

**Mont Vernon**  
**Voters' Guide**  
to the  
**Deliberative Session**  
of the  
**Mont Vernon School District**  
(Grades K - 8)  
**February 4, 2015**  
7:00 p.m. – Mont Vernon Village School

**Officers and Agents of the School District**

**Mont Vernon School Board**

*Kim Roberge, Chair*

*Bruce Schmidt, Vice Chair*

*Thomas Driscoll*

*Trevor Girard*

*John Quinlan*

**School District Moderator**

David Sturm

**School District Clerk**

Sue Leger

**School District Treasurer**

Lyn Jennings

**Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee**

Matt Gelbwaks, Chair

Brian Bunner

Mike Fimbel

Gerry Pearsall

Hillary Schwoegler

**Office of the Superintendent**

Peter Warburton, Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth Shankel, Business Administrator

Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services

Nicole Heimarck, Director of Curriculum & Professional Development

**School Administration**

John Schuttinger, Principal

Mont Vernon Village School

## Mont Vernon School District Voting

Mont Vernon School District follows the guidelines of Senate Bill 2 (SB2) which are outlined in RSA 40:13. Voting on budgets, appropriations, and other articles culminates with ballot voting; however, prior to the March ballot vote is the Deliberative Session, which will be held February 4, 2015.

The Deliberative Session is the first session of the annual meeting and consists of explanation, discussion, and debate of each article on the warrant. Only voters registered in Mont Vernon can amend wording and dollar amounts and vote on approving the warrant articles.

All warrant articles that are presented at the Deliberative Session, including articles that are amended, are then placed on the official ballot and moved to the second session of the annual meeting for a final vote by ballot on March 10, 2015.

### Mont Vernon School District Voting is a Two-Step Process

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**Deliberative Session**                      February 4<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.  
Mont Vernon Village School

**Ballot Vote**                                      March 10<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Mont Vernon Village School

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Contact the Mont Vernon Town Clerk for voter registration information and for absentee ballots.

Phone: (603) 673-9126

<http://town.mont-vernon.nh.us/departments/TownClerk.html>

### Mont Vernon School Board Contact Information

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**MONT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT  
February 4, 2015 and March 10, 2015  
MONT VERNON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the Mont Vernon School District, in the Town of Mont Vernon, County of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at Mont Vernon Village School in said district on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., for Session I (Deliberation), for the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot. This session shall consist of the explanation of all the warrant articles and the discussion and debate of warrant articles 2 through 5. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for final vote on the main motion, as amended and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

You are hereby further notified to meet at Mont Vernon Village School on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to vote by official ballot for the election of School District officers and other action required to be inserted on the official ballot (warrant articles 1 through 4.)

**ARTICLE 1**

To elect all necessary School District officers for the ensuing terms by official ballot vote on March 10, 2015, Mont Vernon Village School, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- Election of two (2) members of the School Board for the ensuing three (3) years.
- Election of school district treasurer for the ensuing one (1) year.
- Election of school district moderator for the ensuing one (1) year.
- Election of school district clerk for the ensuing one (1) year.

**ARTICLE 2**

Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$4,725,302**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$4,637,058**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$2.48 per \$1000.**

**The estimated tax impact of not passing this article is an increase of \$ 2.16 per \$1000.**

**The Mont Vernon School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 4 to 1.**

**The Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee does not recommend the passage of this article by a vote of 3 to 1.**

Mont Vernon School Board Commentary

*The proposed Mont Vernon School District operating budget for the 2015-2016 (FY16) school year is \$4,725,302. This is an increase of \$484,194 (11.42%) over last year's voted default budget. Over 99% of the \$484,194 increase is due to non-discretionary costs. The tuition to Amherst Middle School reflects an increase of \$271,040 (6.4%), Special Education an increase of \$140,796 (3.33%), then transportation, retiree payment, and NH retirement increases of \$68,149 (1.6%). We have also seen a decrease in our revenue from state and federal aid as well. The initiatives supported in this budget are ongoing implementation of the new standards, as well as supporting our teacher-leader effectiveness system. It provides for exploration of implementation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) based programming and continued focus on RTI (Response to Instruction). The facility and maintenance initiatives include replacement of exterior sheet rock ceiling, replacement of asbestos flooring, continuation of fluorescent light diffuser replacement program, and initiation of a window replacement program (4 per year).*

