

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 02 09 2022

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant  
6 Superintendent, Tom Lecklider- Principal MVVS, Katharine Montalbano- MVVS Spanish  
7 Teacher, Christie Valihura- MVVS Art Teacher, Jacqueline Ward- MVVS Music Teacher,  
8 Patricia Garrity, MVVS Library/Technology Teacher, and Amy Simberg, MVVS Physical  
9 Education Teacher

10 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Secretary- Jessica Hickley, Kristen  
11 Clark, and Stephen O'Keefe.

12 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

13 Public: None

14 I. Call to Order

15 **Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, called the meeting to order**  
16 **at 5:30PM.**

17 II. Specialist Presentation

18 MVVS Principal, Mr. Tom Lecklider noted that they have a specialist presentation for the board  
19 and introduced Ms. Katharine Montalbano- MVVS Spanish Teacher, Ms. Christie Valihura-  
20 MVVS Art Teacher, Ms. Jacqueline Ward- MVVS Music Teacher, Ms. Patricia Garrity, MVVS  
21 Library/Technology Teacher, and Ms. Amy Simberg, Physical Education Teacher are here to  
22 present.

23 Ms. Montalbano reviewed her background. She explained that she is looking for the following:  
24 K-1- vocabulary acquisition, song based, short learning activities, Grade 2- building vocabulary,  
25 developing comprehension, and speaking in basic topics, Grade 3- begin asking and answering  
26 questions and Grades 4-6- develop confidence in speaking through cognates and high frequency  
27 verbs. When they are not learning about language they are learning about culture- different  
28 civilizations, travel to beautiful places, learning a different perspective/ compare and contrast to  
29 life in the US.

30 The board thanked Ms. Montalbano.

31 III. Discussion about the Public Hearing

32 Ms. Lawrence asked for thoughts on the Public Hearing.

33 Mr. O'Keefe noted that it is a minimal increase and relating to the public that they are cognizant  
34 about the community. The rest is presenting the budget.

35 Ms. Clark asked about the confluence with the Middle School Tuition Committee.

36 Ms. Lawrence responded that they did not have any feedback from that committee yet. She asked  
37 if the board wanted to speak.

38 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, noted that there are two things that you should do before the  
39 Public Hearing, first is to revise your default budget. The default calculation previously included  
40 a fuel cost increase that cannot be included in the default. Second, the \$15k removal for the new  
41 math program to be moved to ESSER III. The slide deck now assumes that you will do the  
42 change after the public hearing.

43 Mr. O'Keefe asked if they fund the math program successfully.

44 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, replied that they are feeling really confident  
45 about that and did get preliminary approval. They also get REAP funds that are the very flexible.

46 Mr. Steel noted that the new default is \$5,829,579. The proposed operating budget is \$5,888,250,  
47 the new proposed is \$5,873,250. The difference between the previous proposed and the new  
48 proposed is \$15k and then the proposed from the default change goes from \$58k to \$43k. They  
49 can present this slide deck and then discuss it during the presentation, or he can make that change  
50 right now.

51 Mr. O'Keefe suggested that they make the change right now.

52 Ms. Lawrence agreed.

53 Mr. Steel recommended that they make a motion for both.

54 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to change the proposed budget to \$5,873,250 Ms. Hinckley seconded**  
55 **the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

56 No discussion

57 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to modify the new default calculation to \$5,829,579. Ms. Hinckley**  
58 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

59 Mr. Steel explained that the fuel cap and bus transportation increases cannot be included in the  
60 default calculation the legislature changed the law a few years ago.

61 IV. Board to Recess for Public Hearing

62 **Ms. Lawrence recessed the meeting at 5:59PM for the Public Hearing.**

63 V. Board to Resume Meeting

64 **The Board resumed their meeting at 6:28PM after the Public Hearing.**

65 VI. Specialist Presentation

66 Ms. Patricia Garrity, MVVS Library Media Specialist, discussed some different activities that  
67 the students do such as an Hour of Code with Souhegan students, writing a story with Scratch Jr.

