

MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2012
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kim Roberge called the board meeting to order at 6:07pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Mont Vernon School Board: Tom Driscoll, Trevor Girard, Kim Roberge, Bruce Schmidt and John Quinlan.

Administrative Team: Sue Blair, Nicole Heimarck, Betty Shankel, Renea Sparks and Peter Warburton.

Administration: Charline Brown, Meghan Libby, Sara Millas and Jan Mattie.

Budget Committee: Bill Archibald, Brian Bunner, and Paul Liscord.

Minutes Recorder: Tom Driscoll

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Principal's Report - Board members received a copy of the Principals Report dated March 15, 2012 in their board packets.

Sue Blair told the board members student enrollment at the Village School as of Friday, March 12, 2012, was 233 students.

Sue told board members that progress reports were sent home and that so far felt the feedback was positive to the new format. Also 2nd Trimester report cards will be issued on March 26th.

Sue reported that two math pilots, Think Math and Big Ideas will be starting on Monday March 26 for the next five weeks.

Sue reported that Pick Up Patrol (PUP) is working flawlessly. Only issue is it is a new behavior for the parents so they need to be reminded to setup and use.

Sue reported that Read Across America is ending this month. As of March 13th, the school has logged 91,251 minutes.

Also provide Upcoming Dates of interest.

III. PUBLIC TIME

Budget Committee Chairman provided a letter to the board, addressed to the Chairman and the board, dated March 15, 2012. Bill asked that the letter be included in the minutes. Bill read the letter to the board. (Letter attached.)

Jen Bertrand requested the board permission to give a presentation concerning Full-Day Kindergarten.

Kim Roberge explained that there will be a public forum held on March 29, 2012 to discuss options for Pre-K and Kindergarten. Kim asked Jen if it would be ok to present at that time.

Jen provided the board copies of the presentation to be posted.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by John Quinlan to consider the January 10, 2012 minutes. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

The following changes were made to the Minutes per Bill Archibald's letter:

The paragraph now reads: Bill said the committee did not receive any request from the SAU of School Board as to what the \$143,000 was made up of and the committee thinks the SAU of School Board should have requested a discussion with the committee as to what this amount was made up of.

A motion was made by John Quinlan to accept the January 10, 2012 minutes as amended. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

A motion was made by Trevor Girard to approve Consent Agenda Item B. Budget Transfers. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

A. NECAP- Board members received a copy of a presentation, October 2011 NECAP Update.

Nicole Heimarck and Sue Blair presented a summary of the October 2011 NECAP results.

Nicole reported that overall the SAU was happy with the results.

Bruce asked whether the results are of testing year or teaching year.

Nicole responded that they use teaching year.

Bruce commented that he finds it difficult to draw a conclusion from the results either by following class progression or by grade.

Nicole responded that Mont Vernon has asynchronous results due to small class sizes. 1 student can have a significant result.

Nicole stated that the introduction of the core reading program has had an impact over the last 3 years.

John Quinlan raised a question relative to the 5th grade results that very few, only 5%, were proficient with distinction compared to the state average of 22%.

Nicole and Sue responded that they are looking into items such as these.

Sue stated the process once the results are released, all staff get results for the students in the current and last year. An analysis is done of released items to help inform decision for instruction. Some items can be addressed /re-taught during the core and more period.

Charlene Brown, 5th grade teacher in attendance commented that she reviewed the 5th grade interpretive and informative test and will address teaching to address these areas.

Nicole presented math and stated typical math is lower than reading.

Sue Blair presented summaries of what we improved and how, via curriculum, instruction practices and assessments.

Bruce asked if summer math club can be reviewed to determine impact.

Nicole responded that new state tool will allow them easily to assess this by creating a subgroup to look at the results of those participants.

Sue indicated the math club will continue this summer.

Sue summarized the results of writing and what we are doing. They are training in picture writing and image making for teachers.

Nicole presented a summary of the future as the state transitions to Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This is an attempt to nationalize the assessment. She expects the NECAP to be eliminated after the Fall 2013.

The board received a handout “Smarter Balanced, A Summary of Core Components”

Bruce raised a question whether NWEA will continue to ensure we have valid data.

Nicole responded that NWEA is in an alignment process to CCSS.

B. Preschool/Kindergarten Survey - Board members received a copy of a letter and survey from Sue Blair, dated March 13, 2012.

Peter Warburton pointed to the letter and survey in the packet and said that it was mailed to all homes in Mont Vernon.

Peter presented a handout emailed to the board, MVVS Early Childhood Programmatic & Staffing Options.

Sue Blair presented that as of today, they expect 14 kindergarten students for 2012/2013.

Sue Blair recommended to the board to implement a full day kindergarten program if a change needs to be made.

Sue Blair commented that a full time kindergarten makes the most sense over a pre-k program. Sue feels we would have a lot of work to implement a pre-k. Additionally we do not have the space that Amherst had to implement a similar program.

Bruce asked about 5 year growth rate.

Sue responded that for 2011 there were 9 births.

John Quinlan added we have 60 approved lots in town for building and only 3 have been built.

Bruce asked if pre-k revenue is still consistent with previous projections.

Renea Sparks answered yes.

Bruce asked if pre-k is still possible.

Renea said yes.

The board discussed the public forum to be held on March 29, 2012 in the MPR. The expectations of the forum:

1. History
2. Presentation of Options
3. Input from Public

Results from the survey are due back by March 23, 2012.

A member from the public, Kelsey Warren asked what is the purpose of the forum.

