

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, March 11th 2021

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 04 08 2021

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,
9 Secretary- Scott St. Denis, Stephen O’Keefe and Jessica Hinckley.

10 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

11 Public: Kim Roberge, MV Selectboard Member, Mont Vernon NH.

12 I. Call to Order

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

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 District 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- Visiting family out
52 of State and alone, St. Denis- Home and alone, Eckhoff- Home and alone.

53 II. Public Comment I of II

54 Ms. Lawrence asked Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, if there were any members of the
55 community that wanted to speak. There will be time later on in the meeting for a second Public
56 Comment.

57 No public comment.

58 III. Consent Agenda

59 Ms. Lawrence inquired if there were any items that the board wanted to pull for discussion.

60 Mr. O'Keefe replied items #4. MVSD Projected UFB for 01/31/21 #8. 8. MVSD Feb. Facilities
61 Report and #9. MVVS Academy Proposal.

62 Mr. O'Keefe noted that they can motion to approve all of them at once. He would like to quickly
63 ask questions.

64 Ms. Lawrence added that she had questions about item #4 MVSD Projected UFB for 01/31/21.

65 Superintendent Steel, explained that the General Fund Expenditure Fund Balance shows a
66 shortfall of \$23,650 at this point. As the board is fully aware, it is illegal for them to spend even
67 one dollar over what the taxpayers have approved. This is a projection; this is an estimate and
68 they are conservative.

69 It is early in the year and some funds may not be expended, for example some professional
70 development funds. Anything that is encumbered right now is not necessarily going to be spent
71 as they approach the end of the fiscal year. The expenditures will be monitored very closely.
72 Two things that they did at the last board meeting was not budgeted, the underground storage
73 tank for \$16k and the new mower for approximately \$4k. It is possible that if they are still in a
74 deficit, that they will ask the board to move those expenditures from the operating budget to the
75 capital reserve fund instead. They do not need to make that decision until June and only if funds
76 remain that tight.

77 Right now, their Tuition line is over budgeted by \$119k and so it is possible that they might want
78 to use up the tuition contingency reserve fund at the end of the year to help support that cost
79 which right now there is \$33k available in that fund.

80 Finally, the Food Service could have a loss of as much of \$40k due to low meal volume this
81 year. There is a possibility that they could get federal funding to cover that loss revenue and are
82 looking into it. This is the worst-case scenario.

83 Mr. O'Keefe added that his concern is with the \$119k on top of the other things that were
84 mentioned.

85 Mr. Steel noted that he will keep the board updated.

86 Mr. O'Keefe commented that he took a walk around the outside of the building. One of the
87 pillars is rusted, doors are completely rusted at the bottom, siding is completely broken and
88 cracked, and there was a piece of metal sheathing that fell off in the roof top. He asked for
89 someone to do a true analysis of the building. Additionally, the air conditioner inverter for the
90 library was running and it was 20 degrees outside.

91 Ms. Lawrence added that she had forwarded some of the concerns to SAU #39 Facilities
92 Director, Mr. Roger Preston.

93 Mr. Steel noted that he has put Mr. Preston's responses in the chat in the zoom. He noted that the
94 they will check to make sure that it is not broken and follow up with the board.

95 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about the grant money for the Rescue America Bill.

96 Mr. Steel replied that they will be watching the Rescue America Bill.

97 Ms. Lawrence gave her support for the MVVS Academy Proposal.

98 Mr. St. Denis inquired about the testing protocols.

99 MVVS Principal, Dr. Kim Sarfde explained that they heard feedback from teachers and want to
100 meet the needs of the students. What they decided to do was to shift the focus to include the
101 social and emotional needs of their students. The teachers are reporting that the students are
102 feeling isolated and inactivity and have contributed to issues this year.

103 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, added that their proposal was really
104 requesting that the board allow them to use the enrichment stipends. For years they have had a
105 slightly different format. They do also have an opportunity for a Running and Fitness Club. Time
106 is of the essence and they have been looking at student data. The proposal was to utilize those
107 stipends to support academics, social/emotional and fitness needs. They are still finalizing things
108 with teachers and are not sure if they will use all 15 stipends. They are happy to answer
109 questions.

110 Mr. St. Denis inquired about the two identification methods and how can they identify all
111 students that need this.

112 Principal Sarfte replied that is why they wanted to meet with teachers and get feedback. They
113 can make this engaging for all students. By making sure that they are adding more activity they
114 will be able to generate more interest. They want this to be fun and providing intervention where
115 it is needed.

