

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 04 07 2022

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, SAU #39 Business  
6 Administrator- Amy Facey, and Tom Lecklider- Principal MVVS.

7 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Peter Eckhoff,  
8 Secretary- Jessica Hickley, Kristen Clark, and Stephen O'Keefe.

9 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

10 Mont Vernon Middle School Study Committee: Chair- Peter King 36 Kendall Hill Road, Mont  
11 Vernon NH, Vice Chair- Dagmar Vlahos 17 Spring Hill Road, Mont Vernon, NH, Secretary-  
12 Autumn Grdina 5 Pinkham Avenue, Mont Vernon NH, Anne Dodd 36 Mason Road, Mont  
13 Vernon NH, Jennifer Heneberry, Craig Wiley (not in attendance), Andrew Stokinger 21 Grant  
14 Hill Road, Mont Vernon NH, Selectboard Representative (non-voting)-Howard Brown 2 Blood  
15 Road, Mont Vernon NH and Teachers Representative (non-voting)-Charline Brown.

16 Public: Kim Roberge, 35 Salisbury Road, Mont Vernon, NH,

17 I. Call to Order

18 **Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, called the meeting to order**  
19 **at 6:09PM.**

20 II. Public Input

21 No Public Comment

22 III. Consent Agenda

23 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to approve Consent Agenda items 1. January 13th, 2022, Draft**  
24 **Minutes, 2. January 13th, 2022, Draft Minutes- Public Hearing, and 3. MVSD January**  
25 **Facilities Update. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion**  
26 **passed.**

27 V. Principal's Report

28 Mont Vernon Village School Principal, Mr. Tom Lecklider, noted that they have had a lot  
29 happening at the village school over the last several weeks. He is going to start his Principal's  
30 Report as he does each month segmenting out the priorities of the year. Including the things, we  
31 are focused on and that would be personalization of learning, community, and social emotional  
32 learning (SEL).

33 He first wanted to start with a quick update on the kindergarten room. As you know we had a  
34 flood in that room a few weeks ago. SAU #39 Facilities Director, Mr. Roger Preston, board

35 members and himself were able to see the room prior to the meeting tonight. We have made a lot  
36 of progress. The room was unusable, we moved the kindergarten class over to the Art/Spanish  
37 room. Art and Spanish have been on a cart going into the homeroom classrooms since the flood.  
38 The bad news is that it did take the room out for these days and weeks. The good news is that we  
39 have amazing community rallying around a challenging situation. He has seen the Art and  
40 Spanish teachers flexing their instruction into the classrooms and staff are extremely supportive  
41 and accommodating. The new floor is going to be put in over the next few days, the painting is  
42 almost done, and the drywall has been completed. We are looking at a couple of weeks before  
43 the room can be used with students and then there will still be some woodwork that needs to be  
44 done over the following weeks. Progress is being made and it has been a rallying point for a  
45 number of our staff, and he has been very appreciative of that.

46 Mr. Lecklider continued, it is kindness month at the MVVS, and we have been SOARing as you  
47 know. The focus of this month has been the “O” in SOAR, others first. They now have what they  
48 call SOAR slips, where we catch kids doing something right. In this case it is kindness. If you  
49 have a chance to take a look at our bulletin board outside the office, we are forming the word  
50 SOAR out of the other first recognition over the last couple of weeks. This can be everything  
51 from holding a door to picking up trash, helping a teacher. They have also been able to recognize  
52 staff and it is a really positive thing for the climate and culture. We are not looking for students  
53 to ask for these recognitions but we want to catch them in the act so that has been fun.

54 Mr. Lecklider discussed Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Last month we did talk about our  
55 COVID numbers a little bit and a question was raised about what kind of caretaking and follow  
56 up we doing with students. Ms. Anna Girard, MVVS Counselor, did put some of that into her  
57 report this month. She is very deliberate about how she structures and delivers her classroom  
58 guidance. As you know there is a curriculum to that, but she really tailors it around things that  
59 are going on that are relevant to our students. Also, our classroom teachers have been doing  
60 check-ins during Morning Meeting. It has been very positive and individualized if there are  
61 conversations that need to happen. Kindness Month has brought a universal recognition around  
62 taking care of each other and around taking care of ourselves. There have been some things over  
63 the last few weeks that have been intentional and positive on the SEL front. This week is also  
64 Counseling Week, and they are giving recognition two their counselor and her work. she has put  
65 together a Spirit Week this week and that has been fun. It has been some fun spirit and pride  
66 things to bring to the school.

