

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, April 13, 2017

3 Meeting Minutes

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent, Adam Steel– Business Administrator,
6 John Schuttinger-Principal, and Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum & Professional
7 Development, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services, Lorin Philibotte- Kindergarten
8 Teacher MVVS, Amy Lavoie- 1st Grade Teacher MVVS, and Melanie Jones- 2nd Grade
9 Teacher MVVS.

10 Mont Vernon School Board: Thomas Driscoll- Chair, Sarah Lawrence- Vice-Chair, Stephen
11 O’Keefe, Kim Roberge (arrived 6:22PM) and Jason Chavez.

12 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

13 Public: Kristin Scully, Mont Vernon, NH and Community Members

14 I. CALL TO ORDER

15 **Mr. Thomas Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.**

16 II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

17 A. Principal’s Report

18 Principal Schuttinger began his Principal’s Report by noting the enrollment.

19 He then commented that this month they will have their final Family Lunch of the year. Mrs.
20 Colburn and Mrs. O’Donnell have invited families to join their students for lunch throughout
21 their years at the MVVS. He added that this month they will see families join the sixth graders
22 on Friday, April 13th.

23 Mr. Schuttinger also added that the PTA is putting together some exciting activities for the end
24 of the school year. Their work continues to be supportive to their students, families and staff. He
25 then thanked all the PTA leadership and many volunteers for all of their work.

26 The Board thanked Principal Schuttinger.

27 K-1 Presentations

28 Ms. Amy Lavoie, 1st Grade MVVS Teacher, discussed that her students have developed their
29 own books about animals. She noted that they have researched the selected animal’s habitat
30 among other facts and created a book to exhibit their work.

31 The students then presented their work.

32 Mr. Driscoll asked the students how they did their research.

33 He then asked if they had done their own art work.

34 The three students replied, yes.

35 Ms. Lorin Philibotte, Kindergarten MVVS Teacher, then discussed that they have completed a
36 fairytale unit in the Kindergarten class.

37 Principal Schuttinger then played a video of the Kindergarteners presenting their fairytale books
38 for the Board and community members

39 Mr. Driscoll asked how long did it take for the students to write their own fairytales.

40 Ms. Philibotte replied, that it had taken them some time and they worked really hard.

41 Mr. Driscoll asked about the unit.

42 Ms. Christine Landwehrle, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, replied that it
43 applies to Literacy among other topics.

44 Ms. Philibotte then discussed full day Kindergarten, noting that it was a good mix and not
45 stressful.

46 Mrs. Lavoie noted that the students are prepared for 1st grade and that they are not struggling.
47 She added that they are writing stories and they can write sentences from the beginning of the
48 year due to first day Kindergarten.

49 Mr. Driscoll asked about student stamina.

50 Ms. Philibotte replied, that the students do well.

51 Principal Schuttinger discussed that the students do get breaks and it takes some time to adjust to
52 the schedule but once they do, they are fine.

53 The Board thanked Ms. Philibotte and Ms. Lavoie.

54 B. Correspondence

55 Superintendent Warburton then discussed Senate Bill 193 he noted that it has passed the Senate
56 and it is on to the House.

57 He noted that SB 193 establishes a universal voucher program for New Hampshire.

58 He then read how it would work: “A parent signs a contract with a scholarship organization
59 where a parent agrees to provide an education for the student. The scholarship organization
60 notifies the New Hampshire Commissioner of Education about the contract and the Department
61 of Education transfers a certain amount of funds to the scholarship organization. The scholarship
62 organization maintains a student account for all parents who have signed a contract. The parents
63 have full access to these accounts to pay for educational services including public schools,
64 private schools, postsecondary institutions and homeschool”.

65 He noted that they put together some financial costs.

66 Mr. Driscoll asked if they would lose funding.

67 Mr. Warburton replied, from the adequacy grant.

68 He then urged the Board to take a look at that information he copied and to do some research on
69 their own.

70 The Board thanked Mr. Warburton.

71 III. PUBLIC TIME

72 Ms. Kristen Scully, Mont Vernon resident commented that the programs for gifted students are
73 not consistent. She added that there are several in each grade that need consistent enrichment.

74 Ms. Roberge noted that they have discussed individual education plans. She added that it should
75 be the responsibility of the school board. She noted that there are smaller class sizes and that
76 they should be able to do it.

77 She finalized by adding that they want the kids to be challenged.

78 She then thanked Ms. Scully for her comments.

79 Ms. Landwehrle noted that they have been exploring different math resources such as Wowzers
80 (www.wowzers.com). She added that it is meant for a pilot at this point but it is free.

