

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, October 15th, 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 11 12 2020

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, Michele Croteau- SAU #39 Business Administrator, Meg Beauchamp- Director
7 of Student Services, Dr. Kim Sarfde- Principal of the Mont Vernon Village School and Roger
8 Preston- Director of Facilities for SAU #39.

9 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Peter Eckhoff,
10 Secretary- Scott St. Denis, Stephen O'Keefe and Jessica Hinckley.

11 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

12 Public: Mont Vernon Community Members

13 I. Call to Order

14 **Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, called the meeting to order**
15 **at 6:00PM.**

16 Today, we will be conducting a school board meeting of the Mont Vernon School Board.

17
18 Before we get started, I'll read through a checklist to ensure that the meeting that we are holding
19 is in compliance with the Right-to-Know Law.

20
21 As Chairperson of the Mont Vernon School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency
22 declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the
23 Governor's Emergency Order Number 12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 and its
24 extensions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no
25 physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized
26 pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.

27
28 In accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that:
29

- 30 1. We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access
31 possible by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic
32 meeting. All members of the committee and selected legislative staff have the ability to
33 communicate contemporaneously in this meeting through this platform. And the public
34 has access to contemporaneously watch and or listen to the meeting on Zoom and via
35 phone by following the directions and links provided on our website: www.sau39.org.
36
37 2. We have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
38

- 39 3. We are providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting
40 if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please email
41 awallace@sau39.org.
42
- 43 4. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will be adjourned and
44 rescheduled.
45
- 46 5. Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.
47
- 48 6. Finally, let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states
49 their presence please also state where they are and if anyone else is in the room with you
50 during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law.
51

52 Roll Call: Eckhoff- Home and alone, O'Keefe- Home and alone, Hinckley- Home and alone, St.
53 Denis- Home and alone, Lawrence- Home and alone.

54 II. Public Input I of II

55 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, noted that there were no community members in the meeting
56 waiting room.

57 Ms. Hinckley mentioned that she is a member of the MVPTA. She explained that every year they
58 hold a Breakfast with Santa. Since they cannot do that this year, they have thought of a light
59 display around the building. The families will be allowed to drive around, this is in lieu of the
60 Breakfast. The MVPTA will set it up wearing masks, socially distanced.

61 She has mentioned this to Chief of MV Police, Mr. Kevin Furlong. He replied that it is not his
62 place to decide but for Administration and the School Board. They have not done too much
63 planning because she is waiting to hear about it tonight.

64 Ms. Lawrence suggested that they discuss it now.

65 Principal Sarfde replied that it is a great alternative and she is greatly in support.

66 Mr. St. Denis inquired if they could bring in other cultures to the display.

67 Ms. Hinckley remarked that they certainly could and usually it is very Christmas centric. She is
68 open to ideas and potentially purchase other items. They do have diversity in Mont Vernon. This
69 will not be a Breakfast with Santa event and likely he will not be in attendance.

70 Mr. O'Keefe mentioned that they can do a Polar Express theme. He recommended that they do
71 it in a safe way.

72 Ms. Hinckley mentioned that it will strictly be the MVPTA and a few staff members.

73 Ms. Lawrence added that she is in support.

74 Mr. Eckhoff questioned if they can do a food drive.

75 Ms. Hinckley replied that that they have tried that in the past but have not been successful.

76 Principal Sarfde added that she is planning on a food drive in November.

77 Mr. Steel added that there were people that were registered and just got in the meeting. He gave
78 his apologies.

79 III. Consent Agenda

80 **Ms. Hinckley motioned to approve the items in the Consent Agenda items 1. Draft Minutes**
81 **Sept. 14th, 2020 and 2. October 2020 Principal's Report. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion.**
82 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

83 Mr. O'Keefe noted that this weekend some children were using the tarps as trampolines. He
84 asked if the Facilities Team could somehow protect them, so they do not get ruined. Second, he
85 inquired if a custodian could go around with a power washer. There is a lot of moss around the
86 building and dirt on the walkways.

