

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, April 8th 2021

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 05 05 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: Heather Kennedy, 74 Tater Street, 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- Home and alone,
52 St. Denis- Home and alone, Eckhoff- Home and alone.

53 II. Public Comment I of II/ Correspondence

54 Ms. Lawrence asked the public to please use the "raise your hand feature" to address the Board.
55 There will be a second Public Comment time later on during the meeting.

56 Ms. Heather Kennedy, 74 Tater Street, Mont Vernon, NH, thanked the administrative and
57 academic teams for hearing their concerns at the start of the last segment. It was a bumpy start
58 and a lot of changes have been made to make it easier. She is concerned that Ms. Anderson is
59 being overwhelmed with what she is being tasked to do. She is doing a fantastic job but wanted
60 to be mindful. She does not want to overwhelm the students. The remote students have not been
61 seeing what the in-person students have been getting. Instead of getting two days of week of
62 science they are now getting 5 days a week of science. While she appreciates more academics, it
63 would be better at a slower pace. She looks forward to continuing to work it out. .

64 Ms. Lawrence noted that they have received a few letters from the community. She knows that
65 MVVS Principal, Dr. Kim Sarfde, can provide a summary as well as Assistant Superintendent,
66 Ms. Christine Landwehrle.

67 ----- Forwarded message -----

68 From: Ana Barrett <ana.barrett@connection.com>

69 Date: Fri, Mar 26, 2021, 7:03 PM

70 Subject: Letter for the Board, pardon my typos is been a long week.

71 To: Sarah Lawrence <slawrence@sau39.org>

72 Cc: Christina Anderson <canderson@sau39.org>, Christine Landwehrle
73 <clandwehrle@sau39.org>, Anastasia Barrett <ana.barrett@mac.com>

74 *Hi Sarah,*

75 *Thank you so much for meeting me on Teams the other day to hear about my frustration with*
76 *online learning changing for the remote kids at the MVVS.*

77 *You are a good listener and I am writing this and wish you to read this at the next board*
78 *meeting.*

79 *Ms. Anderson has done an exceptional job teaching the 5/6 grade remote classes this year.*
80 *My kids have chosen to stay remote and stay with her, it is their choice to stay remote.*
81 *The school is bringing her into the school to continue to teach remote and in person kids*
82 *5th grade.*
83 *Teaching two modalities at the same time isn't working well at the HS level and I believe I will*
84 *be even harder for 5th graders*
85 *There is only one, maybe two 5th graders returning to the school.*
86 *The sixth graders remote are being effected the most.*
87 *The email from the principle who has not been an advocate at all for the remote kids(leaving*
88 *them out of communication, the schools directory, not telling parents when she's locked the*
89 *doors, my child was locked out in the cold for speech) My biggest issue with her was that she*
90 *was not wearing a mask when we picked up our notebooks for summer school last July. I am not*
91 *a fan she's really done a horrible job overall, and while she had big shoes to fill we all miss*
92 *John.*
93 *The sixth grade remote class has instruction twice per day once at 8am and once at 2:20 after*
94 *Ms. Andersson is done teaching for the day. (the rest of the day is busy work, now with one 15*
95 *min check in, my suggestion)*
96 *This doesn't seem right to me at all.*
97 *They should be using para's to help Ms. Lawrence, whose 5th grade is 20 students, divide them*
98 *up in two rooms, let the teacher move between the rooms with a para to help with busy work.*
99 *They shouldn't be using para's for the online kids when Ms. Anderson has done such a great job.*
100 *Thank you for listening to my concerns.*
101 *We want our fully remote teacher remote too.*
102 *Christina Andersson is the very best!!*
103 *Thank you!*
104 *Ana Barrett"*
105 The Board thanked Ms. Kennedy.
106 III. Consent Agenda
107 Ms. Lawrence mentioned that there was a request to pull #8 Facilities Report and #9 Summer
108 Title I Program Update.
109 Mr. O'Keefe commented that he would like to have a discussion on #5 MVSD Projected Fund
110 Balance, and #2 April 2021 Principal's Report.