116 Mr. Eckhoff asked if will be capped with capacity.

117 Principal Sarfde replied that as long as they can keep socially distanced, with masks. They have
118 teachers that want to tackle this after school program as a team. She does not want to steer
119 anyone away from those programs.

120 Mr. Eckhoff asked about the communication to the parents.

121 Principal Sarfte replied that they would address the parents first and see if it is something that
122 would interest them.

123 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about how this will complement the Title I program.

124 Ms. Landwehrle explained that they have looked at this as different phases of support for
125 students.

126 Ms. Hinckley inquired if there has been any consideration for remote students.

127 Principal Sarfde replied that they did plan for remote positions and it will depend on the
128 participation. Their goal is to incorporate remote students as well.

129 Mr. Eckhoff asked if they are ready and up and running for March 16th.

130 Ms. Landwehrle replied that it was an ambitious date.

131 Ms. Lawrence added that it looks like there are a lot of wonderful things happening at the
132 MVVS.

133 Principal Sarfde thanked all of the parents that have donated sleds. She gave her appreciation to
134 the MVVS PTA and their fundraising efforts. She participated in a podcast with the Town
135 Library discussing information from the MVVS.

136 Mr. Eckhoff inquired about the 2nd grade enrollment number from January to February. It is not
137 in line with the rest of the grades.

138 Principal Sarfde added that it could be a typo.

139 Mr. Eckhoff inquired if it was holiday related.

140 Principal Sarfde replied that she does think it was holiday related and happened for a short
141 amount of time. At this point she does not see a lot of students going back to remote from in
142 person.

143 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to accept 1. Draft Minutes Feb 3rd, 2021, 2. March 2021 Principal's**
144 **Report, 3. Unanticipated Revenue \$500, 4. MVSD Projected UFB for 01/31/21, 5. October**
145 **2020 Treasurer's Report, 6. November 2020 Treasurer's Report, 7. December 2020**

146 **Treasurer’s Report, 8. MVSD Feb. Facilities Report, 9. MVVS Academy Proposal, and 10.**
 147 **Superintendent’s Proposed Start Times. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote was**
 148 **unanimous, motion passed.**

149 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis-Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes**
 150 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

151 IV. Public Comment II of II

152 Mr. Steel remarket that there is no public comment at this time.

153 Ms. Lawrence thanked the public for watching.

154 Mr. O’Keefe added that as a board they are committed to supporting parents in anyway and
 155 navigate the changes in the school start times.

156 Ms. Lawrence agreed with Mr. O’Keefe.

157 V. Non-Public Session

158 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to enter into Non-Public session RSA 91 A:3 II (a) and (c) at**
 159 **6:38PM. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

160 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis-Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes**
 161 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

162 Ms. Kim Roberge, MV Selectboard Member, inquired if they will be coming back into public
 163 session afterwards.

164 Mr. Steel replied yes; he believes that there will be a motion after their Non-public session.

165 Ms. Roberge added that she has a question regards to using the MVSD funds for their CFG
 166 coaches. She will wait until they determine how much they will need from their enrichment
 167 stipend.

168 Discussions include the following: Conversations about teacher renewal as per state guidelines.

169 VI. Public Session

170 **Ms. Hinckley motioned to exit non-public session at 7:35PM. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the**
 171 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

172 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis-Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes**
 173 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

174 Mr. Steel placed into re- nomination all of the teachers and the administrator discussed in non-
 175 public session.

176 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to accept the nomination of the entire staff and administrator that**
 177 **was discussed in non-public session as presented by Superintendent Steel. Ms. Hinckley**
 178 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

179 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis-Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes**
180 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

181 Mr. Eckhoff inquired about the idea of when the staff is eligible for staff vaccinations.

182 Mr. Steel replied that the Nashua Public Health Region is holding a vaccine clinic on either
183 March 20th or 27th in an undisclosed location that will be determined, and it will be for all of the
184 members of group 2A in the Nashua Region. They were given the option to host their own
185 vaccinations but that would not happen until mid-April at the earliest. They are collecting data
186 for the Nashua Public Health Agency. As of this point, about 15% of their staff has been
187 vaccinated. There will be a second clinic shortly after.

188 Mr. Eckhoff added that it will be on a Saturday.

189 Mr. Steel replied, yes.

190 Ms. Lawrence asked for other questions or comments.

191 There were no other questions or comments.

192 VII. Meeting Adjourned

193 **Ms. Hinckley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM. Mr. St. Denis seconded the**
194 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

195 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis-Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley- Yes**
196 **and Lawrence- Yes.**

197