

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Tuesday, September 14^h, 2021

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 10 14 2021

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, Amy Facey- SAU #39 Business Administrator, Tom Lecklider- Principal MVVS
7 and Anna Girard- MVVS Counselor

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

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 6:00PM.**

15 II. Public Input I of II

16 No Public Comment

17 III. Consent Agenda

18 Ms. Lawrence asked for board questions on the consent agenda.

19 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the Retaining Wall.

20 SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Amy Facey, noted that she heard back from SAU #39
21 Facilities Director, Mr. Roger Preston. The wall and the stair rebuild has cost \$5,500 to date. He
22 is researching replacing the railing as well. He hasn't put the \$15k yet in the wall. Anything
23 further you can always email her.

24 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the exterior doors.

25 Ms. Facey added that they are on a cycle.

26 Mr. O'Keefe noted that they need to change that to "in process" for the retaining wall.

27 Ms. Lawrence remarked that they can possibly use trust money for the retaining wall. It is if the
28 project was not complete.

29 Ms. Facey noted that she does not have the contact information.

30 Ms. Lawrence added that it could help offset some costs.

31 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to approve Consent Agenda items 1. Aug 24th, 2021, Draft Minutes,**
 32 **2. Jan 2021 Treasurer’s Report, 3. Feb 2021 Treasurer’s Report, 4. MVSD DOE-25 and**
 33 **MS-25, 5. UFB Project Update, and 6. Aug. Facilities Update. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the**
 34 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

35 IV. Board Goals and Building Goals

36 Ms. Lawrence noted that the Board Goals are in the April 13th, 2020, agenda packet on page 27.

37 She noted that the first goal was student achievement. Last year, Instrumental Band for Students
 38 with the goal to create an after-school band opportunity

39 Ms. Lawrence asked if they wanted to revise the other goals from last year.

40 • NWEA Growth Targets – Math

41 o Growth Goal: K and 1 – 70%-80% of students meeting target growth; 2-6 – 60%– 70%
 42 percent of student meeting target growth

43 • Dreambox Usage

44 o Usage Goal: K-2 – 30 minutes a week; grades 3-6 – 60 minutes a week

45 • Math Standard Scores (Empower)

46 o Goal: 80% of students in K-4 will reach a level 3 or above on all assessed math standards
 47 in Empower. 70% of student in 5-6 will reach a level 3 or above in Empower.

48 Mr. O’Keefe noted the importance of the two interventionists. He wants to make sure that they
 49 have enough documentation for those positions.

50 Ms. Lawrence asked what would be measurable.

51 Mr. O’Keefe responded that he likes the growth target projections. They need to do a better job
 52 with communicating the benefits of the math program and how they restructured it.

53 Ms. Lawrence asked about revising the goal targets.

54 Mr. O’Keefe asked about the recent test scores.

55 Ms. Clark inquired about the benchmarks.

56 Mr. Steel explained the NWEA benchmarks, anything above 50% they are doing very well.

57 Ms. Landwehrle commented that as you can remember students were not loving Dreambox. K
 58 and 1 teachers still felt strongly for using it. With piloting the two different math programs they
 59 felt it important to take a step away from Dreambox. They can certainly revisit.

60 Ms. Clark asked if it was replaced with anything in particular.

- 61 Ms. Landwehrle replied, no, with the math pilot they felt that they needed to work on
62 professional development. They will be gathering pilot data from the teachers.
- 63 Ms. Lawrence asked if they should add a goal regarding the math pilots.
- 64 Ms. Landwehrle replied that the NWEA growth data will show how the students are doing in
65 math. There are two pieces the academic growth and what teachers are seeing.
- 66 Mr. O’Keefe noted that they did not have Interventionists as they were teachers. He is not sure if
67 they should use last year’s numbers.
- 68 Ms. Landwehrle replied that in the second grade, 48% met target growth, 3rd grade 81% met
69 target growth, 4th grade 67%, 5th grade 68%, and 6th grade 71%. They will be taking NWEA
70 soon and then refine those goals. She would keep them where they are and refine them.
- 71 Mr. O’Keefe added that 70-80% is a reasonable goal.
- 72 Ms. Lawrence added that she agrees.
- 73 Ms. Landwehrle remarked that in looking at the goal they were never able to measure that goal
74 with Covid. These were a guess when the board was making a goal. They are also piloting
75 materials that are tightly aligned to the standards. She would keep them as they are.
- 76 Mr. O’Keefe suggested adding in a reading goal.
- 77 Ms. Landwehrle mentioned that you are probably remembering low growth some grade levels
78 for fall to winter in NWEA. NHSAS scores are going to be in the SAU agenda and that packet
79 should have gone out today.
- 80 Mr. O’Keefe asked what would be an acceptable stretch goal for reading.
- 81 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she would have to look at pre-covid and it would not be
82 inappropriate to set it the same as math.
- 83 Mr. O’Keefe requested an update for next month.
- 84 Mr. Eckhoff asked if this was passed down to the teachers and parents. Some of these numbers
85 are pretty solid.
- 86 Mr. Eckhoff asked how does that get communicated to the staff. They should be applauded.
- 87 Ms. Landwehrle commented that their teachers are working each year to meet those rigorous
88 grade level expectations. She sent out information over slack. They always share them
89 individually and meet with staff.
- 90 Ms. Lawrence added that Goal #2 was Budget. To prepare a fiscally responsible budget for
91 FY’21, with a focus on student achievement, staff development and maintaining a comfortable
92 safe learning environment. To present and have the town approve budget in March 2020.
- 93 • Special education transparency and public awareness of the process was communicated
94 during the Public Session and Budget Committee meetings.