111 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to accept Consent Agenda Items #1 March 11th, 2021 Draft Minutes,**
112 **#4 MVSD TSFR 2021 001, #6 FY 21 Cap. Reserve Trust Funds and #7 Resignation Letter.**
113 **Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion.**

114 Ms. Lawrence asked Superintendent Steel if there was any discussion on the Resignation Letter.

115 Mr. Steel replied no; they can certainly discuss it in Non-Public Session.

116 **Ms. Lawrence called a Roll Call: Lawrence- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Hinckley-**
117 **Yes and St. Denis- Yes.**

118 Ms. Lawrence asked for discussion on the #3. MVVS Winter NEWA Results.

119 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about the reading scores, the 3rd grade that is struggling so severely, and
120 further break out of remote vs. in-person instruction.

121 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, noted that she would like to celebrate their
122 successes in math first. These are incredible results from Fall to Winter and their teachers have
123 been working tirelessly to support students in making that catch up growth. They are providing
124 primary instruction as well as intervention. For math, they have had some grade levels that have
125 doubled their target growth, especially Kindergarten. Every single grade level has met or
126 exceeded their target growth. What is challenging with math is that it builds on each other.
127 Making this amount of growth in this period of time is excellent.

128 In looking at Language Arts, it is the second and third grade that did not meet their target growth.
129 In third grade, they were able to get Reading Plus, and it is meant for grades 3-12. It allows
130 students to practice eye tracking, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. Students can track
131 their own progress and they can choose which reading passages they want to read. This is
132 something that they rolled out after they received the NWEA results. They implemented
133 Foundations, which is a phonics program. There is a lot that it new for their teachers and they
134 have adjusted the reading workshop units. With a lot new this year, they are not seeing as much
135 growth.

136 The other thing they have done is roll out the NHSAS modular assessments. They are mini
137 practice tests for students. Teachers are recognizing in the past they did not do a lot of test prep.
138 They had a situation at Clark Wilkins where students did not know what the word “multi-
139 paragraph” meant. They are doing more targeted support for students, for testing and reading
140 comprehension activities. Principal Sarfde has been doing a lot of work with checking with
141 teachers and monitoring individual students with the progress and growth they are making.

142 Principal of MVVS, Dr. Kim Sarfde, replied that she is focusing on the purpose for reading. She
143 is working with students and then working with teachers so they can support the students.

144 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about identifying the students that need the extra level of support on the
145 reading side.

- 146 Ms. Landwehrle replied that the teachers are providing that support in class during a win time.
147 Principal Sarfde has worked with teachers to set aside a time in their schedule for intervention,
148 there is a set time. Additionally,
- 149 Principal Sarfde noted that the special educators have gone above and beyond in collaborating
150 with the classroom teachers.
- 151 Mr. St. Denis noted his concern about the test prep. Is there any consideration for reconfiguring
152 the curriculum so that vocabulary is built in and used on a regular basis and not just test prep.
- 153 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they are rolling out these NHSAS modular assessments across the
154 SAU. Once teachers start using them, they realize that there are certain barriers. The students did
155 not know that they can ask questions. The modular assessments are meant to be paired with a
156 unit of study and that is what they are looking forward to.
- 157 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about the breakdown of remote vs. in-person.
- 158 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they did code the remote students separately. The remote teachers
159 were confident in how the students were performing. She can do a deeper breakdown at some
160 grade levels they have only two or three students and she might be able to provide a remote vs.
161 in-person progress. She needs to be cautious with small numbers.
- 162 Mr. O’Keefe added that he wants the students to have a meaningful educational experience in
163 either modality. He does not want to know what individual students have done.
- 164 Ms. Landwehrle replied she can get those results for them.
- 165 Mr. O’Keefe inquired if they are going to open up their summer programming for the entire third
166 grade based on those results.
- 167 Ms. Landwehrle replied, probably a yes or no answer. With Title I, they have to determine their
168 rubric for eligibility. They have to rank order the entire school and service their neediest
169 students. Now, depending on what their rubric looks like for how they identify students its
170 possible that the entire third grade could end up being identified or a good portion of those
171 students. They can’t service an entire grade level if they do not meet the eligibility. They are
172 looking at some of the programs that they have run in the past, coding/robotics and STEM.
- 173 Mr. O’Keefe noted that they have a significant red flag that is raised here. He would not want to
174 push the problem down the road and wants to get the proper support.
- 175 Ms. Lawrence asked about reassessment and the time frame for expectations.
- 176 Ms. Landwehrle replied that there is information in the program, and they can check that. They
177 can also to choose to administer NWEA. They do not want to over test, but it might be helpful.
- 178 Ms. Lawrence asked when would they do NWEA testing.
- 179 Ms. Landwehrle replied they can test in the spring and check to make sure that they did not miss
180 anyone for the summer programs.