**ARTICLE 3**

Shall the Mont Vernon School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Mont Vernon School Board and the Mont Vernon Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Estimated Increase</b>
<b>2015 – 2016</b>	<b>\$57,863</b>
<b>2016 – 2017</b>	<b>\$54,729</b>
<b>2017 – 2018</b>	<b>\$55,396</b>

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$57,863** for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The estimated tax impact of passing this article is an increase of \$0.23 per \$1000.**

**The Mont Vernon School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 5 to 0.**

**The Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 4 to 0.**

Mont Vernon School Board Commentary

*This article supports a 3 year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Mont Vernon School Board and the Mont Vernon Education Association. This represents a 1.95% COLA for the 1st year (estimated tax impact .23/1000), 1.75% COLA for the 2nd year (estimated tax increase .22/1000) and 1.95% COLA for the 3rd year (estimated tax increase .22/1000) plus step. The previous 3 year contract contained 0.00% COLA (cost of living adjustment). The*

*highlights in this agreement are again a 3 year agreement, a change to a lower cost dental plan, a freeze on access to POS health insurance, no step increase if a teacher is on an improvement plan, a change in the RIF clause, payment for one unused personal day, and an additional day for professional development. As we strive to have the best teachers, we should note that the starting salary for a Mont Vernon teacher is \$33,488 whereas in Amherst it is \$39,504; as well the average teacher salary in Mont Vernon is \$54,684, while in Amherst it is \$67,353.*

**ARTICLE 4**

Shall the Mont Vernon School District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only?

**No tax impact.**

**Majority vote required to pass.**

**The Mont Vernon School Board unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 5 to 0.**

**The Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee unanimously recommends the passage of this article by a vote of 4 to 0.**

*Mont Vernon School Board Commentary*

*This article allows the Board to call one special meeting if necessary to address Article 3 costs.*

**ARTICLE 5**

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Mont Vernon School District  
Budget Committee  
Report and Recommendations on FY16 Warrant Articles

The Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee was appointed by the Mont Vernon School District Moderator David Sturm. It is the responsibility of the committee to review the proposed budget and provide a recommendation to the Mont Vernon School District. The committee is comprised of five members. The members are Brian Bunner, Gerry Pearsall, Hillary Schwoegler, Mike Fimbel, and Matthew Gelbwaks, Chair.

The committee worked with SAU39 Superintendent, Peter Warburton; SAU39 Business Administrator, Betty Shankel; Mont Vernon Village School Principal, John Schuttinger; and the Mont Vernon School Board.

For the 2015 – 2016 school year there were three major financial items to consider. The first was the regular School Operating Budget, the second was the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Mont Vernon School Board and the Mont Vernon Education Association and the third was an Article, such that if Article 3 is defeated, authorizing the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 (cost items only). In previous years, only a Default Budget has been approved by the Voters. Based on this The Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee decided that it is very important that we, the residents of Mont Vernon, pass an operating budget for the school district that will allow us to continue offering both necessary and sufficient services for the children in our town.

Further, we believe that given the continuing trend of decreasing student enrollment, the need for capital investments at MVVS and increases in traditional fixed costs, the Budget Committee spent a great deal of time projecting how the average cost per student will continue to escalate in the foreseeable future. The Budget Committee strongly urges the School Board to undertake non-traditional measures to reduce costs that will stabilize and, hopefully, reverse the current tax burden. In addition to this, it is equally important that our School Board begin the difficult and complex task of understanding the demographic issues facing our town and deal with them in a proactive but constructive way. This should include administrative consolidation options with the town of Amherst and/or measures to eliminate administrative overhead within the school district. Engagement of an objective third party, skilled at understanding the growing challenges small towns are experiencing with declining student populations, should be considered to assess the town's current situation and to offer objective recommendations which should be presented to the town residents.

