choose to meet in executive session to discuss such matters as evaluating the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or reviewing the performance of a public employee, discussing the sale or purchase of property, and discussing possible litigation. Formal actions occur in public session.

## **Your Participation is Invited**

As an elected body, the School Board can best represent you when you make your interests and opinions known. The Board encourages you to become involved in school activities at the building level, citizens' advisory committees at the District level, and attendance at School Board meetings.

Visitors are welcome at Board meetings. If you know in advance that you would like to address the Board at a meeting, you may call the Superintendent's Office at 360-428-6181. Questions and concerns presented to the Board will typically be investigated and addressed by the Superintendent or his/her designee as soon after the meeting as possible.

In the interest of personal privacy and fairness, verbal comments during a School Board meeting regarding individual employees of the School District are not allowed. An executive session may be granted for consideration of such matters. Questions or comments concerning instructional practices or instructional materials should be directed to the Superintendent.



## Your Board of Directors



**Wendy Ragusa** was appointed to the Board in 2017 to complete a vacant term. Ragusa is the Development Coordinator for the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon. Wendy has served on the Mount Vernon Public Schools Foundation since 2008, has been very busy on parent committees, and has been an active member of the Citizens for Mount Vernon Schools. Wendy graduated from Mount Vernon High School. She and her husband, Roger, have two children, both of whom graduated from Mount Vernon High School.

*wragusa@mvsd320.org*



**Marissa Guerrero** was appointed to the Board in August 2022. Guerrero is a Bulldog alum. Soon after, she attended Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University, earning her Bachelor's degree in finance and accounting. She is an accountant at the Skagit County Treasurer's office, bringing to the board her understanding of the complexities of government budgeting and multiple fund accounts. Marissa and her husband have two children who are both students in the district. She has a long list of community service in Mount Vernon and is excited about continuing that service as a Mount Vernon School Board Director.

*mguerrero@mvsd320.org*



**Larry Otos** was appointed to the Board in 2012 to complete a vacant term. Otos was with the City of Mount Vernon Parks Department for 27 years, the last 22 as Director. He has a bachelor's degree from Western Washington University. Larry is very busy in the community and fills leadership roles in a number of philanthropic organizations. Larry and his wife, Lisa, have two boys, both of whom graduated from Mount Vernon High School.

*lotos@mvsd320.org*



**Jessica Samora** was appointed to the Board in 2019 to complete a vacant term. Samora is a longtime Skagit Valley resident. She is a Clinical Support Manager at Skagit Radiology and has years of experience in healthcare working directly with and advocating for the local community. Jessica and her husband, Ben, have three sons and a daughter, who have all graduated from Mount Vernon High School. Jessica has sat on various committees for the district and was PTA President during her children's education with the district.