67 With personalization, they are at day 100 tomorrow, and we do a lot of midyear check-ins with  
68 students. We do that through our NWEA assessments, and we have just completed NWEA, and  
69 we will be having follow up conversations around data analysis and individual student growth.  
70 Our MTSS team, multi-tiered support team meets weekly as you know and the focus right now  
71 of our conversations are going to be around data analysis and looking at our individual student  
72 growth, interventions that may be now necessary or not necessary. We are also now piloting our  
73 individual student plans; we are at the infancy still of the actual pilot with students, but we are  
74 now moving that forward. He recognized Ms. Brown and Ms. Holm for their work specifically.

75 Last month, our Specialist team came and presented and out of that presentation we had a  
76 conversation around what are some of the specific needs of our specials. He met with them, and  
77 we are forming our top ten list that was requested. They are very pleased that was asked for and  
78 he will return to the board with more specifics around prioritization and costs related to those  
79 items. It was a very positive conversation, and they will have at least 10 items next month, thank  
80 you.

81 In terms of community, we have our PTA sponsoring carnation grams. They were on sale today  
82 at lunch and will be on sale tomorrow at lunch. Ms. Patricia Garrity, our School Librarian  
83 worked with the Town Library the last couple of days with students making paper houses. This  
84 will be for a community display that will happen very soon. He thanked the town librarians and  
85 Ms. Garrity we're working together on what was a fun experience and a fun day for our kids. He  
86 thanked the staff for a very productive late arrival yesterday. The focus on the late arrival  
87 yesterday was Critical Friend Groups (CFG). The purpose of Critical Friend Groups is really  
88 supporting each other around some of the challenges that we may have in our work and coming  
89 up with constructive solutions to some of those challenges. He sat in on both groups, one focused  
90 a lot on writing and there was a lot of positive conversation. One of our teachers had recently  
91 gone to a writing workshop and had usable strategies that she shared with our team. The second  
92 team discussed different management strategies, also really positive and productive  
93 conversations there. They are very busy at the MVVS, and things are going well.

94 Principal Lecklider finalized his comments with thanking the board.

95 Ms. Lawrence asked if the CFG is across grades.

96 Principal Lecklider replied that the groups are developed at the beginning of the year, it is a mix  
97 of grade levels and content. This is so it is a mixed lens, and it is not necessarily the people that  
98 you work with next door every single day. There is a lot of different skill in the room that can  
99 help support that. He meets with the grade level teams every week and we have conversations  
100 specifically around grade level needs. This is a different lens because it brings together different  
101 expertise, skill and in this case, someone had attended a training that was very relevant to the  
102 group. It is meaningful and relevant work.

103 Ms. Lawrence asked for additional comments.

104 Mr. O'Keefe asked about NWEA preparation

105 Principal Lecklider replied that the teachers go over test taking strategies. NWEA is an online  
106 test we want to make sure that they understand the tools and how the test is configured. We want  
107 it to reflect things that they are doing in their classroom on a regular basis. Teachers are aware of  
108 the nature of the questions. It is more about how to take a test and strategies and keeping students  
109 calm and not getting anxious. They are very deliberate around the setting of the test for some  
110 students and are working with counselors and teachers on what the best setup for each student  
111 would look like.

112 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about the top ten list that the board had requested from the Specialists. He  
113 suggested a Sponsor a Special to get community engagement.

114 Principal Lecklider replied that he met with the team, and we have the list. We are working to  
115 prioritize and put together a cost of some of those items. We want to make sure that the costs are  
116 accurate. He will come to the board in March with the actual specific cost of each item. They  
117 were very honored to be asked and felt very supported in that last meeting. Thank you very  
118 much.

119 Mr. O’Keefe asked about the extra-curricular activities and their attendance.

120 Principal Lecklider replied that he has been really excited about our co-curricular programming,  
121 as the last couple of years have been a challenge for kids. The Theater Arts club has put together  
122 their props for the upcoming performance. The numbers have been really good and there has  
123 been a lot of activity. It is something they have really missed out on the last couple of years,  
124 having that back has a new energy. They are hoping to have an in-person performance. Chorus is  
125 going well, and MVVS Music Teacher, Ms. Jacqueline Ward is the advisor for that.