181 Ms. Lawrence asked Principal Sarfde about the student proposal to check out other programs
182 besides Dreambox. She asked about her thoughts on the learning game Prodigy.

183 Principal Sarfde replied that she does like Prodigy although it is more game based. It has a lot of
184 really fun games with math embedded. It would be good for extra practice. In terms of
185 replacing Dreambox, it might not be the right fit. They can certainly have further conversations.

186 Ms. Lawrence noted that it was a great essay.

187 She asked for questions.

188 There were no questions or comments.

189 She asked Principal Sarfde for anything she wanted to highlight. There are so many wonderful
190 things going on at the MVVS.

191 Principal Sarfde thanked all of the Paraprofessionals for all of the great work they do every day.

192 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about the shifting of students from remote to in-person.

193 Principal Sarfde replied that she will get back to him on that exact number.

194 Mr. O'Keefe asked about Specials with the remote students and in-person students.

195 Principal Sarfde replied that the in-person is very similar to what it was before Covid. The only
196 thing that is different is with playing instruments and singing, that is a little different. In terms of
197 the remote students, they are not offering remote special instruction. They do have Google
198 classrooms and they can access lessons.

199 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about Spanish instruction.

200 Principal Sarfde replied, yes, unfortunately.

201 Mr. O'Keefe noted that AMS should know that there will be significant gaps with Spanish
202 instruction. They have a wonderful excellent Spanish teacher now but there will be remedial
203 attention that will need to be applied.

204 Principal Sarfde responded that when their specialists work part time it makes it challenging to
205 meet the needs of all students.

206 Mr. Eckhoff suggested that administration make an in person visit to the classroom that
207 completed the essay. There should be a follow up by Superintendent Steel, Assistant
208 Superintendent Landwehrle or Principal Sarfde.

209 Principal Sarfde replied that she has done that with the kids, and it would be a great idea.

210 Ms. Lawrence added that she would be happy to write a letter on behalf of the Board.

211 She noted that they are on to #5 Projected Fund Balance.

212 SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, commented that it is a fluid process.
213 Each month is changing from the one prior. As they are reviewing the information for the March

214 report, she and Ms. Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services will be doing a deep dive in to
215 the Special Ed budget. That might have an impact on the projection as well. There are some
216 areas where they anticipate using the full budget and they are looking at encumbrances to see if
217 there is anything they can release or not. If the budget continues to be as tight as it is then she
218 will be sharing options on funding some of the things that were in the budget that were not
219 anticipated, like the underground storage tank.

220 At this point, the February report that is in the packet shows around of \$53k. That is made up to
221 three separate components, the revenue projection is around \$34k, unexpended expenditures
222 currently \$13-14k and the emergency order funds from the prior year approx. \$5k. The only
223 piece that is available for consideration to support additional expenditures would be anything
224 from the appropriation budget, approx. \$14k. They will have an update in March.

225 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about what they are going to receive for funding.

226 Ms. Croteau replied that they do not have a solid number yet but are anticipating 2.3 times the
227 SR2 funds. If that is the case, it would put it at about \$101-102k. There will be guidelines that
228 follow and requirements.