Kim Roberge responded with we are seeking input from the community. The board will make the decision in April.

C. FY14 Budget Process - Board members received a copy of a document titled, "Mont Vernon School District, Proposed FY14 Budget Process" date March 15, 2012.

Kim Roberge presented to the board the draft Proposed FY14 Budget Process.

Budget committee chairman Bill Archibald pointed out that it was requested at the deliberative session that a committee be formed to look at this.

Peter Warburton suggested that the Budget committee and the administration would be happy to meet between the board meetings to discuss this process.

The board received a copy of the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar in their agenda packet.

A motion was made by Trevor Girard to approve 2012-2013 school year calendar. John Quinlan seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

VI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A motion was made by John Quinlan to enter Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3 II. (a),(c). Trevor Girard seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Roberge – yes, Schmidt –yes, Driscoll –yes, Quinlan – yes, and Girard –yes, the board voted to enter Non-Public Session at 9:00pm.

The board discussed a student matter.

The board discussed a personnel matter.

A motion was made by John Quinlan to come out of Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3 II. (a),(c). Trevor Girard seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Roberge – yes, Schmidt –yes, Driscoll –yes, Quinlan – yes, and Girard –yes, the board voted to come out of Non-Public Session at 9:50pm.

VII. ACTION

The board received a handout on surplus projections as of March 15, 2012. The handout also included a list of priority needs not included in the default budget.

Sue Blair reported that budgets were very tight.

The board requested Sue to provide detail on what is needed.

VIII. REVIEW OF MEETING

A motion was made by John Quinlan to accept a check from the Daland Trust for \$70.00. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn the meeting. John Quinlan seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm (5-0-0)

WILLARD ARCHIBALD, JR
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Mont Vernon voters have spoken on SB 2 and the concern of increased cost of education. Education is important however the economic situation cannot sustain the continued growth in costs. There needs to be a give and take on both sides. As chairman of the budget committee for 2 years it is clear that the Board/Administration/SAU do not understand this. The recent vote on school budgets in SAU #39 clearly states that the voters cannot and will not continue allowing costs to increase. A clear example of this is that the Mont Vernon Administration included an \$8,000 smart table for the Kindergarten (which is projected to have 13 to 18 students in 2013) in it's original submission to the Budget Committee. Had the budget committee not challenged this item it would have been in the final budget. This is an example of the Administration/School Board not taking into consideration what the taxpayer can or cannot afford. The Board also decided in 2010 not to require parents to purchase certain school supplies where as other towns like Bedford, Milford and Lyndeborough do. The Administration was requested to substantiate why the General Supplies cost per student went from \$68 (2010), \$97 (2011), \$82 (2012) to \$135 (2013) during this time frame, unfortunately the Committee never received an answer. This is a minor issue but shows there needs to be more accountability and transparency relative to costs. The Administration and the Board are also considering going to a full day Kindergarten rather than reducing staff in 2013.

The budget committee was criticized by Chairman Roberge and other members of the Board for not keeping them informed of it actions or recommendation. This is not true as the Committee submitted via e-Mail to Board/SAU/Administration comprehensive minutes as well as detail lists of items the Committee recommended to be taken out of the budget. These minutes were not recorded as being received by the Board as well as other data transmitted to the Board by the Committee. The Chairman reminded the Committee it was only of an advisory nature and that they did not have to make the reductions if that is what they chose to do. The manner in which the comment was made at the meeting was we will do what we want regardless of the Committee's recommendations.

The committee prepared a 5 year detailed analysis of the actual costs vs. the 2012 and 2013 budget. This data was given to the Board/SAU/Administration but there was no indication that the Board/SAU/Administration reviewed it. Additionally a member of the SAU advised that the law only requires that they look at the budget data for 2012 compared to the budget being projected for 2013 and they are not required to compare actual expenditures to these budgets. The law is the law but a prudent person would go beyond the law and evaluate trends. Basing a budget on a budget does not make sense. I advised that if anyone had any questions on the data I would gladly go over the data with them. No one ever came forward.

I stood outside of the poles on Tuesday the 13th and received many comments relative to why the voters wanted to keep the SB 2 format. The most frequent comment was “I do not trust the School Board”. This is most unfortunate but I have a tendency to understand why after I presented the Board with a letter at the March 15, 2012 meeting. I gave Chairman Roberge the letter and 4 copies directly during Public Time. Chairman Roberge took a quick look at the letter and promptly laid it down in front of her and did not hand out the copies. She then asked if others had comments and proceeded with Public Time. After several people commented on other items I asked her if she planned on reading the letter and giving it to the other Board Members as it contained comments that were important to this meeting. She asked “you mean now” and I said “yes”. After some hesitation she said if you would like to read it to the Board that is okay. I read the letter to the Board and after reading it there was a lengthy period of silence from both the Board and public attending.

One of the main concerns in this letter was that the Board is not adhering to the law that minutes be available within 5 working days after a meeting. This was very frustrating to the Budget Committee as decisions were made relative to the budget at these meetings but the Committee did not have access to the final comments until weeks later. Additionally, several comments I had made at the January 10, 2012 meeting were not reported correctly and I asked to have them corrected. I will not know until the March 15, 2012 draft minutes are published if they were corrected. The draft of the February 10, 2012 minutes are not available as of March 19, 2012.

It is time for the Public to get more involved in what is going on with the School Board and the Village School. Not having children in the school does not exempt you from knowing what is happening and the needs of the system.

Yours truly,

Willard Archibald