126 Ms. Clark added that she was impressed with the test culture that they have here at MVVS. She  
127 noted that the DHHS has changed their reporting guidelines and wondered if that was better for  
128 Nurse Deppen.

129 Principal Lecklider applauded the teachers. It really is a testament to the personalization piece.  
130 The students understand that they have a goal that they are working toward. Not every student  
131 hits their goal, but even those conversations the nature of it, is so supportive and positive. with  
132 COVID, our numbers overall would have been better. The guidance is different in terms of  
133 weekly instead of daily. He will still put messaging out for the families. They are in a better  
134 place right now.

135 Ms. Clark asked if the COVID dashboard is still being updated.

136 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, replied that it is still updated by the nurses  
137 daily. They don’t report to DHHS until the end of the week. It might be a few weeks to figure out  
138 if it makes things easier for Ms. Deppen.

139 The Board thanked Principal Lecklider.

140 VI. Mont Vernon Village School Space Study

141 Ms. Lawrence noted that the board had requested information to do a review of the space use at  
142 the MVVS.

143 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she and Principal Lecklider can speak to this. She met with  
144 Principal Lecklider, SAU #39 Facilities Director, Mr. Roger Preston and they looked at all of  
145 their needs. There is a map in the board agenda packet. The black text in the map is current, the  
146 red text is what they are proposing for any possible changes.

147 Principal Lecklider noted that he will highlight the current space usage. There were a lot of  
148 spaces that were repurposed as a result of covid. For the last couple of years those spaces have  
149 become different purposes. In looking at this we really want to start with our goals, purpose of  
150 the space and what is best for our students. We wanted to really look at it objectively and say

151 what are the needs of the students and where does that space fit that need best in our school. In  
152 many cases as you will see, because of the design of the school some of those spaces do go back  
153 to the way they were.

154 The faculty break room, that is currently the room right near the library that will become a  
155 special education services space. Currently, Special Ed services is a shared space with math  
156 specialist and at times others but will have that break room next year. The current health office is  
157 outside the main office area, and that will go back to what was the faculty break room space. The  
158 Teacher work room, which is down the main hallway after the office that will become our school  
159 counselor office. One of the reasons we are looking at that space for the school counselor is that  
160 when we look at some of the mental health needs and social emotional needs of our students  
161 having the school counselor in that same area seems to make a lot of sense for our students. The  
162 Work Room, which is adjacent to the main office is used for special education space primarily  
163 during the day. That will go back to what it was originally used for which was the teacher work  
164 room. Our School Psychologist currently is in the original health office. The School Psychologist  
165 will move to the current school counselor.

166 Principal Lecklider continued; the biggest challenge is our music program. There is no ideal  
167 space for music, and he has spoken to Ms. Ward about the space and the nature of her  
168 instruction. They took a long look at this and one of the things we looked at was the Art/Spanish  
169 room. While that space could be used for music, most schools design their music room, so it is  
170 separate from the regular classrooms for a number of reasons. First, storage is a little bit different  
171 when it comes to music, second, is the other is the nature of music class. Just having the music  
172 program in that classroom space where there are other learning spaces that are quieter becomes a  
173 challenge. Not as big of a challenge as with Spanish but definitely a bigger challenge with Art.  
174 The other option was having Music go into classrooms. They run into the same challenges  
175 around the nature of music, but we also run into challenges around a teacher being mobile with  
176 guitars, percussion instruments and various supplies. Ms. Ward has done a nice job with cleaning  
177 up the space that is currently used, the stage. One of the things they talked about in keeping with  
178 Music on the stage would be having dividers. That would keep the sound on the stage. the closet  
179 is useful to Ms. Ward with having storage. In the end, we came back to this space makes the  
180 most sense for where we are right now.

181 Ms. Landwehrle added that this is certainly a draft at this point in the year. Our goals were to  
182 make sure that we had enough small group instruction space for students and teachers. Also,  
183 placing people where it made the most sense in the building. The original Art/Music room which  
184 is now a kindergarten room that is our largest classroom and what made the most sense for  
185 kindergarten to go into that room. She does feel like music makes the most sense on this stage.  
186 They tried to make it a true classroom space for her, and the new rug has made a world of  
187 difference. She encouraged the board to take a look at the closet space.

188 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about the master schedule. He asked if we have the capability of using the  
189 existing Kindergarten classroom into an art/music space like it used to be. He noted that the stage  
190 is not designed for education. Those constant disruptions could impede the educational  
191 experience. He inquired why that wouldn't be possible.