81 She then discussed a program called EdSurge (www.EdSurge.com) that she is working with and
82 exploring.

83 She then discussed that the Board has approved the science curriculum and they will be
84 revisiting that this summer. She added that the challenge is that the teachers don't always have
85 things at their fingertips to target and support learning. She noted that they plan on doing that
86 curriculum work this summer.

87 Ms. Roberge noted she doesn't like to hear from parents that their children aren't being
88 challenged.

89 Mr. Driscoll noted that an online tool might not be enough.

90 Ms. Landwehrle noted that the math coach has been working one on one, and here they do not
91 have the staffing.

92 Mr. O'Keefe asked if there is a process where a parent would reach out for more support.

93 Ms. Landwehrle replied that first is Principal Schuttinger and then herself.

94 Ms. Roberge noted that sometimes parents do not know that, and you are probably not the only
95 one.

96 Mr. Driscoll replied that it is a challenge and something that they have to act on.

97 Ms. Lawrence noted that there is a lot of talk but not enough action.

98 Mr. Driscoll noted that this is something that they have talked about.

99 Ms. Landwehrle noted that there is a math carnival and that is another resource.

100 Superintendent Warburton noted that this will be an item next month.

101 The Board thanked Ms. Scully for her comments.

102 IV. CONSENT AGENDA

103 A. Minutes

104 1. March 23, 2017

105 B. MS22 Voted Appropriations

106 **Ms. Kim Roberge made a Motion to accept Consent Agenda item A. Minutes 1. March 23rd**
107 **2017. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the Motion. 4 in favor, Motion passed. Mr. Jason**
108 **Chavez abstained.**

109 **Ms. Kim Roberge made a Motion to accept Consent Agenda item B. MS22 Voted**
110 **Appropriations. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous,**
111 **Motion passed.**

112 V. PRESENTATIONS

113 A. Literacy Curriculum Update

114 Ms. Landwehrle noted that Ms. Melanie Jones has done a non-fiction literacy unit project based
115 on the Iditarod.

116 Ms. Melanie Jones discussed that it is a project based around the Iditarod and allows for voice
117 and choice. She added that the students pick a subtopic to research and then present. She added
118 that the last part of the project was turned into a skit due to the unexpected snow days.

119 She added that she unfortunately does not have any pictures. She discussed that they had reading
120 goals and the letter that went home to parents to explain the reading challenge.

121 Mr. Driscoll commented that it sounded like fun.

122 Ms. Roberge noted that there are two people in town that attended the Iditarod, and she will give
123 her the contact information. She added that they will probably come in and talk to the students.

124 Superintendent Warburton commented that it sounds like a really fun unit.

125 Ms. Jones then showed the Board how the students conducted their research.

126 The Board thanked Ms. Jones.

127 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that it is project based learning giving the students voice, choice and
128 responsibility.

129 VI. DISCUSSION

130 A. Consolidation

131 Mr. Warburton commented that they had discussed this at the SAU meeting a few days ago.

132 Ms. Roberge commented on sharing resources from a maintenance standpoint. She added that
133 she is concerned that closing the MVVS will drastically drop home values.

134 Mr. Driscoll commented that stating the problem first is the right thing to do and added that it is
135 a complex situation.

136 Discussion ensued.

137 Mr. Schuttinger noted his concern with losing staff.

138 Superintendent Warburton added that they may set a public hearing date for June. He added that
139 they do not have all the answers at this time and that it needs further discussion.

140 VII. INFORMATIONAL

141 A. FY17 MVSD 3rd Quarter Projection

142 Mr. Steel noted that the Mont Vernon School District is projecting a net surplus of approximately
143 \$199,300 for the 2016-2017 school year.

144 He then discussed that it was mostly related to staffing.

145 He noted that at this time, transportation projections for Special Education is unclear. Regular
146 Education and Field Trip transportation are expected to be on budget.

147

148 Ms. Roberge asked if he could keep the Board updated.

149 Mr. Steel replied, yes

150 The Board thanked Mr. Steel.

151 B. Smarter Balanced Update

152 Ms. Landwehrle noted that she wanted to give the Board a quick update on Smarter Balanced
153 Assessments. She added that in June they will be in the 3rd year of Smarter Balanced.

154 She discussed that Smarter Balanced is the statewide summative assessment for grades 3-8. It is
155 aligned to the Common Core State Standards and designed to determine whether students are on
156 track for college and career readiness. Students are assessed in English language arts and math.

