

1 Mont Vernon Middle School Study Committee

2 Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 01 05 2022

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5 Attendees: Dagmar Vlahos- Mont Vernon, NH, Charline Brown- MVVS Teacher (non-voting  
6 member), Howard Brown- Mont Vernon NH (non-voting member), Craig Wiley- Mont Vernon,  
7 NH, Autumn Grdina- Mont Vernon NH, Anne Dodd- Mont Vernon NH, Andrew Stokinger,  
8 Mont Vernon NH.

9 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

10 Public: John Quinlan, Mont Vernon, NH.

11 I. Call to Order

12 **Ms. Dagmar Vlahos called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.**

13 She noted that Mr. Peter King could not be in attendance and is serving as Chair for the night.

14 She tabled the minutes of 11 30 2021 till the next meeting.

15 II. Discussion

16 Ms. Vlahos added that they can break out into groups and discuss the pros and cons,  
17 considerations, and outstanding questions. What they would do is put forth several different  
18 recommendations with backing information for the school board to review.

19 Think about two or three scenarios and then separate out and share them with the entire group. If  
20 there are other avenues, they can do the same exercise for that as well.

21 The committee agreed.

22 Ms. Vlahos added that one option for the group is keeping the kids in Amherst at the Amherst  
23 Middle School the next option is to pull them back to the Mont Vernon school. They had  
24 potentially talked about renting space and there was a short- and long-term option. She is  
25 suggesting outlining those two options.

26 Ms. Brown asked about the actual figure that would be a big consideration.

27 Ms. Dodd noted that she attended the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee and with the  
28 renovation project are not intending to touch the middle school for three to five years. The  
29 Wilkins school needs to be built first. They are going for the bond amount of \$83m and Mont  
30 Vernon would be paying for their share of the bond next year.

31 Mr. Brown added that Amherst taxpayers would be doing the same.

32 Mr. Brown that Amherst taxpayers would go

- 33 Ms. Grdina added that they would see the improvements on the elementary school.
- 34 Mr. Brown asked for clarification on the project.
- 35 Ms. Dodd remarked that she is not sure how they are going to build on the Wilkins site while  
36 school is still in session.
- 37 Mr. Brown noted that he is imagining that they will be building out in the back because there is a  
38 lot of room.
- 39 Ms. Dodd replied that they will be building back with administration in the front of the building.
- 40 Mr. Stokinger added that if they go over cost in the elementary school, they will not have  
41 anything left for the middle school.
- 42 Ms. Grdina inquired about the Amherst community's feedback to the bond.
- 43 Ms. Dodd remarked that they do not have much community involvement at the public forums.  
44 The bond hearing is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the Deliberative Session is February  
45 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 46 Ms. Brown added that they can get the money up front and then tell MV that they do not want  
47 them there.
- 48 Mr. Wiley remarked that there needs to be renegotiation of the contract. He inquired what  
49 amount of input did they ever get in the renovation in the Amherst Middle School.
- 50 Ms. Vlahos mentioned that this is the information that they want to capture when they separate  
51 into the groups so that they can present it to the school board.
- 52 Ms. Grdina remarked that didn't they just sign a new tuition agreement.
- 53 Ms. Dodd replied yes, it was effective for July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, for the new fiscal year.
- 54 Mr. Stokinger added that they can pull out of the contract.
- 55 Ms. Vlahos suggested that they do two groups of three. She asked Ms. Dodd if they were  
56 thinking two or three options.
- 57 Ms. Vlahos added that she would like to get a starting point on both of them. Mr. King  
58 mentioned that they will add an additional meeting. Then share what they captured.
- 59 Ms. Dodd noted that they can even share their ideas tonight.
- 60 The Committee then broke into two groups to discuss staying with the Amherst Middle School  
61 and the bringing back the Mont Vernon students to Mont Vernon.
- 62 **The meeting resumed at 8:09PM.**
- 63 Ms. Dodd asked if they could cover the information tonight.
- 64 Ms. Brown added that she can keep the sheets in her classroom.

65 Mr. Stokinger read the highlights of bringing back the students to Mont Vernon.

- 66 • When? - 2 years notice on either side, if they build then they may have to rent for 1 year.
- 67 Renting, could be possible use of trailers or use of Souhegan High School.
- 68 • Build? - Lots of open questions, put it on the ballot now FY 2022 or wait until 2023.
- 69 Expand to K-8, they have ruled out a Middle School there are too many variables. if they
- 70 build across the street then they lose the field for sports and where is the location.
- 71 • How Big to Build? - 4 versus 8 classrooms, potential for designing larger.
- 72 ○ If they Build Bigger- Lots of pros, potential tuitioning in of students, attracting
- 73 full time talent, they can set their schedule, less bus time, opportunity for
- 74 advanced classes

75 Mr. Stokinger asked Mr. Brown about the length of time students were on the bus.

76 Mr. Brown replied that the longest he has had someone on his bus was 50 minutes.

77 Mr. Stokinger reviewed the cons:

- 78 • Loss of Middle School activities/sports/clubs
- 79 • Delay of social interaction
- 80 • Timing not good
- 81 • Not enough staff on hand
- 82 • There is an option for advanced math in Amherst now, they might not get there.
- 83 • Lose the field for sports.

84 Mr. Wiley reviewed the cons of Remain in Amherst

- 85 • Unpredictable Costs
- 86 • No equity
- 87 • No say in future expenditures/plans

88 Mr. Stokinger asked if they have a representative on the School Board.

89 Mr. Brown explained that they do not have representation on the Amherst School Board only on  
90 Souhegan.

91 Mr. Wiley continued reviewing the cons.

- 92 • No control of educational decisions.
- 93 ○ Class size
- 94 ○ Programming
- 95 • No say in contract negotiations
- 96 • No school board representations.

97 He explained the Pros

- 98 • Consistency
- 99 • Sports/Extra Opportunities

- 100 • Integration with Amherst
- 101 • Social Growth
- 102 • Community Relationship
- 103 • Electives
- 104 • Languages

105 He reviewed the Need to Know/Considerations

- 106 • Actual cost to stay in Amherst and cost to stay in Mont Vernon
- 107 • Renegotiate contract
- 108 • What would tuition cost- per student cost for MV student, current cost \$20,097
- 109 • How much is building aid
- 110 • Expected class size.

111 Mr. Stokinger asked for a ballpark amount.

112 Mr. Wiley replied that the Cost Per Pupil is \$20k.

113 Ms. Vlahos added the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM. She noted  
114 that they are looking at an additional meeting.

115 III. Meeting Adjourned

116 **Ms. Vlahos adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.**

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