229 Mr. O'Keefe inquired about reimbursement for technology and if they qualify for rural grants.
230 He asked Superintendent Steel if he knows of other districts that have qualified.

231 Mr. Steel replied that typically MV qualifies for rural grants.

232 Ms. Croteau mentioned that she is happy to look into it.

233 Ms. Lawrence asked if there were further questions.

234 Mr. Eckhoff asked weren't they upside down last month by \$82k.

235 Ms. Croteau replied that from month to month they have to look at each account closely.

236 Ms. Lawrence noted that they are at the Facilities Report.

237 Mr. O'Keefe mentioned that he is pleased about the PFAS testing. He inquired about the HVAC
238 projects and if there was one that was shovel ready and eligible for grants.

239 SAU #39 Director of Facilities, Mr. Roger Preston, commented that they are close on the HVAC
240 design. They had to pause for a bit because the company that they were working with was
241 quarantined. They did their site visit and he has provided that in the report. The site visit was
242 mainly everything that they have in the attic. Everything is running sufficiently but it is end of
243 life. They are going to finalize their report and they will put it int the RFP document and send
244 that out to bid.

245 Superintendent Steel asked if the HVAC funds are SR3 funds.

246 Ms. Croteau added that she does not know of any funds that are earmarked for HVAC.

247 Mr. Steel asked Ms. Croteau if Mr. Preston's RFP comes back with say, \$250k of HVAC work
248 that they want to do, and they have \$100k left in the SR funds in total and they have money in

- 249 their capital reserve funds then they can potentially do the HVAC project without any new tax
250 impact to voters.
- 251 Ms. Croteau replied, yes.
- 252 Mr. Steel added that they should get Mr. Preston's RFP results back and then decide next month.
253 He asked if they will be ready for the May meeting.
- 254 Mr. Preston replied, let's say June.
- 255 Mr. Steel replied that they will have to decide based on their UFB, Capital Reserve Funds and
256 SR funds.
- 257 Mr. O'Keefe noted that he found an article regarding the giving NH \$156m of additional Covid
258 funding.
- 259 Mr. Steel asked Ms. Croteau if she would double check with Ms. Caitlyn Davis at the DOE.
- 260 Ms. Croteau added that the \$156m number is suspiciously similar to the \$156m of SR2 that was
261 issued. Their allotment from that money was \$43,728 they are utilizing approx. \$24k for design
262 work.
- 263 Mr. Eckhoff noted that MVSD Moderator, Mr. Pete King, has typed in the chat a question
264 regarding the amount \$126m and the American Rescue Plan.
- 265 Ms. Croteau noted that the American Rescue Plan is also known as SR3. That is the amount that
266 is about \$101-102k. It is about 2.3 times the SR2 and SR2 was the Coronavirus Response and
267 Relief Supplemental Appropriation or CRRSA.
- 268 Mr. O'Keefe added his disappointment that they did not receive more funds. He asked about the
269 buildings report and if they are ready to go this summer.
- 270 Mr. Preston replied that they are right on track with that. He got a call from their consultant that
271 they pulled on with the roofing materials are not available and the prices are skyrocketing. He
272 added that they have all of their materials and it is at the vendor. The end result is that they are
273 fine and on track with the RFP.
- 274 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the external work.
- 275 Mr. Preston noted that the siding that they have has a lifetime warranty. They are reaching out to
276 the company to see if they can get it replaced, if not, they can get it at Lowe's. They are very
277 close to door replacement and that is a phasing process.
- 278 Mr. O'Keefe asked for the wood framing around the exhaust fan around the Gymnasium.
- 279 Mr. Preston replied that he did see that and he will take a look at it with a lift.
- 280 Ms. Lawrence thanked Mr. Preston for all of his updates.
- 281 Mr. Preston added that it is a lot of work but enjoyable and gives the community updates.