157 She added that they do not do test prep as they do not see a value in it.

158 Principal Schuttinger asked about the questions.

159 Mr. Driscoll commented about Smarter Balanced.

160 Ms. Landwehrle then discussed the Mont Vernon results compared to State level results.

161

162 She commented that she would like to see a greater math scores. She also added that MV is K-6
 163 and the data that she has for other districts is K-8. She added that they did not have a math coach
 164 last year.

165 She then compared Math scores for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 and the comparative district data for
 166 English Language Arts and Math 2016.

167 Ms. Roberge remarked that the Hanover school district is high achieving.

168 Ms. Landwehrle asked the Board if there are any other districts that they would like a
 169 comparison with.

170 Mr. O’Keefe suggested comparing New Boston.

171 Discussion ensued over comparative school districts.

172 Ms. Landwehrle added that she would get more needed information for the Board.

173 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

174 C. Water and Air Quality Testing Schedule

175 Mr. Steel noted that they will be testing the air quality quarterly, annually for the contaminants
 176 listed and then semiannually for bacteria and lead/copper.

177 He added that they want to be in front of any issues, and they are trying to be proactive.

178 Mr. Driscoll commented that with radon it can vary greatly.

179 Mr. Steel replied, yes and that he understands.

180 Mr. Steel noted that air quality inside and outside so that the HVAC is filtering properly.

181 D. Facility Schedule

182 Mr. Steel remarked that this will be further discussed next month.

183 He added that he is more concerned about the larger buildings.

184 Discussion ensued.

185 Mr. Steel applauded the Board for their proactive approach with financing the roof.

186 The Board thanked Mr. Steel.

187 VIII. ACTION ITEMS

188 A. Policies – 2nd Reading

189 BEC – Non-Public Sessions

190 BEDC – Quorum

191 BIBA – School Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops

- 192 □ BK – School Board Memberships
 193 □ IGD – Curriculum Adoption
 194 □ IGE – Citizen Request for Exception to Specific Course Materials
 195 □ IHAM – Health Education and Exemption from Instruction

196 B. Professional Nominations

197 C. Teacher Class Attendance

198 Mr. Driscoll noted that Policies BEDC – Quorum, BK– School Board Memberships, and IGE–
 199 Citizen Request for Exception to Specific Course Materials going back to the Policy Committee.

200 Ms. Lawrence commented on policy BEC- Non Public Sessions, “*should*” changed to “*will not*”.

201 Ms. Roberge commented on the possibility of someone that is not under contract.

202 Mr. Driscoll noted that policy BEC – Non-Public Sessions, should be out as well.

203 Ms. Roberge commented on Non-Public Minutes and unsealing.

204 **Ms. Kim Roberge made a Motion to accept Policies BIBA– School Board Conferences,**
 205 **Conventions, and Workshops, IGD– Curriculum Adoption, IHAM– Health Education and**
 206 **Exemption from Instruction as presented. Mr. Jason Chavez seconded the Motion. The**
 207 **vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

208 IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) (b) (c)

209 A. Student Matters

210 **Ms. Kim Roberge made a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II. (a) and**
 211 **(b) at 7:53PM. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the Motion.**

212 **Mr. Tom Driscoll called a Roll Call: Chavez-yes, Lawrence-yes, O’Keefe-yes, Roberge-yes,**
 213 **Driscoll-yes.**

214 **Entered non-public session at 7:55 pm.**

215 **Other persons present:** Peter Warburton, Superintendent, Meg Beauchamp, Director of
 216 Student Services, John Schuttinger, Principal

217 **Discussion:**

218 **Student Matter**

219 **Professional Nominations**

220 **A motion was made to exit non-public session by Sarah Lawrence and seconded by Stephen**
 221 **O’Keefe.**

222 **Mr. Tom Driscoll called a Roll Call: Chavez-yes, Lawrence-yes, O’Keefe-yes, Roberge-yes,**
223 **Driscoll-yes.**

224 At 8:20 pm the Board resumed public session.

225 **Motion to accept professional nominations as presented to the board. Motion made by**
226 **Sarah Lawrence, Seconded by Stephen O’Keefe. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

227 **REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

228 **8:25 P.M. Kim Roberge motioned to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Sarah Lawrence.**
229 **Motion passed unanimously.**

230

231 X. REVIEW OF MEETING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

232 Chair Mr. Thomas Driscoll noted the following future agenda items.

233 -A review of the Barker Facilities Report (discussion)

234 -Teacher class attendance information with sick and personal days added (informational)

235 -Grades 3-6 Smarter Balanced comparisons in math and ela (discussion)

236 -Gifted and talented (discussion)

237 -Policies (action Items)