

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Thursday, October 6th 2022

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 11 03 2022

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Steven Chamberlin- Interim Superintendent, Amy Facey- SAU #39
6 Business Administrator, Tom Lecklider- MVVS Principal, Mackenzie Lawrence and Sarah
7 Millas- Grade 5 Teachers MVVS.

8 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Jessica Hinckley, and
9 George Torres.

10 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

11 Public: John Prescott, 23 Old Milford Road, Mont Vernon NH.

12 Meeting Summary

- 13 • The Board received a presentation from current 6th graders about their experiences in 5th
14 grade. Topics discussed were writing essays, math algorithms, field trips and artwork.
15 MVVS 5th grade teachers, Ms. Makenzie Lawrence and Ms. Sarah Millas were in
16 attendance to answer any questions from the board.
- 17 • The board approved items from the Consent Agenda: 1. DOE-25 (2021-2022), 2. MS-25
18 (2021-2022). 3. Budget Transfer Request 001 4. Facilities Report 5. MVVS Principal
19 Report 6. AMS Principal Report and 7. September 1, 2022 Draft Minutes.
- 20 • The board discussed items from the Principal's Report, specifically Spanish. Principal
21 Lecklider noted that there is an option for VLACS that families can access as well as a
22 Spanish Club.
- 23 • The board gave committee updates. Discussion ensued over ways to reach the
24 community. They had sent out a survey and received more responses from an online
25 method. They are looking for ways to reach the segment of the population that do not
26 have children in the schools.
- 27 • The administration mentioned as discussed at the previous meeting, part-time positions
28 are proving to be especially challenging to fill in this hiring climate. Interim
29 Superintendent, Mr. Steven Chamberlin, explained that they would like to budget in a
30 way that stabilizes staff. More information will be presented at the next meeting as well
31 as Draft 1 of the FY 24 budget.
- 32 • The board discussed possible warrant article for a facility study. They requested further
33 information from the Tuition Agreement and more information will be provided next
34 month.
- 35 • The board approved a Mural Club and a Spanish Club.

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38 I. Call to Order

39 **Ms. Sarah Lawrence, Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board called the meeting to order**
40 **at 6:02 PM.**

41 II. 5th Grade Overview

42 MVVS Principal, Mr. Tom Lecklider, noted that they had this presentation scheduled for last
43 spring. Agendas got busy and are now finally happy to present to the board. Ms. Lawrence is
44 Humanities teacher and Ms. Millas is the STEM teacher. They work together collaboratively and
45 care about the growth with students and connecting with kids.

46 MVVS students discussed that last year they read a lot, children's books and 3 novels. They were
47 able to write persuasive essay and a movie trailer. They did a lot of fun activities and developed
48 various skills. They noted that they are competent readers, reading to younger grades.
49 Additionally, they created their own businesses where they gave presentations convincing a
50 investor to invest in their company. The students displayed a photo of them working together.
51 They had a lot of wonderful class discussions.

52 Next, they went on a field trip to Boston visiting the Tea Party Ship and Museum. They walked
53 the Freedom Trail. They discussed creating water filtration devices while studying the
54 hydrosphere. They finalized their presentation by showing the board math problems and artwork
55 they created.

56 Ms. Lawrence asked the students about their favorite classes.

57 The students responded math and science.

58 Ms. Millas noted that math is very hands on and an exciting part of the day for her students.
59 They had gotten so good at Mental Math.

60 Principal Lecklider mentioned that they also had a good number of students participate as Recess
61 Mentors.

62 The board thanked the students for their presentation.

63 Mr. Eckhoff questioned if the students were able to do more of traditional math.

64 Ms. Millas responded that the students do more of the traditional algorithms. The standard is
65 through traditional algorithm. She added that you would be so impressed with how much the
66 students have learned. She noted that it is her hope that more parents come in the classroom to
67 see the learning that is taking place.

68 Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that this learning should translate to NWEA scores.

69 Ms. Millas replied that it already is. They are shifting more to math as a problem solver than
70 math as a procedure.

71 Mr. Eckhoff noted that he was pleased that there were a lot of handwritten items in the student's
72 notebooks. He inquired about cursive writing.

73 Ms. Lawrence responded that they learn cursive in third grade.

74 III. Public Input I of II

75 Mr. John Prescott, 23 Old Milford Road, Mont Vernon, NH, commented on the quality of the
76 learning that the students receive at the MVVS.

77 IV. Consent Agenda

78 Ms. Lawrence asked for questions on the Consent Agenda.

79 Mr. Torres asked about the calculation for the Cost Per Pupil, page 27.

80 SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Amy Facey, responded that she will make a note for the
81 accounting staff.