282 Mr. O’Keefe added that the transparency is wonderful.

283 Ms. Lawrence noted that they are up to #9 Summer Title I Program Update.

284 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about making parents aware of the summer program as soon as they can.
285 The sooner the better.

286 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned 2. April 2021 Principal’s Report, 3. MVVS Winter NWEA Results ,**
287 **5. MVSD Projected Fund Balance 02/21, 8. MVSD March 2021 Facilities Report and 9.**
288 **Summer Title I Program Update. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote was**
289 **unanimous, motion passed.**

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

292 IV. Board Goals

293 Ms. Lawrence added that they do not have anything in the packet right now, but she would like
294 to get something in the packet for next month.

295 Mr. Steel noted that they do not have things beyond what they are doing system wide. The focus
296 on math the number one issue at the MVVS. They do not have anything specific.

297 Ms. Lawrence remarked that she knows that there were building goals. She asked the board for
298 their input.

299 Mr. O’Keefe added that he was hoping to set up engagement with their State leaders.

300 Ms. Lawrence noted that Mr. Steel added it to their Trello board.

301 Mr. O’Keefe suggested thinking out of the box, such as neighborhood meetings or at the library.
302 He would like to continue the cadence in the past.

303 Mr. Steel added that it is the big town events.

304 Ms. Lawrence asked for other questions.

305 She added that there were some questions about the travel policy for out of state travel.

306 Mr. Steel replied that the state guidance has changed that basically there is no travel quarantine
307 requirement at the state level. They have a slightly stricter policy. If someone travels using
308 public transportation, they are still going to ask them to quarantine, 10 days and then after 7 days
309 you can get a PCR test and come back. They are asking people to remain smart.

310 Ms. Lawrence asked if they publicize that for the public.

311 Mr. Steel responded that they will do that.

312 Mr. O’Keefe asked for that information to be pushed out proactively.

313 Principal Sarfde added that she already has an updated Principal’s Letter for tomorrow with that
314 information.

315 Mr. O’Keefe commented that they want to make sure that everyone is protected and start off the
316 fall strong.

317 Ms. Lawrence gave her great appreciation for the school nurses.

318 She inquired about transitioning students back in the fall.

319 Mr. Steel replied that they are working on reopening plans in May. They do not know what they
320 conditions will be like. It hinges on another Covid or vaccinations outpace this wave and cases
321 continue to decline. If they have another wave, then they will start the school year the way that
322 they have this year. They do expect to start having students vaccinated this fall and once
323 vaccination is completed with everyone who wants them, they will be have a lot less restrictions
324 as long as case counts remain low. That is what they are hoping for.

325 Ms. Lawrence asked if there were parents that are allowed to give feedback.

326 Mr. Steel replied that they will solicit feedback. He asked for parents to reach out to him directly.

327 Ms. Lawrence asked if there was anything else for discussion.

328 Ms. Croteau added that she has shared a list of year end projects.

329 Mr. Steel noted that they have done things since Mr. Preston has identified them.

330 Mr. O’Keefe commented that the Town will have a very flat budget.

331 V. Public Comment II of II

332 Ms. Heather Kennedy, 74 Teeter Street, Mont Vernon NH, gave her support on the pilot of the
333 Reading Plus program having clear concise instructions. There are several things that she was
334 surprised for not having the breakdown from the in-person vs remote NWEA test results. She
335 added that at the March meeting they did not take a proactive approach of the remote learners
336 going back to in-person. It is important that they do not forget their remote students. Also, the
337 independent work is tough for the students to complete on their own.

338 Ms. Lawrence added that they want to get remote parents involved and if it happens again.

339 VI. Non-Public

340 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91 A:3 II (a) and (c) at**
341 **7:30PM. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

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

344 Board to discuss funding, tuition and staffing.

345

346 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to exit non-public session at 8:42PM. Motion was seconded by Mr.**
347 **Eckhoff. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

348

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

351

352 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to seal the minutes because it will protect the reputation of**
353 **somebody not associated with the board. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was**
354 **unanimous, motion passed.**

355

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

358

359