87 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O'Keefe- Yes, St. Denis- Yes**
88 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

89 IV. First Reading Policies from SAU 09 14 2020

90 Ms. Lawrence remarked that there is nothing that is added or new to this policy packet.

91 Mr. O'Keefe noted that he is in support of approving the policies as a second reading.

92 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to accept the policies as written. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion.**
93 **The vote is unanimous, motion passed.**

94 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O'Keefe- Yes, St. Denis- Yes**
95 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

96 V. MVVS Roof Report

97 Mr. Steel noted that they have been discussing the roof for a few years and saving up for
98 replacement. New Director of SAU #39 Facilities, Mr. Roger Preston, has done a great job
99 researching the roof and has an update for tonight's meeting.

100 Mr. Preston remarked that they have areas on the roof that are in good, fair and poor condition.
101 Luckily, there is no place that they are taking in water in the building. They are planning in FY'
102 22 a roof replacement and have a good opportunity to have a successful project. The video
103 inspection explains that there are shingles that are wearing down and areas where the ridge cap is
104 deteriorating. They do have shingles with nails exposed and missing shingles in a lot of areas.

105 He added that Superintendent Steel has mentioned that the Board has done a lot of work in the
106 past and he has been doing a lot of his own research. They are getting a lot of energy loss
107 through the attic and that needs to be addressed. He wants to make sure that they address the roof
108 but the attic as well.

109 He is proposing that they contact a consultant to come up with a detail that they can send out to
110 bid for the roof. There are many ways that they can go out to bid. They can do a phasing or do
111 the whole roof at the same time. They can look at solar panels, but he looks at them as two
112 separate systems and need to be cautious with warranties. He is interested in pedestal mount if
113 they have an issue with the roof. It is something to consider as they move forward.

114 Again, the roof is not leaking, they are looking at proposing at replacing in FY'22. They have a
115 really good opportunity to plan this well and have a successful product.

116 He will be happy to answer questions.

117 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about the Custodial Entrance by the backside of the Gym. He inquired
118 about leakage.

119 Mr. Preston replied that it is crumbling if they look at it. He would rather try to repair that before
120 winter.

121 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the 5th and 6th grade wing and the peak/canopy.

122 Mr. Preston replied that they should address the missing shingles in the areas and reassess the
123 peak before they go into the winter/spring. They can be proactive and protect the building.

124 Mr. O'Keefe questioned if they should be phasing in over the next few years

125 Mr. Preston replied that they should break it down into phasing because they have different parts
126 of the roof in different conditions. He questioned the esthetics and if it matters. It also depends
127 on how the bids come back.

128 Ms. Lawrence added that back in Oct of 2015 they had a presentation about Solar Power by Mr.
129 Bob Hayden. She will be happy to share that information.

130 Mr. Preston mentioned that he would be happy to see that information. He would also be
131 interested in changing the fuel options.

132 Ms. Lawrence added that she will forward him the Board Packet from 2015 that has that
133 information.

134 Mr. Steel clarified the timeline in that they start work next summer.

135 Mr. Preston replied, yes, they would then start the beginning of July.

136 Mr. Eckhoff thanked Mr. Preston for the report and inquired if they had looked into metal
137 roofing. He has an acquaintance that he knows, regarding solar, and he would recuse himself
138 from any voting on that project. He believes that solar is the right way to go.

139 Mr. Steel mentioned that they connect that person with Mr. Preston, so that it is not Board
140 conversation.

141 Ms. Lawrence added that Mr. Bob Hayden is probably not working in the solar industry
142 anymore. She thanked past board member, Ms. Kim Roberge, for updating her on the
143 information.

144 Mr. Eckhoff remarked that he will get that information and connect them.

145 Mr. O'Keefe asked if she needed a motion to start that process.

146 Ms. Lawrence replied that it is within Mr. Preston's purview for his job.

147 Mr. Steel commented that it seems like a Board consensus.

148 Ms. Lawrence opened it up to the public at this time.

149 Ms. Kim Roberge, Mont Vernon NH, mentioned that they were informing the school of the
150 Selectman's decision to do Trick or Treating from 3-5PM and to not sanction candy collection.
151 Second, she wants the Board to remember the cost of materials and how they are escalating.