82 Mr. Torres inquired if the MS-25 and DOE-25 gets filed with the State.

83 Ms. Facey replied correct.

84 Ms. Lawrence asked if there were any questions on the Principal's Report.

85 Mr. Eckhoff responded that he appreciated the time and effort that went into the Principal's
86 Report.

87 Principal Lecklider commented that our program for specials this year will include enhanced
88 experiences in Art and Music. The full specials rotation will be Art, Music, and PE. Students will
89 have Art twice each week with Ms. Valihura. Within our Art program we will have traditional art
90 and integrated art. Integrated art will make connections between art and content areas in addition
91 to bringing digital and STEAM components into the class. Students will have music each week
92 with an additional music class bi-weekly with Ms. Ward. In this additional experience, there will
93 be an instrumental focus.

94 Mr. Eckhoff asked about Spanish.

95 Principal Lecklider responded that families are welcome to participate in VLACS. They have
96 levels of elementary Spanish. They are still having conversations about how they can structure
97 Spanish learning. In the agenda packet they do have a proposal for a Spanish club. They will be
98 making sure that families understand that they have a VLACS option. He noted that they could
99 end up with a decent number of students in the program.

100 Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that they just need to make sure that all families know that VLACS is
101 available and free.

102 Ms. Lawrence asked for other questions.

103 **Mr. Torres motioned to approve Consent Agenda items 3, Budget Transfer Request 001 4,**
104 **Facilities Report 5, MVVS Principal Report 6, AMS Principal Report and 7, September 1,**
105 **2022 Draft Minutes. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

106 Ms. Lawrence noted that they are going to table items 1. DOE-25 (2021-2022) and 2. MS-25
107 (2021-2022) for further information.

108 V. Subcommittee Updates

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110 • Superintendent Search Committee

111 Ms. Clark noted that the Superintendent search is in progress. We have our first community
112 listening session on November 11th. We have an informational binder at the MV town library
113 with all the events that are coming up. There is a survey out that we posted on social media that
114 is available for residents to respond to as well. It is moving along great, and they are excited for
115 the public to get involved.

116 • Policy Committee

117 Ms. Lawrence remarked that the policy committee met although she could not be in attendance.
118 They were reviewing policies that were sent over from the SAU and some leftovers from the end
119 of the season. At the next policy committee meeting they will be bringing up the fall updates.

120 • Communication Committee

121 Ms. Clark commented that a postcard has been mailed out to every tax roll in Mont Vernon.
122 They posted the survey on Facebook and there are subgroups to be analyzed. They have gotten
123 more than 100 responses from the Facebook post and have found out that mailing it out is not
124 cost effective. She was able to look at the respondent characteristics. She explained the basic
125 responses. There was a mix of responses for communications but two that stood out were a
126 dedicated Facebook page dedicated to the school board or some kind of a newsletter summary.
127 Those two options seemed most appreciated.

128 Mr. Torres inquired if the respondents preferred the newsletter in an email or paper format.

129 Ms. Clark responded that a link to the electronic newsletter to link to the YouTube video. There
130 is a way to accommodate both.

131 Mr. Torres commented that he is not surprised by any of the responses because he sees that in his
132 work.

133 Ms. Clark replied that it is about how they make information accessible with a newsletter in mail
134 and online. It is about how people are interacting, and the town chatter is popular. The middle
135 school communication was important as well. The top two communication formats were the
136 Facebook page option or the newsletter summary. They did have 45% of people mention that
137 they did want written material only and then about a third of people requesting some kind of
138 recording. That really does speak to the importance of having a written resource.

139 Ms. Lawrence inquired if she meant the Minutes of the meeting.

140 Ms. Clark replied that the newsletter response is telling and the response of information to sift
141 through is important. I think what people are needing is a summary. There is a way to make this
142 more of a living document. She then read the responses from the Mont Vernon residents.

143 Ms. Lawrence noted that 96 responses from a community of their size is not that great.

144 Ms. Clark responded that getting responses from people that do not have children in the school is
145 great.

146 Mr. Prescott added that the survey took no longer than 10 minutes.

147 Ms. Lawrence suggested going to the transfer station.

148 Ms. Clark asked how we get people to respond to their survey, how do they reach folks before
149 they get upset.

150 Mr. Eckhoff suggested having a table set up on election day. They are trying to get the
151 community informed.

152 Mr. Torres mentioned that the public will bring up items that they have already discussed.

153 Ms. Clark added that this is not the only thing demanding people's time. If they are present at
154 certain locations and engaging with the public and that will help.

155 Ms. Lawrence asked about the information that is at the library.

156 Ms. Clark responded that there is information about the superintendent search at the library.

157 Ms. Lawrence inquired if they should have a table during election day.

158 Mr. Prescott asked if they know the total number of households that do not have children.

159 Principal Lecklider responded that they could look into that.

160 Ms. Clark added that they need to reach the subgroup of residents that do not have children in the
161 schools.

162 Ms. Lawrence noted that the question is timing.

163 Ms. Clark added that they should have a flyer with a QR code.

164 Mr. Torres mentioned that this is something that they need to document.

165 Ms. Clark remarked that she would like to review the policy on communication to the public.

166 Ms. Lawrence responded that she could post the summary as a community member, an not
167 answer specific questions. She could then suggest the person read the minutes or review the
168 video. She will send Ms. Clark the policy. She reviewed the timeline. She noted the timing with
169 the Middle School Study Committee.

