

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, November 19th, 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 12 10 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.

8 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Peter Eckhoff, Stephen
9 O'Keefe and Jessica Hinckley.

10 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

11 Public: Mont Vernon Community Members

12 I. Call to Order

13 **Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, called the meeting to order**
14 **at 5:02PM.**

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

16
17 Before we get started, I'll read through a checklist to ensure that the meeting that we are holding
18 is in compliance with the Right-to-Know Law.

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

26
27 In accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that:
28

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

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

51 Roll Call: O'Keefe- Home and alone, Hinckley- Home and alone, Lawrence- Home and alone.

52 II. Consent Agenda

53 Ms. Lawrence noted that there was a memo regarding the Assistant Superintendent Resolution.

54 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to accept the Assistant Superintendent Resolution as proposed. Ms.**
 55 **Hinckley seconded the motion.**

56 Mr. Eckhoff entered the meeting.

57 Ms. Lawrence recapped the meeting for Mr. Eckhoff and asked for discussion.

58 There was no discussion.

59 **Ms. Lawrence called for a roll call vote: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, Hinckley- Yes and**
 60 **O'Keefe- Yes. Motion passed.**

61 III. Non-Public Session

62 Mr. O'Keefe asked the public viewers to stay on the zoom meeting for information after.

63 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (k) at 5:25PM. Ms.**
 64 **Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

65 **Ms. Lawrence called for a roll call vote: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, Hinckley- Yes and**
 66 **O'Keefe- Yes.**

67 Other persons present during Non-Public Session: Superintendent Steel

68 Description of matters discussed and final decisions made: Tuition agreement

69 IV. Public Session

70 **The Board resumed Public Session at 5:48PM.**

71 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to ratify the proposed tuition agreement between the Mont Vernon**
 72 **School District and the Amherst School District and to approve the wording for the**

73 **warrant article. “ Shall the School District approve a 5-year tuition agreement with the**
74 **Amherst School District to allow for the continued education of Mont Vernon Students at**
75 **the Amherst Middle School beginning on July 1st 2021, in accordance with the proposed**
76 **tuition agreement on file with the School District Clerk. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion.**
77 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

78 **Ms. Lawrence called for a roll call vote: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, Hinckley- Yes and**
79 **O’Keefe- Yes.**

80 Ms. Lawrence added that the Amherst School Board is also reviewing, and the document could
81 be available to the public as early as the next day.

82 Mr. O’Keefe asked if they should take a few minutes to summarize the highlights of the
83 document.

84 He added that the MVSb has had multiple meetings to redo their agreement with the Amherst
85 School District. There were a couple of things that they wanted to focus on. First, they wanted
86 more structure and consistency with regards to the tuition that they pay to the Amherst School
87 System. They have successfully negotiated a flat rate that is going to be based on the average
88 two- year Cost Per Pupil calculation on an October 1st deadline. That calculation is formulated by
89 the SAU Administration Staff and sent up to the State of NH and documented. They will now be
90 subject to, upon approval of their tax base to paying the two-year average of that tuition or that
91 CPP calculation as a form of their tuition to send over.

92 They have also successfully renegotiated the way their Paraprofessionals were billed back to
93 their community. They bundled that into the actual cost of the educational services to their
94 community on the ACPp calculation. They do not have to worry about additional
95 paraprofessionals being added back to the Mont Vernon tax base.

96 Third, they have created a 5-year expiration date of this particular contract with an option to
97 renew by the MVSb at that time.

98 They also added in four qualitative concerns, 1. A one to one check in, with it being reported
99 back in November. 2. Creating synergy between their 6th grade educational experience and
100 Amherst’s 6th grade educational experience by mandating a couple of things (A. 2 curriculum
101 assignments and have them cohesively coordinated between the two districts either by Zoom or
102 in person. 3. They want to make sure that their 6th grade teachers receive the same Professional
103 Development as Amherst’s so that their curriculum is on the same exact pace. 4. Testing being
104 reported back to the MVSb so that they are making sure that there are no gaps that are identified.

105 They do believe that it is in the best interest of the community from a financial standpoint and
106 qualitative standpoint.

107 V. Public Comment I of I

108 Mr. O’Keefe explained that there is a cap of 5.6%, this is for creating consistency to make sure
109 that their tax base is protected from year to year.

110 Ms. Lawrence mentioned that this negotiated contract will help provide them with a little bit
111 more visibility and stability when it comes to budgeting.

112 She added that the board is available, and their contact information is on the SAU website. She
113 thanked the public for watching and encouraged the public to attend the upcoming SAU Board
114 meeting at 6:00PM.

115 VI. Meeting Adjourned

116 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:42PM. Ms. Hinckley seconded the**
117 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

118 **Ms. Lawrence called for a roll call vote: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, Hinckley- Yes and**
119 **O’Keefe- Yes.**

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