152 Ms. Lawrence thanked Ms. Roberge for her comments. She asked for other comments.

153 VI. FY' 22 Budget Process

154 Mr. Steel remarked that the budget they have created was with the assumption that it was going
155 to be a relatively normal school year. It might be a big assumption and might have to change it.

156 They will see a few warrant articles on the ballot. Those would be the Operating Budget, their
157 continued contribution to the Capital Reserve Fund, the MVCBA, as well as an updated
158 MV/ASD Tuition Agreement.

159 Some areas of focus are the Math Curriculum and Instruction and the related resources. That is a
160 high focus for them right now. There are no issues with their teachers but with the structural
161 design of how they teach math in the SAU. There will be more to come at a later date.

162 Second, Mr. Preston has added preventative maintenance costs into their budget for the first time
163 in a long time. They have a transportation RFP out right now. Their bus contract is up, and they
164 are looking for proposals, that is still to be determined. The NH Retirement System sets the
165 employer paid rates every two years. They will be adjusted and there are increased by 2-3%.
166 Their medical insurance rates have an GMR (Guaranteed Maximum Rate) increase of 6.3%.
167 Included is a budget reconciliation. There is Special Education costs and it is about a \$20k
168 decrease for them. There is about a \$5k difference between the default and the proposed.

169 They have included the Curriculum Review and Adoption and a Staffing Projection.

170 That is an overview for the Board, and they look forward to an extensive Board review.

171 Ms. Lawrence asked for Board questions.

172 Mr. O'Keefe inquired if they will receive a Google Docs link.

173 SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michelle Croteau, replied that the Board will receive it
174 later tonight or tomorrow morning. She will be adding a Table of Contents at the front of the
175 document; it will be easier to understand.

176 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about the \$5k increase.

177 Director of Student Services, Ms. Meg Beauchamp, replied, no there are no changes to staffing.

178 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about the preventative maintenance and what is included.

179 Mr. Steel replied that it is included in the extra \$5k.

180 Mr. Preston added that this is the Preventative Maintenance account what maintains the system
181 and keeps the building going.

182 Ms. Lawrence added that he has done a tremendous job.

183 Mr. Eckhoff also gave his support for Mr. Preston. He inquired if Mr. Preston could grid out
184 what is required and recommended. He questioned if there was any discussion at a State level for
185 unforeseen world events. They need to have amendments to cover the costs of operating.

186 Mr. Steel remarked that there a few mechanisms that exist. He clarified what a defines a Deficit
187 Appropriation. That goes to fund the current year. In a real emergency, they can petition the
188 Superior Court for a Special School District Meeting. Third, RSA 198: 4-b allows for a
189 Contingency Fund.

190 Ms. Lawrence asked for other questions. All board members should have received invitation for
191 the Budget review. She added that she appreciated the detail in the Principal’s Report.

192 Mr. O’Keefe inquired if they should consult legal counsel surrounding the Public Hearing and
193 the Deliberative Session.

194 Mr. Steel replied that he can do that, and it is possible that one of the Governor’s Emergency
195 Orders covers that. He will find out as they will have to check for all three districts.

196 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel.

197 VII. Public Comment- Additional

198 No Public Comment

199 Ms. Lawrence thanked all the community members that have joined them and are watching.

200 VIII. Non-Public Session

201 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91 A:II 3 (a) at 7:08PM. Ms.**
202 **Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

203 **Roll call: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, St. Denis- Yes and Lawrence- Yes.**

204 Other persons present during non-public session: Superintendent Steel, Ms. Landwehrle, Ms.
205 Croteau, and Dr. Sarfde.

206 Description of matters discussed, and final decisions made: Update on negotiations and update
207 on tuition.

208 IX. Public Session

209 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 8:24PM. Ms. Hinckley seconded the**
210 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

211 **Roll Call: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, St. Denis- Yes and Lawrence- Yes.**

212 No motion was made to seal the minutes.

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