The Budget Committee has attended School Board meetings and recognizes the intensity and hard work of school board members to contain costs and to formulate a proposed budget which is reasonable for the town's residents. However, unless measures recommended by the Budget Committee are undertaken within the upcoming fiscal year, the Budget Committee will find it a challenge to recommend approval of a subsequent budget. Given the options in front of us for this next calendar year, the Budget Committee has voted to make the following recommendations:

Warrant Article 2: MVVS Operating Budget

The Budget Committee is against supporting the passage of this article by a vote of 3 to 1.

Several members of the Budget committee felt strongly that the Board was not doing enough to address staff costs in the light of continuing reduction in student population.

The Budget committee recommends a reduction of one staff member to start to address the issue of reductions in student population.

Warrant Article 3: Collective Bargaining

The Budget Committee is unanimously in support of the passage of this Article by a vote of 4 to 0.

Warrant Article 4:  
Special Meeting, should Article 3 be defeated

The Budget Committee is unanimously in support of the passage of this Article by a vote of 4 to 0.

**PLEASE COME TO THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION BEING HELD AT 7:00 PM AT THE  
MONT VILLAGE SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

Signed:

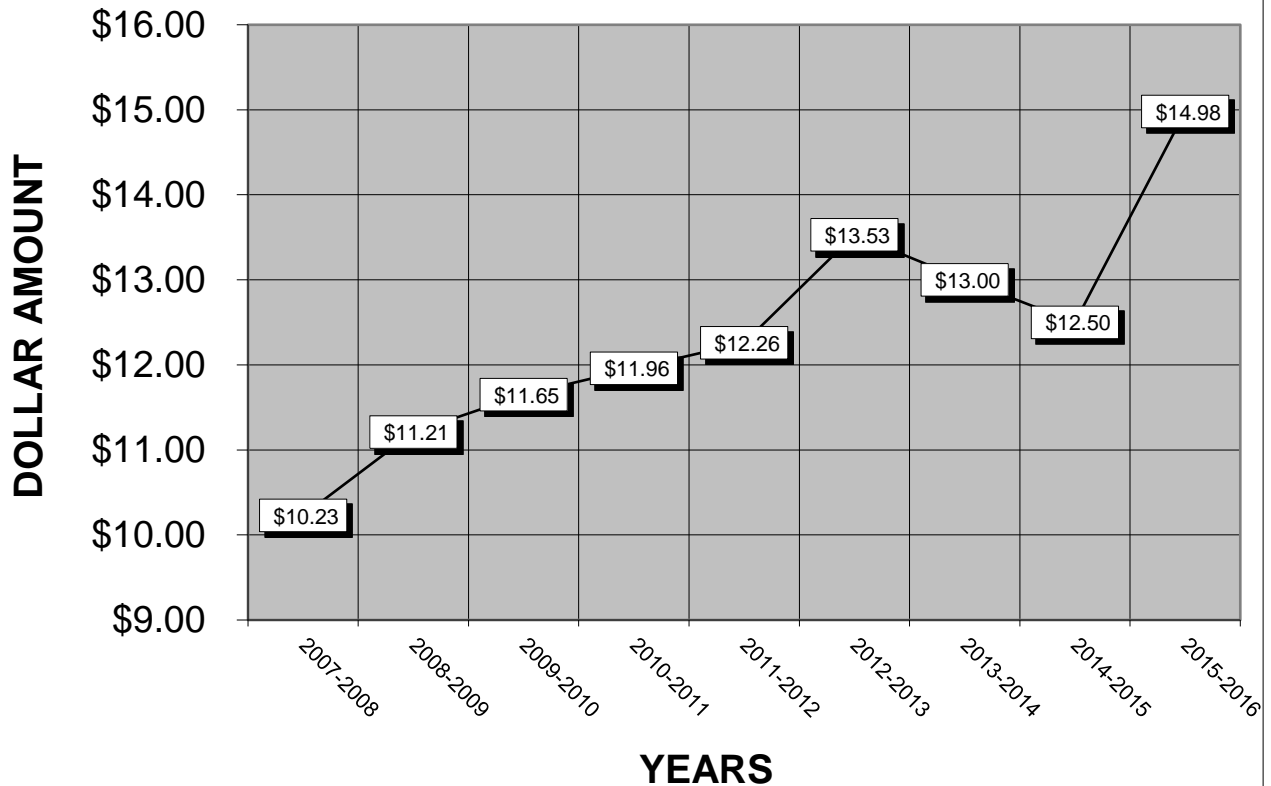
Mont Vernon School District Budget Committee  
Brian Bunner  
Gerry Pearsall  
Hillary Schwoegler  
Mike Fimbel  
Matthew Gelbwaks, Chair.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL WARRANT ARTICLES AND FINANCIAL TAX IMPACT