192 Ms. Landwehrle explained that Music and PE are on different days of the week, Art and music  
193 are on the same days and it is tricky to put those puzzle pieces together. Kindergarten is required  
194 to have a larger space and they wanted to make sure it was an appropriate space similar to the  
195 other kindergarten room. Having the kindergarten rooms together was also a priority for us, that  
196 was in the original design when we moved to full day kindergarten. She would be concerned  
197 about losing the connection. There would also be a ripple effect with one of our specials being on  
198 a cart, just because of the number of days of the week. If music moved into the classroom to  
199 share with another special, either Spanish or Art But then need to be on a cart because of when  
200 they happen.

201 Mr. O'Keefe mentioned working with the master schedule, I think we can accommodate some of  
202 that So that the overlaps don't necessarily happen, and the space could be empty at the optimal  
203 time. He wants to see if they can work in any way possible to get instruction off of the stage  
204 because it is just not a classroom.

205 Ms. Landwehrle added that they could come up with a revamped master schedule. We have two  
206 specialists in the building on any given day and they are teaching the two grade levels at the  
207 same time. They were concerned with putting Music on a cart just because of the noise and not  
208 disrupting any other classes. We can certainly look at the master schedule.

209 Mr. O'Keefe asked for the space for parent teacher conferences.

210 Principal Lecklider replied the current conference room is adjacent to his office and that would  
211 currently stay the conference room. If need be, they would probably have to move into one of  
212 those other spaces like the Guidance Office. That conference room, if they maximize it and look  
213 at different furniture, we could probably get more use out of it.

214 Mr. O'Keefe commented that the school is designed for 250 to 260 kids, and they are being  
215 stretched at 215. He asked how does that work out.

216 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they could accommodate more students in each of the classrooms.  
217 Over the years, education has changed where we have more special educators in our building,  
218 and more interventionist supporting our students. It is really those small group instruction spaces  
219 that have become a greater need. We were actually in a closet today looking at redesigning the  
220 closet. Small group instruction spaces are really what we don't have here. Our challenge is  
221 finding all of those spaces for our student services and our supports for students. In filling those  
222 small group instruction spaces, we then don't have a lot of flexibility.

223 Ms. Lawrence thanked Principal Lecklider and Ms. Landwehrle for their report.

224 VI. Public Comment II of II

225 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to recess the meeting for the FY 23 Deliberative Session at 6:50PM.**  
226 **Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

227 IV. Meeting Reconvened- Middle School Study Committee Presentation

228 **Ms. Lawrence reconvened the meeting at 8:09PM and noted the presentation by the Middle**  
229 **School Study Committee.**

230 Ms. Kim Roberge, 35 Salisbury Road, Mont Vernon, NH inquired about reopening the contract.  
231 She believes that the concern is what if Mont Vernon leaves the contract.

232 Mr. O’Keefe responded that the tuition agreement is a 5-year commitment. That commitment has  
233 an exit with notice. Hypothetically, if this community came forward and said “we are ready we  
234 want to open up our own middle school program” this board can then notify the Amherst School  
235 District of our plan to exit out of the contract. There are obligations and requirements as part of  
236 the contract for us to go ahead continue our capital costs. At the end of year 3, could be the  
237 notice to exit out then we are clear. We can open up at any time in year 5 to renegotiate.

238 Ms. Roberge inquired except for the exit clause, whatever is done in Amherst, Mont Vernon is  
239 locked with capital costs in for the next 4 years.

240 Ms. Lawrence replied unless they ask them to renegotiate sooner.

241 Ms. Roberge added that the ASB did not come to the MVSB with the appropriate plans for what  
242 they were supposed to do there. There was a previous MVSB member that noted that they should  
243 not pay for Amherst’s capital costs based on lack of notification. The concern with the taxpayers  
244 is what is our option if Amherst passes this warrant article.

245 Mr. O’Keefe responded that they could ask legal counsel in a non-public session.

246 Ms. Lawrence added that the other contract was a 10-year agreement, and it was switched to 5.

247 Mr. Andrew Stokinger, 21 Grant Hill Road, Mont Vernon NH, commented that during the  
248 session we reviewed the contract. In the contract the ASD had the option to remove MV with  
249 two years notice.

250 Mr. Howard Brown, 2 Blood Road, Mont Vernon NH, added that he believes that it was two full  
251 years not three years in total.