68 Digital citizenship is very important they talk about being respectful online, and there is balance  
69 with creative.

70 Presentation and research skills are other things that she teaches here. The assignment is given in  
71 the classroom, and they have sources that they know are good. The students give credit to their  
72 sources. She does review the websites for the students. They read the book *Restart*- Gordon  
73 Korman. They did the creepy carrot story and she showed it in their art class and gave it a voice.  
74 They also have a lot of Ozobot. They have a Bookopoly game promoting the love of reading,  
75 student focused active learning, tech integration and collaboration.

76 Ms. Christie Valihura, MVVS Art Teacher, introduced herself and noted that she will give the  
77 board a high-level overview of the Art Program. There is a lot of creative chaos going on in the  
78 art room and her goal is that artists are all confident makers always being safe and respectful in  
79 the room, those are the foundational goals. There are expectations on the board and when it is  
80 time to start creating, they are able to take ownership of their time and clean up at the end.

81 She showed examples of the students' artwork with family portraits. Communication is really  
82 important in every avenue in life, and there are many skills that you learn in a art room. They  
83 look at the process, evaluate those aspects. For grades 2 and 3 it is called Show and Share. For  
84 grades it is 4-6 group critique.

85 Ms. Amy Simberg, MVVS PE Teacher, commented that the students are having a great year and  
86 are constantly in motion. MVVS students experience a wide variety of activities that incorporate  
87 the skills and movement concepts from the movement wheel. Movement is medicine for creating  
88 change in a person's physical, emotional, and mental state. She is a firm believer in all aspects of  
89 wellness and building confidence.

90 With yoga, they did independent work and at they did a unit called Winter Wonderland.

91 Ms. Jacqueline Ward, MVVS Music Teacher, mentioned that she has more experiential content  
92 for tonight's presentation. She starts off with the students by using her singing voice, it gets their  
93 attention very quickly. She noted that her bulletin board has a QR code for a guided experiential  
94 imagery video. She demonstrated a class using music and motion. Her class includes  
95 improvisational singing, composing, self-regulation, and following directions.

96 Mr. Steel commented that he is impressed with the group, they are elevating the quality of these  
97 programs.

98 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, replied that they are so lucky to have this  
99 strong specialist team.

100 Principal Lecklider remarked that this team is very collaborative and are meeting the students'  
101 needs in a number of modalities.

102 Mr. O'Keefe mentioned that this is a passionate group. He thanked them for their time and all of  
103 their work. He inquired if anything surprised them about the students this year.

104 Ms. Montalbano replied that the challenge is weaving in the lesson with the right balance of fun.

105 Ms. Simberg noted that in February she will focus on the Kids Heart Challenge with lessons  
106 related to cardiovascular health. She would like to do a Field Day and wants to do a Red Sox  
107 opening day with a wiffle ball unit.

108 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the other resources Ms. Garrity has.

109 Ms. Garrity replied that she does work part time at the New Boston Town Library and works  
110 closely with the Mont Vernon Town Library. She has a lot of learning communities that she  
111 reaches out to and is a member of. It is a good collaboration. She enjoys working with the  
112 teachers

113 Mr. O'Keefe asked the teachers for a top ten wish list.

114 The Board thanked the teachers.

115 IV. Consent Agenda

116 Ms. Lawrence noted that they have two items on the consent agenda 1. December 2nd, 2021,  
117 Draft Minutes and 2. MVSD Dec. Facilities Update.

118 She asked the board if there were any questions.

119 Mr. O'Keefe asked for an update on the water situation.

120 Mr. O'Keefe asked for the septic system.

121 Mr. Steel replied that he will get back to the board.

122 **Ms. Hickley motioned to approve consent agenda items 1. December 2nd, 2021, Draft**  
123 **Minutes and 2. MVSD Dec. Facilities Update. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion. The vote**  
124 **was unanimous, motion passed.**

125 V. Principal's Report

126 MVVS Principal, Mr. Tom Lecklider, discussed that they had their Avenue of Lights, with  
127 thanks to the Fire Department and the Police Department, it was a good turnout.