If all articles on the warrant pass, the estimated school tax rate for the upcoming 2015-16 school year will be \$15.21.

		Amount	Tax Rate/\$1,000 Town Assessed Valuation
2014-15 Annual Mont Vernon School District Tax Rate		\$ 4,241,108	\$ 12.50
Article 2	Operating Budget	\$ 4,725,302	\$ 2.48
Article 3	MVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$ 57,863	\$ 0.23
FY16	2015-16 Mont Vernon School District Estimated Tax Rate	\$ 4,783,165	\$ 15.21

### MONT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET TAX RATE HISTORY (K-8)





**Mont Vernon School District  
FY16 Proposed Budget Revenue Estimate**

<i>Item</i>	<i>FY15 DRA</i>	<i>FY16 Estimate</i>	<i>Change</i>
General Fund Expenditures	\$4,081,263	\$4,569,566	\$488,303
Special Revenue and Food Service	\$159,845	\$155,736	(\$4,109)
<b>Budgeted Expenditures (All Funds)</b>	<b>\$4,241,108</b>	<b>\$4,725,302</b>	<b>\$484,194</b>
<b>Unreserved Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$97,923</b>	<b>\$50,328</b>	<b>(\$47,595)</b>
<b>State Aid</b>			
School Building Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0
Catastrophic Aid	\$49,762	\$0	(\$49,762)
Child Nutrition	\$800	\$800	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal: State Aid</b>	<b>\$50,562</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>(\$49,762)</b>
<b>Federal Aid</b>			
Grants In Aid	\$106,000	\$96,000	(\$10,000)
Child Nutrition	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Medicaid	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Other			
<b>Subtotal: Federal Aid</b>	<b>\$146,000</b>	<b>\$136,000</b>	<b>(\$10,000)</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Sale Of Bonds / Notes			\$0
Transfer From Cap. Pr. Fund			\$0
<b>Subtotal: Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Local Revenue</b>			
Interest Income	\$1,000	\$800	(\$200)
Food Service	\$45,126	\$48,936	\$3,810
Other (LGC & Trust)	\$71	\$71	\$0
<b>Subtotal: Local Revenue</b>	<b>\$46,197</b>	<b>\$49,807</b>	<b>\$3,610</b>
<b>Assessment:</b>			
Budgeted Expenditures (All Funds)	\$4,241,108	\$4,725,302	\$484,194
Less Unreserved Fund Balance	\$97,923	\$50,328	(\$47,595)
Less Subtotal: State Aid	\$50,562	\$800	(\$49,762)
Less Subtotal: Federal Aid	\$146,000	\$136,000	(\$10,000)
Less Subtotal: Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less Subtotal: Local Revenue	\$46,197	\$49,807	\$3,610
<b>Current Appropriation</b>	<b>\$3,900,426</b>	<b>\$4,488,367</b>	<b>\$587,941</b>
Current Appropriation	\$3,900,426	\$4,488,367	\$587,941
Deficit Appropriation			
Advance Appropriation			
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$3,900,426</b>	<b>\$4,488,367</b>	<b>\$587,941</b>
Total Appropriation	\$3,900,426	\$4,488,367	\$587,941
Less State Property Tax - MVSD Portion	\$368,908	\$354,937	(\$13,971)
Less Adequate Education Aid-MVSD Portion			(\$24,879)
<b>Mont Vernon School District Tax Assessm</b>	<b>\$2,719,338</b>	<b>\$3,346,129</b>	<b>\$626,791</b>
Local Assessed Valuation - with Utilities	\$247,400	\$247,400	\$0
Local Assessed Valuation - less Utilities	\$245,035	\$245,035	\$0
<b>Estimated Tax Impact</b>			
MVSD State Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000)	\$1.51	\$1.45	(\$0.06)
MVSD Local Education Tax Rate (per \$1,000)	\$10.99	\$13.53	\$2.54
<b>Total MVVS Tax Rate (Local + State)</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$14.98</b>	<b>\$2.48</b>