252 Ms. Landwehrle clarified that it is by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, that the MVSB Chair would need to give  
253 notice to the Chair of the ASB as to whether or not the MVSD wishes to extend the agreement.

254 Ms. Lawrence asked Mr. King to explain your role.

255 Mr. King commented it was towards the end of last year that the school board put together a  
256 study committee for the purpose of looking at our options for middle school. Our children right  
257 now go to the Mount Vernon village school for Kindergarten through 6th grade. The Mont  
258 Vernon children also go to the Souhegan Cooperative High School which is co-owned by  
259 Amherst and Mont Vernon for the high school years that is grades nine through twelve. We  
260 currently do not have a school for our 7th and 8th graders, we do it through a tuition agreement  
261 and those children are under the responsibility of this board. The Mont Vernon School Board not  
262 only has the Village School but the 7th and 8th graders that are under their purview. For many  
263 years they have been tuitioned to the Amherst Middle School under a tuition agreement. The  
264 tuition agreement, typically, has been revised every 10 years and this is a five-year renewal. The

265 agreement basically calls for the payment of a daily rate for what it costs to educate a student in  
266 the Amherst School District. There is also part of the formula that allows Amherst to charge  
267 Mount Vernon for some of the capital improvements of the buildings. There is a formula for  
268 existing previous capital improvements, but there is also a clause in there that we would be liable  
269 for a portion of future building construction capital improvements.

270 This board charged this panel with three questions. 1. Do we continue the tuition agreement and  
271 absorb additional capital costs, 2. do we bring the 7th and 8th grade students back, take the  
272 capital costs that would have gone to Amherst and do something to this building the Mount  
273 Vernon Village School and educate our kids K through 8. 3. Is there anything else being  
274 considered.

275 Mr. King noted the committee members. They met seven times and spent a lot of time defining  
276 what the conditions were. He noted that they had a great committee, defining the stakeholders  
277 and customers. They reviewed the tuition agreement and ultimately, Mont Vernon would be  
278 responsible for a portion of a building costs. Amherst is considering a sizable building project of  
279 about \$50 million for the elementary school and approximately \$30 million for middle school  
280 renovation.

281 One of the things they tried to get a handle on was what would it cost Mont Vernon if their  
282 article passes. It is foolish to do 30-year enrollment projections on a school. This school's  
283 enrollment has gone up and down. Another proposal Amherst is made is to move the 5th grade  
284 from the middle school to the elementary school. Because our cost to the school is based on the  
285 proportion of our kids in the school compared to the total kids in the school, the total kids in the  
286 school will drop. This means our portion would go higher from 11% to 13%. In our report, we  
287 have a table, and it was provided by the SAU. The first year is basically a half a year payment,  
288 Mont Vernon would pay \$75,000 towards capital improvement after that it would go up to  
289 around \$200,000-\$220,000 and then taper back down to the lowest of \$128,000. It is a  
290 significant investment. this is on top of the cost that we already pay for tuition to send the kids to  
291 AMS.

292 Mr. King continued, they looked at the alternatives. The first is that the kids stay at AMS, and  
293 the report identifies pros and cons. It is not the committee's job to make a recommendation but to  
294 provide facts and information. With every option there are pros and cons. The biggest pro to  
295 keeping the kids in the Amherst Middle School is consistency. They are going to be in the same  
296 peer group for the 7th and 8th grade as they would be in high school. They would have sports  
297 and extracurricular opportunities and social group growth. The cons are unpredictable, and there  
298 is quite a bit of risk if we decide to bring our kids back to MV. Initially the project was going to  
299 be built in Amherst first and then in year four and five they were going to build additions to the  
300 middle school. Because the way it was bonded, it appeared to us that we would be paying  
301 building costs in year one, three years before they did any work on the middle school. He  
302 suggested that the bonds be separated because Mount Vernon is liable for costs incurred at the  
303 middle school but not at the elementary school. The next study they looked at is what would it  
304 take to make a 7th and 8th grade. One of things they learned is that they couldn't build a middle  
305 school because there are a lot of requirements that pertain to the middle school. They could still

306 have a K-8 school. There are some requirements that we would have to have such as teachers  
307 with more advanced teaching certificates which we may or may not have in school. They looked  
308 at how many teachers in general they would have to hire. They did a very similar exercise a few  
309 years ago and they learned it was a lot more than just hiring a few teachers.