170 She asked if it was reasonable to put a warrant on the ballot for exploration.

171 Ms. Clark asked where they are in their contract with AMS.

- 172 Ms. Lawrence suggested that they have a warrant on the ballot for this year.
- 173 Interim Superintendent, Mr. Steve Chamberlin, responded that he will have information for the
174 board at the next meeting.
- 175 Ms. Lawrence asked if they should have a table during election day.
- 176 Mr. Torres responded that he has some availability in the morning.
- 177 Ms. Clark noted that she can go to the transfer station during the weekend. She offered to make a
178 flyer for the public.
- 179 Ms. Lawrence commented that if they get an influx of data they may not have a table during
180 election day. She asked for other committee updates.
- 181 VI. Budget Planning
- 182 Mr. Chamberlin noted that this goes with Principal Lecklider's report. Stabilizing staff is of
183 interest, as discussed at the previous meeting, part-time positions are proving to be especially
184 challenging to fill in this hiring climate. In the past, part-time positions were of interest to early
185 career teachers as full-time positions opened up or recently retiring teachers who wanted to have
186 increased work-life balance. This situation no longer seems to be the case. One way to stabilize
187 the special offerings is to move to fewer specials, but full-time programs. Mr. Lecklider will
188 present a survey gauging community interest in specific programs. Music is an area worthy of
189 discussion. Over the summer, the SAU music instructors met to review the current program
190 design and curriculum documentation. MVSD students have limited access to band and
191 instrument instruction. The music instructors felt it was important to look into the music
192 offerings at MVVS.
- 193 Mr. Torres inquired how many part time positions are open.
- 194 Principal Lecklider responded that they increased the art and music position but could not find
195 anyone for the Spanish position.
- 196 Mr. Torres recommended that they should look for a full-time position that is flexible to cover
197 these subjects. It may be more expensive upfront but long term they will see the value.
- 198 Ms. Clark commented that the community has gone through increases with energy and fuel. She
199 would like to know what the costs would be in terms of a tax increase.
- 200 Mr. Chamberlin responded that when you take a staff from 0.6 to a 1.0 FTE there is an increase
201 of up to \$25k with health insurance, and \$20k in retirement.
- 202 Mr. Torres added that in terms of the impact on the tax rate that is more palatable than say
203 adding a wing to the school.
- 204 Ms. Clark replied that they do not know what is happening with the middle school.
- 205 Mr. Chamberlin remarked that they can review the options.

206 Ms. Lawrence asked for clarification.

207 Mr. Chamberlin explained that they would like to budget in a way that stabilizes staff. To allow
208 funds to be put in the budget to have one position to go into full time. That way they can try to
209 run Spanish. The Mont Vernon budget is very fiscally conservative. The goal is to have enough
210 in reserve that if we have some circumstances happen, we can adjust without freezing the budget.

211 Ms. Facey added that she can put together the draft 1 budget and there is time to make decisions.
212 That way they can see what the numbers look like.

213 Ms. Lawrence asked if the board could see a few scenarios and the budget and educational
214 impact.

215 Ms. Facey asked for clarification.

216 Mr. Chamberlin added that the board should ask for what they need.

217 Mr. Eckhoff commented that a full-time position is about \$100k with benefits. They are going to
218 be in the same ballpark.

219 Ms. Clark asked to see programming.

220 Mr. Chamberlin added that they can provide the board with education requirements.

221 Mr. Torres asked what the next biggest piece besides staffing is.

222 Mr. Chamberlin added that all of the schools have a CNA (capital needs assessment).

223 Ms. Facey mentioned that you are in good shape with capital reserves.

224 Ms. Lawrence recommended that be really clear on the slide deck.

225 Ms. Facey suggested a fund for the health insurance. They did just get the GMR (guaranteed
226 maximum rate) and it is 4.1% which is not terrible.

227 Mr. Torres asked if that was the increase.

228 Ms. Facey replied yes.

229 Ms. Clark noted that you cannot ask staff if they are planning on getting married or having
230 children.

231 Ms. Facey added that she will bring more information for the presentation.

232 Ms. Lawrence noted that it is the responsible thing to have that discussion.

233 VII. Co-curricular Proposals

234 Principal Lecklider commented that they are proposing Spanish Club. It just so happens that Ms.
235 Valihura, our art teacher, has a minor in Spanish and is interested in pursuing this club. We are
236 excited about it, and it will be giving the students experience. He noted that he put another
237 proposal for next month for a game club. He commented on the contract due to co-curriculars.

238 They could run it continually. There are 10 total stipends, and he believes that they did that last
239 year with their drama club.

240 Ms. Lawrence noted that it looks like \$400 dollar stipends.

241 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to approve the Mural and Spanish clubs as proposed. Mr. Torres**
242 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

243 **Mr. Torres motioned to approve consent agenda items 1. DOE-25 (2021-2022) and 2. MS-**
244 **25 (2021-2022). Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

245 VIII. Meeting Adjourned

246 **Ms. Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:04PM.**

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