**Mont Vernon School District  
FY16 Proposed Budget Summary**

	FY14 Actual Expenditures	FY15 Voted Budget	FY16 Proposed Budget	Budget to Budget \$ Increase (Decrease)	Budget to Budget % Increase (Decrease)
<b>Fund 10</b>					
1100 Regular Education Programs- Teacher salaries, textbooks, substitutes, supplies	\$2,463,383	\$2,373,321	\$2,691,978	\$318,657	13.43%
1200 Special Education Programs- Teacher salaries, aides, substitutes, evaluators, textbooks, supplies, and items specific to SPED	\$621,682	\$492,835	\$399,533	-\$93,302	-18.93%
1400 Co-Curricular Programs - Interscholastics, intramurals, student body activities	\$9,365	\$9,255	\$11,277	\$2,022	21.85%
2100 Student Support Services- Guidance, Health	\$212,609	\$143,256	\$364,198	\$220,942	154.23%
2200 Instructional Support Services- Info Technology salaries, supplies, curriculum coordinators, professional development, consultants	\$87,269	\$102,201	\$114,724	\$12,523	12.25%
2300 School Board- Treasurer, moderator, SB stipends, SB minute taker, legal, audit	\$23,272	\$21,706	\$32,854	\$11,148	51.36%
2300 District Assessment - SAU 39 MVSD portion of the SAU budget	\$188,934	\$181,381	\$181,255	-\$126	-0.07%
2400 School Administrative Services- Principal salaries, office staff, office equipment	\$226,100	\$228,234	\$239,098	\$10,864	4.76%
2600 Operation and Plant Maintenance- Custodial salaries, electricity, heating oil, water, trash, loss and liability insurance premiums, building maintenance	\$434,005	\$246,457	\$269,668	\$23,211	9.42%
2700 Student Transportation- Bus contract, fuel	\$164,349	\$191,334	\$224,040	\$32,706	17.09%
2800 Support Services - Technology Local and wide area network costs, IT support	\$22,484	\$26,283	\$35,490	\$9,207	35.03%
2900 Support Services - Other	\$0	\$0	\$5,451	\$5,451	0.00%
5200 Fund Transfers	\$15,000	\$65,000	\$0	-\$65,000	-100.00%
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$4,468,452</b>	<b>\$4,081,263</b>	<b>\$4,569,566</b>	<b>\$488,303</b>	<b>11.96%</b>
Fund 21 Food Service Fund	\$76,110	\$53,845	\$59,736	\$5,891	10.94%
Fund 22 Grant Fund	\$87,636	\$106,000	\$96,000	-\$10,000	-9.43%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$4,632,198</b>	<b>\$4,241,108</b>	<b>\$4,725,302</b>	<b>\$484,194</b>	<b>11.42%</b>