310 They looked briefly at what property the school owns. The question was could we even build  
311 onto this property. His opinion is that there is not a property in the world that you cannot build  
312 on, it is how much it is going to cost to do it. He believes if they were to build an addition of four  
313 rooms that they could fit it somewhere. They decided it wasn't a question they were going to try  
314 to tackle but a question for an engineer in the future. We also noted that the Mont Vernon school  
315 district also owns the McCollum Field. He obtained a copy of the deed which the McCollum  
316 Institute donated the land to the Mont Vernon School District. There is also an additional parcel  
317 of five acres down in the woods. They did not spend a lot of time on the building itself. The pros  
318 are that you avoid the tuition costs, capital costs and gain local control. Local control was  
319 something that we felt was really a plus, something they feel they do not have with the middle  
320 school. It is unfortunate that Mont Vernon was not invited to participate in discussions regarding  
321 what should be done with the middle school. One of the biggest cons is that they would lose the  
322 middle school activities. They looked if they could just send their kids down to Amherst to play  
323 on their sports teams and the answer to that is no. It is because of the school athletic commission;  
324 they do not allow kids from another school to participate. It would be tough to field a sports team  
325 other than track.

326 They also looked at if they need to even build a school or could they lease space. One example is  
327 what charter schools do; they lease space. There is a lot of commercial space that is available  
328 both offices and retail space that could be equipped for education. One thought was to lease  
329 space from the Souhegan Cooperative School District in the Annex. The benefit would be paying  
330 back ourselves in a way because we co-own that building.

331 Another consideration was to send the kids to another middle school. There are a number of local  
332 choices. The biggest con of that is no consistency with their peer group. The idea came up with  
333 tuitioning students to their choice of public or private schools. He does not know if it is possible  
334 or feasible. With the tuition and capital costs they would be paying AMS the amount of \$26,000  
335 per student per year. He is not sure if they can offer a stipend. He knows of one school district,  
336 Warren NH. With only 4 teachers, they have no extracurricular activities, and the educational  
337 experience is limited. They also do not have a high school, so they offer the families a choice of  
338 high schools to go to. The Warren School District will pay for the lesser amount of the public  
339 school and the parents provide the difference. It was suggested that the amount of \$26,000 would  
340 cover a lot of private schools.

341 Mr. King asked for other committee members to give their thoughts.

342 Mr. Stokinger added one of the things they called out was that Amherst could decide to end the  
343 contract on them and they would have no choice. He inquired what happens if they cannot send  
344 the Mont Vernon students to Amherst in the next 5 years.

345 Mr. King mentioned that he wanted to get this to a close before the voters go to the ballots. He  
346 does not want Amherst to be surprised by their discussions. He wanted the committee to deliver  
347 a report on what the options were to the board. The next steps are explained on the flow chart.  
348 Obviously, this committee is over, the school board should form another committee to discuss  
349 the next steps. It may be prudent to wait until the March 8<sup>th</sup> vote. Whether the Amherst  
350 community members approve the building of the new school this will not go away. They want  
351 the benefit of a quality education but are facing tax challenges in Mont Vernon. They do not  
352 have the benefit of employers in MV that fund the school. His recommendation is for the board  
353 to consider this report and wait until after March to empower a new committee.

354 Ms. Anne Dodd, 36 Mason Road, Mont Vernon NH, noted her background with building public  
355 schools. She was interested in the JFAC meetings. She attended several of them and they were  
356 poorly attended. She suggested that the board discuss the amount of \$83 million in two years and  
357 would be surprised if they could do \$30 million worth of construction in four months. She  
358 inquired about the elementary school kids during construction. There was more interest in the  
359 traffic study than there was in what was going to happen with the students. She believes the  
360 project was not well documented, and schedule was not well documented. She has concerns  
361 about them spending extra money at the elementary school and shorting the middle school  
362 project. The Mount Vernon taxpayers would still be responsible for their portion of the capital  
363 costs.

364 Ms. Hinckley added she did receive information from JFAC. The plan is for the projects to run  
365 concurrently.

366 Mr. O'Keefe thanked the committee for their efforts. The important thing is that this is starting  
367 the conversation. There are sizable choices that the community will have to make. He asked if  
368 they could go around the room and discuss they were surprised of. If you are thinking about that,  
369 the odds are that someone else is as well.