*jsamora@mvsd320.org*



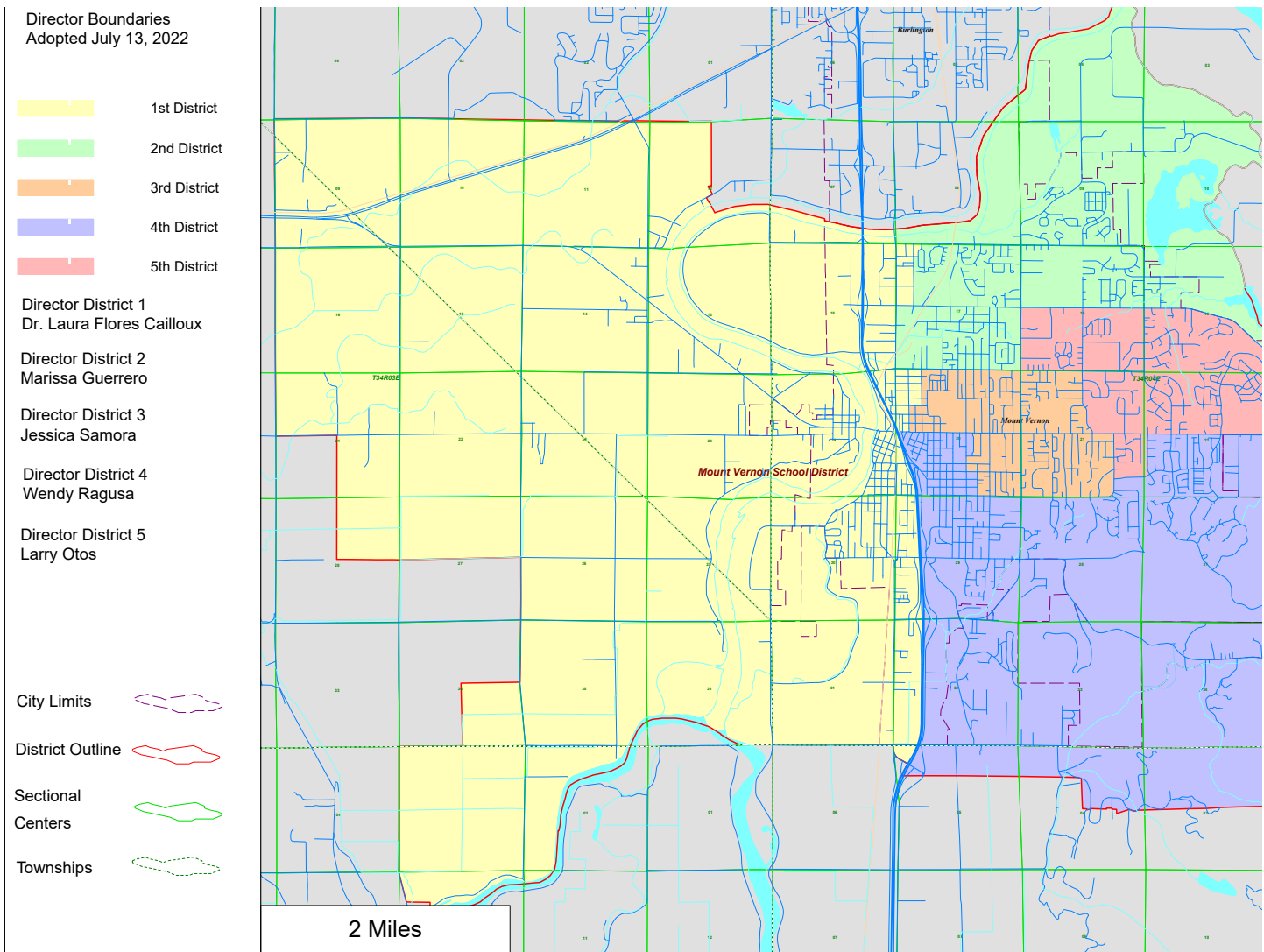
**Laura Flores Cailloux** previously served on the board from 2006 until 2011 when she stepped down to pursue a doctoral degree in educational leadership. After graduating from University of Washington in 2015, she was re-elected to the board in 2019. Dr. Cailloux has lived in Skagit County since 1997 and has held multiple administrative and faculty roles at Skagit Valley College. She currently teaches leadership, business, and adult basic education classes. She has served on multiple community boards including the Skagit Community Foundation, United Way, Economic Development Association, and the Skagit Family YMCA. Cailloux was instrumental in the development of Leadership Skagit, as well as the creation of the Latino Business Retention and Expansion program. Dr. Cailloux's daughter, Stella Ross, graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 2017.

*lcailloux@mvsd320.org*

# About the Mount Vernon School District

The Mount Vernon School District is a growing and diverse school district that serves over 6,700 students in grades kindergarten through 12 at six elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and two Choice Schools that serve K-12 and one Choice School that serves 9-12.

The mission of the Mount Vernon School District is to **expect, encourage, and facilitate** the pursuit of excellence and **life-long learning** in our students, equipping them for **future success and happiness**. The goal is 100% of students will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in post-secondary education, careers, and life.



MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320  
124 EAST LAWRENCE STREET, MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON 98273  
WWW.MOUNTVERNONSCHOOLS.ORG  
360-428-6110 FAX 360-428-6172