Mont Vernon School District  
FY16 Default Budget

Acct #	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 32:3,V)	FY15 Adopted Budget	Reductions & Increases	Minus 1-Time Appropriations	FY16 Default Budget
1100-1199	Regular Programs	\$ 2,373,321	\$ 282,528	\$ -	\$ 2,655,849
1200-1299	Special Programs	\$ 492,835	\$ (99,562)	\$ -	\$ 393,273
1400-1499	Co-curricular Programs	\$ 9,255	\$ 2,022	\$ -	\$ 11,277
	<b>INSTRUCTION (1000-1999)</b>	<b>\$ 2,875,411</b>	<b>\$ 184,988</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,060,399</b>
2000-2199	Student Support Services	\$ 143,256	\$ 220,387	\$ -	\$ 363,643
2200-2299	Instructional Staff Services	\$ 102,201	\$ 10,526	\$ -	\$ 112,727
	<b>SUPPORT SERVICES (2000-2999)</b>	<b>\$ 245,457</b>	<b>\$ 230,913</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 476,370</b>
2300-840	School Board Contingency	\$ -			\$ -
2310-2319	Other School Board	\$ 21,706	\$ 4,148	\$ -	\$ 25,854
	<b>General Administration</b>	<b>\$ 21,706</b>	<b>\$ 4,148</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 25,854</b>
2320-311	SAU Management Services	\$ 181,381	\$ 5,874	\$ -	\$ 187,255
2400-2499	School Administration Service	\$ 228,234	\$ 8,796	\$ -	\$ 237,030
2500-2599	Business	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2600-2699	Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$ 246,457	\$ (2,185)	\$ -	\$ 244,272
2700-2799	Student Transportation	\$ 191,334	\$ 32,524	\$ -	\$ 223,858
2800-2999	Support Service Central & Other	\$ 26,283	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,283
4000-4999	Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Executive Administration</b>	<b>\$ 873,689</b>	<b>\$ 45,009</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 918,698</b>
5111	Debt Service - Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5120-5122	Debt Service - Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>OTHER OUTLAYS (5000-5999)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
5220-5221	To Food Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5252	To Expendable Trust	\$ 65,000	\$ (65,000)	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>FUND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>	<b>\$ (65,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>FOOD SERVICE FUND</b>	<b>\$ 53,845</b>	<b>\$ 5,891</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 59,736</b>
	<b>GRANT FUND</b>	<b>\$ 106,000</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 96,000</b>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 4,241,108</b>	<b>\$ 395,949</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,637,058</b>

## MODERATOR'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

### Mont Vernon School District Deliberative Session

1. Only Mont Vernon registered voters are entitled to participate in the meeting and vote. This does not include SAU and school district staff and employees necessary to the meeting.
2. Each motion to amend will be voted on before another motion to amend will be entertained.
3. Each speaker will state his or her name and address, and will be limited to three minutes. No individual will be allowed to speak a second time until all who wish to speak for the first time have spoken.
4. Speakers must speak from the central microphone. All comments must be addressed to the Moderator and not to the audience. Personal attacks or discussions will not be allowed. Please don't simply repeat comments made earlier, but add substantively to the debate. If someone "steals your thunder" while you're waiting to speak, note your agreement with that speaker, but in the interest of time please don't repeat their comments at length.
5. No motion to call the question will be accepted by the moderator until there has been sufficient debate on the article.
6. A motion to restrict reconsideration in accordance with RSA 40:10 should be made immediately following the announcement of the vote on that article.
7. Motions to pass over, table, and postpone will not be accepted, within the discretion of the moderator.
8. Any voter may challenge any ruling of the Moderator. Majority vote decides.

David Sturm  
Mont Vernon School District Moderator