370 Mr. Brown noted that he was not really surprised by a lot of things. He has had familiarity as a  
371 past board member in Mont Vernon and Souhegan. They discussed on this committee about  
372 things they did not like and how they can change things. He listened to the Amherst Deliberative  
373 Session, and it seems like there is anger there as there is here.

374 Ms. Brown responded that she did not have surprises. She inquired if there were any capital costs  
375 if you tuition in a student. It did surprise her a little bit with having no equity in the building.

376 Ms. Dagmar Vlahos, 17 Spring Hill Road, Mont Vernon, NH, noted that she was disappointed  
377 that MV did not have a voice in the design of the middle school. She added that this was a great  
378 committee to work with and she was happy to share her facilitation skills.

379 Mr. Stokinger commented what surprised him was how much money we pay for cost per pupil  
380 (CPP).

381 Ms. Autumn Grdina, 5 Pinkham Avenue, Mont Vernon NH, noted she was surprised by the vast  
382 amount of requirements it would take to make it a middle school. When they talk about keeping  
383 their students here as a K-8 it would be doing their kids a disgrace. They couldn't provide

384 extracurriculars and their choice in electives. It was sad for her to think that they would be  
385 missing out.

386 Mr. O'Keefe asked if they looked at the total costs for doing an inhouse program.

387 Mr. King replied that they did not get into that, but got as far as the staff, faculty, and  
388 administrative support.

389 Ms. Lawrence remarked that they did do rough math and the amount was just under \$1m. With  
390 the extra specialist hours, it would be a little over \$1m.

391 Ms. Landwehrle commented that the amount is correct.

392 Mr. O'Keefe noted that the additional FTE 8.4 would make for an enhanced program for the  
393 younger students.

394 Mr. King mentioned that the MVVS has a hard time historically, retaining part time specialists.  
395 It is not new people they would be adding but adding more to their hours. It may be difficult to  
396 find a Spanish teacher to teach K-8, he is not entirely sure.

397 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment and the projected enrollment.

398 Mr. King responded that they used 30 kids per grade.

399 Ms. Landwehrle replied that currently, at AMS they have 33, 7<sup>th</sup> and 28, 8<sup>th</sup> graders

400 Mr. O'Keefe asked for the FY22 tuition. He would like to address Ms. Grdina's concern.

401 Ms. Landwehrle added that Ms. Facey is checking what they budgeted for.

402 Mr. O'Keefe noted that there is a qualitative and a quantitative piece.

403 Mr. King responded that 8.4 FTEs would give them a basic middle school but that would not be  
404 a quality middle school. Mr. Stokinger had the idea of building a great middle school and tuition  
405 students in.

406 Mr. O'Keefe noted that back in 2015 there was capacity to tuition in students. The barrier was  
407 where would students go after they leave here in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

408 Ms. Landwehrle added that they are checking on that number.

409 Mr. O'Keefe noted that if they shared that story in a more proactive way, they would have the  
410 ability to add additional revenue to provide more services, more options for our students.

411 Mr. Stokinger commented that part of the consideration was if we got that message out in  
412 advance enough and Amherst decided not to build their school now or not to expand it now  
413 maybe this would be an option for them to have more space in their school. Then there is  
414 continuation because they are Amherst students, they're going to go to the same high school as  
415 we are.

416 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they do have a total of 4 tuitioned students.

- 417 Ms. Facey noted that the tuition amount that is including the credit for AMS is \$1,251,847. She  
418 believes that there is a \$75k credit, so the amount would be 1.326m.
- 419 Mr. Eckhoff thanked the committee. There are a lot more questions and it is good that it is on the  
420 table.
- 421 Ms. Lawrence added that it would allow them to extend the conversation with Amherst. The next  
422 step is to see what is on the ballot in Amherst and it sounds lit that is your recommendation as  
423 well. She thanked the committee for their work.
- 424 Ms. Clark inquired about creating a cooperative with Amherst.
- 425 Mr. King commented that they looked at creating a cooperative with Amherst 3 years ago and it  
426 was not possible with the teachers' unions.
- 427 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they do not participate in Social Security.
- 428 Ms. Facey added that it would literally take an act of Congress.
- 429 Ms. Lawrence added she chaired that committee, and it was called the Consolidation Committee.  
430 They did a comprehensive review and there are minutes on the SAU website.
- 431 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to accept the report from the Mont Vernon Tuition Committee. Ms.**  
432 **Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**
- 433 V. Meeting Adjourned
- 434 **Ms. Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 9:14PM.**