

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Thursday, August 4th, 2022

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 09 01 2022

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Christine Landwehrle- Assistant Superintendent, Tom Lecklider- MVVS
6 Principal and Roger Preston- Director of Facilities SAU #39

7 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Jessica Hinckley, Pete
8 Eckhoff, George Torres, and Kristen Clark.

9 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

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

11 I. Call to Order

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

14 II. Non-Public Session

15 **Ms. Hinckley motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (i) at 5:32PM. Mr.**
16 **Torres seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

17 Board to resume public session at 6:16 PM

18 III. Public Comment I of II

19 Mr. John Prescott, 23 Old Milford Road, MV, asked about the initiatives coming to fruition, such
20 as upholstery of the library benches or the snowshoes. He noted that there are a lot of community
21 members that would be willing to assist.

22 He suggested that they add information to the town website and people may offer to help.

23 Ms. Clark added that she is working on communication to the public. She noted that she is
24 working on information to be sent out to the community.

25 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, added that they did not get sent out at this
26 time.

27 Ms. Clark noted that they are trying to figure out the best way to reach the community members.
28 There will be a postcard mailer and posting on social media.

29 Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that they are discussing this topic at the SAU level.

30 Ms. Lawrence commented that they also have policies that they need to follow and board
31 communication can be challenging.

32 Mr. Prescott commented that a lot of parents are learning on the tail end and are sometimes
33 misinformed. More proactive communication in the community would be helpful. More of the
34 community should know the good things that are happening here at the MVVS.

35 Ms. Lawrence added that they are awaiting feedback and that will be helpful.

36 Ms. Clark commented that there are a lot of considerations.

37 IV. Consent Agenda

38 Ms. Lawrence asked for any questions. She inquired about the student handbook, and if there
39 changes in the policies.

40 Principal Lecklider replied that there were changes in the layout and it was difficult to read. They
41 have categorized into sections. There are a lot of updates for the new year.

42 Principal Lecklider noted that they are more intentional with SOAR. There is a matrix in there
43 with SOAR.

44 Ms. Landwehrle added that they are updates with the meal program and charging, JICC and JLF
45 and they added a section about counseling. Last year, they did a huge overhaul of the policies
46 and each year she gives the updates.

47 Mr. Torres asked if there were any issues with the busses.

48 Ms. Landwehrle noted that one of their big concerns is that they are worried that a parent did not
49 respond to the survey in June. They do not want busses to tight and are a reasonable length.
50 There are a lot of things to balance. They do have a meeting with the bus company in the first
51 few weeks of school.

52 Mr. Torres added that it is also an issue with the cost of diesel.

53 Mr. Eckhoff questioned an expense from the Treasurer's Report. He asked if they could get a
54 description.

55 Mr. Torres inquired if there are ongoing reviews.

56 Ms. Landwehrle explained that they have a multi-step approval process.

57 Ms. Lawrence suggested that Mr. Eckhoff review the Manifest.

58 Ms. Clark responded that the Manifest goes line by line with the expenses.

59 Ms. Lawrence added that once you review the Manifest you get a better understanding of the
60 expenses.

61 Mr. Torres commented that they can review the top 5% of expenses.

62 Ms. Landwehrle added that they can do a summary and/or the ask the Treasurer for more detail.

63 Ms. Lawrence noted that there are two grant applications. She asked for any questions. She asked
64 Ms. Landwehrle to speak about the summer PD that they are doing.

65 Ms. Landwehrle replied that there are a lot of great things going on in the summer here at
 66 MVVS. The Title I students have been very happy with their peers, and it has been a great
 67 program. They have also had a summer enrichment program. Ms. Holm and Ms. Hargreaves did
 68 Stop Motion and Animation it was no cost to families. They did it in the afternoons and it paired
 69 with Title I. Students were able to stay from 9-3:30. There was more intensive support in the
 70 morning and then enrichment in the afternoon. They had great feedback on that program and
 71 hopefully they can continue that next year.

72 Mr. Torres added that a lot of what the facilities team does should be publicized. People may not
 73 see what is happening, but there is a lot that is going on.

74 Principal Lecklider added that he can share the link with the newsletter with the board to post.

75 Ms. Clark noted that they could hand out flyers at the summer concerts in town.

76 Ms. Lawrence added that the budget calendar is included.

77 Ms. Landwehrle commented that they should also assign the subcommittee members.

78 **Ms. Clark motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items 1. June 6th, 2022, Draft**
 79 **Minutes, 2. MVSD June/July Facilities Update, 3. February 2022 Treasurer's Report, 4.**
 80 **March 2022 Treasurer's Report, 5. April 2022 Treasurer's Report, 6. MVVS Student**
 81 **Handbook, 7. MVSD FY24 Budget Calendar, 8. Grant Application I, 9. Grant Application**
 82 **II, 10. Curriculum and PD Office Update. Mr. Torres seconded the motion. The vote was**
 83 **unanimous, motion passed.**

84 V. Calendar Revisions

85 Ms. Landwehrle explained the calendar revisions.

86 Ms. Lawrence gave her support.

87 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to approve the calendar revisions Ms. Clark seconded the motion.**
 88 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

89 VI. Length of Academic School Day

90 Ms. Landwehrle explained that they are looking to start the school day at 7:35 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.
 91 This will be a change from the time of 7:45am.