128 As they look ahead, they are preparing for their NWEA assessment, it will happen the last week  
129 of January the beginning of February. Things are off to a good start. He has plans for spirit events  
130 and they will begin the discussion soon.

131 Ms. Lawrence asked about the Health Office support and how MVVS Nurse, Ms. Kim Deppen is  
132 doing.

133 Principal Lecklider replied that they continue to provide support, some of the office staff have  
134 helped out and it is a daily conversation. Not much has changed from last month, and it depends  
135 on the day. There have been some community members offer to assist and help. If she needs  
136 more time that is available, it is an ongoing challenge. In terms of staffing, it is manageable. The  
137 numbers have spiked as well, they were at 35 and are now at 20.

138 Ms. Lawrence asked how is the transition coming back into the classroom.

139 Principal Lecklider replied that it is a case-by-case basis, and it depends on the student. The  
 140 teachers have been flexible with working with the families. There is a lot of sensitivity to  
 141 transition students back in especially with the upper grades. The teachers have done a nice job  
 142 with being aware of that.

143 Mr. O’Keefe noted that in light of what is going on with 35 students are out, what are the steps  
 144 that they are taking to help the students socially and emotionally.

145 Principal Lecklider replied that a lot of the focus is on managing yourself and managing your  
 146 anxiety. It is a team effort and not just the counselors and the teachers are aware.

147 Mr. O’Keefe clarified that he was meaning about the social and emotional support for the  
 148 students that were remote last year with the amount of students that are absent due to covid.

149 Principal Lecklider explained that they touch base with kids and frame the day and springboard  
 150 into learning.

151 Ms. Landwehrle added that with the smaller class sizes kids know to bring up items during  
 152 morning meeting and will speak openly. School Counselor, Ms. Anna Girard, has built a strong  
 153 relationship with all of the teachers. Kids know that they can go to Ms. Girard for any concerns.  
 154 She has not seen a lot of what Mr. O’Keefe is concerned about and Ms. Girard is doing such a  
 155 great job. They will definitely keep an eye on it.

156 Mr. O’Keefe suggested that they mention it to the parents.

157 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about the final count for enrollment to build the tuition.

158 Ms. Landwehrle noted that she will get that to him.

159 The Board thanked Principal Lecklider.

160 VI. Policy BDD- Board Superintendent Relationship

161 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to approve Policy BDD as presented. Ms. Hinckley seconded the**  
 162 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

163 No discussion

164 VII. Deliberative Session Planning

165 Mr. O’Keefe asked if there were any actions for the board.

166 Mr. Steel replied that the board has to move the warrant articles to the Deliberative Session.

167 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to move Warrant Article #2 Operating Budget and Warrant Article**  
 168 **#3 Special Warrant Article, as presented, to the Deliberative Session. Ms. Hinckley**  
 169 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

170 VIII. Public Input

171 No Public Comment

172 VII. Non-Public Session

173 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91A:3 II (a) at 7:36PM. Ms.**  
174 **Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

175 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Clark- Yes, Hinckley- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes and Lawrence-**  
176 **Yes.**

177 Other Persons Present: Superintendent Steel, Assistant Superintendent Landwehrle and Principal  
178 Lecklider.

179 Description of matters discussed and final decisions made. Note: Any votes taken must be  
180 recorded “in such a manner that the vote of each member is ascertained and recorded”:

181 Discussion of staffing

182 VIII. Public Session Resumes

183 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to exit non-public session at 7:55PM. Ms. Clark seconded the**  
184 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

185 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Clark- Yes, Hinckley- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes and Lawrence-**  
186 **Yes.**

187 IX. Meeting Adjourned

188 **Ms. Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM.**

189

190