92 Ms. Lawrence noted that the bonus is that it adds more instructional time.

93 Ms. Landwehrle responded that they would be adjusting the time before and after but not
 94 changing the overall amount.

95 Ms. Clark added that it is important to align things and the communication of this change will be
 96 critical. People are really sensitive to that.

97 Principal Lecklider remarked that adding the 10-minute instructional time is a win. He added that
 98 he understands that the messaging is important.

- 99 Ms. Landwehrle noted that their goal is to align bus and parent drop off.
- 100 Ms. Landwehrle added that last year drop off was 7:35.
- 101 Ms. Clark noted that she has heard a lot of parent frustration.
- 102 Ms. Lawrence asked if they could try this change and then assess with feedback and not
103 necessarily put out a MOU immediately.
- 104 Mr. Torres asked if there is a way for kids that need assistance to be dropped off.
- 105 Principal Lecklider replied that they can look at it.
- 106 Ms. Lawrence noted that she has marked that for assessment and feedback. She thanked the
107 MVEA for their support.
- 108 Ms. Landwehrle noted that no board action is required. They will have to change the handbook
109 as it will go live tomorrow.
- 110 Ms. Lawrence commented that she would like to see a message to parents.
- 111 VII. Nutrition Service Update
- 112 Ms. Landwehrle mentioned that there is not a lot to share. After completing the Paid Lunch
113 Equity Tool or the PLE Tool and researching other area school meal prices; the proposed meal
114 pricing changes for the 2022-2023 school year are Breakfast \$1.75 and Lunch \$3.00. These
115 increased meal prices to help offset the rising food cost, labor costs, and cleaning supply costs.
- 116 Ms. Landwehrle continued that they are encouraging all of their families to fill out the form for
117 Free/ Reduced Lunch.
- 118 **Mr. Torres motioned to accept the updated meal pricing Ms. Clark seconded the motion.**
119 **The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.**
- 120 Mr. Eckhoff noted that they are also short staffed.
- 121 Ms. Landwehrle commented that they are short a .6 Spanish teacher and Souhegan is missing a
122 Spanish Teacher. They just refreshed the posting. They had an applicant but decline due to it
123 being a part time position. She has had a lot of creative conversations. They could offer a full
124 time position the only other idea is looking at the current specials to compensate for it. They do
125 have a non-public session and can have a deeper discussion.
- 126 Mr. Torres asked if they could share staffing with the middle school.
- 127 Ms. Landwehrle added that she was thinking more of the high school, but the times would not
128 align.
- 129 Mr. Eckhoff asked about making Spanish a full time position.

- 130 Ms. Lawrence noted that the .6 was a victory. She inquired if they could do something with
131 VLACS. It is not ideal. She does support the full-time position but knows that the community
132 would not support it.
- 133 Ms. Clark inquired about the Spanish curriculum at AMS.
- 134 Mr. Torres emphasized the necessity of students learning Spanish in a global society.
- 135 Ms. Lawrence commented that he wonders about continuity for the students that have already
136 started learning Spanish.
- 137 Ms. Landwehrle added that they can have a deeper discussion in non-public session that may or
138 may not help. With VLACS, they may have the staffing to support, and she is not sure that it is
139 engaging other students. It would be students working on their own.
- 140 Ms. Lawrence asked if any of the middle school teachers be amenable to doing video lessons and
141 pay them with a stipend.
- 142 Ms. Landwehrle replied that that could be a possibility. They are also trying to provide exposure
143 but need time for the teachers to prep.
- 144 Mr. Torres asked if it could be remote, they have to be creative.
- 145 Ms. Landwehrle commented that there are a lot of hands-on items. They can look at afterschool
146 opportunities, with a club type of experience. They want to ensure a meaningful experience for
147 their students.
- 148 Ms. Lawrence asked if they were to offer a full-time position would be able to fill it.
- 149 Ms. Landwehrle replied probably not.
- 150 Principal Lecklider added that it would be a big challenge.
- 151 Ms. Clark inquired if they took on a different language.
- 152 Ms. Landwehrle replied that is a great question, although there are probably more Spanish
153 teachers than French teachers and they are harder to find. They can update the posting with
154 Spanish or French and see if we got anything.
- 155 Mr. Torres added that it is a nationwide issue with staffing, there are so many people leaving the
156 profession.
- 157 Mr. Eckhoff inquired if they have reached out to local colleges.
- 158 Principal Lecklider responded that he did reach out to one college, and they were not optimistic.
- 159 Ms. Clark added that there needs to be more discussion.
- 160 Ms. Lawrence commented that they are thinking out of the box and want to provide continuity.
- 161 VIII. Middle School Structure

162 Ms. Landwehrle commented that AMS is doing a little bit of internal restructuring to better
163 support students. The restructure is around student services, and they are looking to create a
164 school within a school. There is going to be a 5/6 school and then a 7/8 school. That was already
165 in place at the middle school in some sense because 5th and 6th grade teams have two teachers
166 that are STEM/humanities teachers which is what we do here. In 7th and 8th grade it is a very
167 different teaming structure, we have a math, science, social studies, and English teacher, so you
168 get four teachers.

169 We have always had that distinction. In looking at that, it is developmentally meeting the
170 students needs. The lower middle school, 5th and 6th grade will have one school counselor, one
171 social worker and one of our assistant principals. The upper school will have one school
172 counselor, one social worker and then Mr. John Schuttinger as our Assistant Principal providing
173 all student services supports. He has experience overseeing Special Education. They will be
174 checking in at the end of October. She noted that she is happy to answer questions.

175 Ms. Lawrence inquired what has changed with the warrant.

176 Ms. Landwehrle replied that the ASB has focused on the elementary school and not the middle
177 school at this time. They had a little bit of sticker shock with the Amherst community even
178 though they would see cost savings and efficiency in the long run. Our greatest challenge is still
179 with Clark/Wilkins. It is a logistical challenge with two buildings, and they are at the point at
180 they have turned closets into offices, so every single space is being utilized. They know that they
181 are bursting at the seams, and do not have small group instruction spaces. They have 4 different
182 interventionists sharing one classroom. JFAC will only be moving forward with the elementary
183 school project, but it will not have an impact on Mont Vernon further down the road.

184 Ms. Lawrence added that Mr. Chamberlin has offered to do a mini retreat with the board about a
185 more informed conversation about what it entails. There is a tentative date for September 20th.
186 No one has responded and she will ask Mr. Chamberlin for an alternative date. The change of the
187 warrant gives them a little more time.

188 Discussion ensued over the date of the mini retreat.

189 Ms. Lawrence remarked that she will coordinate with Mr. Chamberlin. She added that they are
190 being included in JFAC in a thoughtful way.

191 IX. Board Goals

192 Ms. Landwehrle noted that the first three goals are the academic goals that they worked closely
193 with the teacher on.

194 Mr. Torres gave his support for the Social Emotional Learning goal.

195 Ms. Lawrence commented that Community Engagement is something that they are working on.
196 She inquired for board thoughts on action steps.

197 Ms. Clark noted that she would prefer measurables on what is effective and is not effective.

198 Ms. Lawrence asked what would be a good measurable.

199 Ms. Clark replied gathering data on participation and engaging the community in general.
200 Getting a baseline data point will give them something to shoot for next year once they know the
201 level of engagement.

202 Ms. Lawrence commented that they should highlight the minutes with a summary sheet. Their
203 minutes are searchable and then the question is where they share that.

204 Ms. Clark mentioned that the groundwork they lay needs to be sustainable.

205 Ms. Lawrence added that the intent behind this is that they are looking to engage the community.
206 She would hope that community members would reach out to share their ideas.

207 Ms. Clark remarked that they need to get a base line.

208 Ms. Lawrence asked for additional questions for board goals.

209 She suggested adding a bullet about long term goals.

210 Ms. Lawrence asked for additional questions on the board goals.

211 There were no additional questions.

212 X. Policy BHC

213 Ms. Lawrence noted that this policy was brought up recently and there was a slight revision. The
214 MVEA has asked for them to consider them adopting the same language as Amherst and
215 Souhegan.

216 Ms. Landwehrle noted that Amherst removed just a few sentences from their policy. If you look
217 at it is the last paragraph. It was clarifying the chain of command; it was not the intent to make
218 their staff anxious or nervous. The change would make the MV policy in line with Amherst's
219 policy.

220 Ms. Lawrence added that it makes a lot of sense. She would be in favor of accepting those
221 changes.

222 Mr. Torres gave his support.

223 **Motion to revise BHC to remove in the last paragraph “by either party” and then stop the**
224 **sentence after “unethical behavior by the school board member” what would come out is**
225 **“and could cause the staff member to violate this policy”. Mr. Eckhoff to second the**
226 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

227 XI. Nominations

228 Ms. Landwehrle placed into nomination Ms. Sherry Hall, Grade 3 Teacher, MVVS BA+15 Step
229 6, \$52,948 FTE 1.0.

230 **Ms. Clark motioned to accept the nomination. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote**
231 **was unanimous, motion passed.**

232 XII. Non-Public Session

233 **Mr. Torres motioned to move into Non-Public Session RSA 91 A:3 II (c) at 8:24PM. Mr.**
234 **Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

235 Non-Public Attendees: Ms. Landwehrle, Mr. Lecklider, Mr. Eckhoff, Ms. Clark, Mr. Torres.

236 The board discussed a staffing issue.

237 XIII. Public Session

238 **Ms. Clark motioned to authorize reallocation of .6 Spanish position among the other**
239 **specials as needed for one year because we are unable to fill the Spanish position. We**
240 **would not be able to meet contractual obligations to provide preparation periods to our**
241 **teaching staff. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

242 XIV. Meeting Adjourned

243 **Ms. Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 9:16PM.**

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