- 95 • Budget committee participation was active with three members of the community
- 96 including a town Select-person, two community members and a MV School Board
- 97 representative. •
- 98 • Budget roadshow between the Deliberative and the Ballot - this item was not
- 99 accomplished during the FY21 Budget process.
- 100 ○ Selectmen
- 101 ○ Community at the Library
- 102 ○ PTA
- 103 • Live School Board meetings – this item was not accomplished during the FY21 Budget
- 104 process.
- 105 • Budget Passed by the Town of Mont Vernon - vote on March 10, 2020.

106 Ms. Lawrence suggested that they update that for the current school year.

107 Mr. Steel remarked that the budget is in good shape.

108 Mr. Eckhoff added that he believes that it is a challenging climate.

109 Ms. Lawrence noted Board Goal #3. Goal 3 – Parent / Teacher Partnerships

- 110 • Empower Information for Parents
- 111 • Video bites
- 112 • Curriculum Night
- 113 • School-wide communication tool rollout

114 She asked for changes and updates.

115 Mr. O’Keefe remarked that they should mention that they make good use of virtual platforms.

116 Mr. Steel commented that beyond that, the communication is really strong with Principal
117 Lecklider. He asked if there were other things that they should focus on, besides NHSAS scores.

118 Mr. Eckhoff suggested videos with Mr. Preston showing the progress on the building.

119 Principal Lecklider agreed.

120 Ms. Clark remarked that she appreciates the connection and update. It is comforting to hear that
121 the buildings are safe and taken care of.

122 Mr. Steel noted that Mr. Preston is very responsive towards the buildings.

123 Ms. Clark asked how is the communication going to residents that do not have children in the
124 school.

125 Mr. O’Keefe replied through social media. He suggested Principal Lecklider to offer meetings.

126 Ms. Lawrence suggested a meet and greet with a General Store event.

127 Discussion ensued.

128 Ms. Lawrence read Goal #4 Facilities and Grounds

- 129 • Protect taxpayers' investments in facilities and grounds as well as provide a comfortable
- 130 and safe learning environment for all.
- 131 • The building has been utilized by
 - 132 o Girl Scouts(afternoon, 1 day/week)
 - 133 o Amherst Recreation (Basketball, evenings, 3 days/week)
 - 134 o Boy Scouts(evening 1day/week)
 - 135 o MVVS functions as they are scheduled
 - 136 o MVVS After School Activity club – (afternoon, 3 days/week)
- 137 • Investigate an outdoor classroom – there has been no progress on this item.
- 138 • Establish a needs assessment with faculty and staff about building needs
- 139 • This survey was done in the spring of 2019 with staff. Any proposals for updates were
- 140 placed in the FY21 budget. Staff requested an update to furniture and the purchase of
- 141 alternative seating in all classrooms.

142 Mr. O'Keefe suggested the spring clean-up. Maybe they can do something in the April to may
143 timeframe. He asked about technological infrastructure support.

144 V. Principal's Report

145 MVVS Principal, Mr. Tom Lecklider, commented that he has felt welcomed by the community.
146 He has had a few events here, such as the Meet and Greet. He noted the three items of
147 Community, Personalization, and well being of their students. He sees them as strong areas of
148 emphasis.

149 They are the MVVS is the Falcons and talked about the "it takes a village to soar" theme. They
150 will build spirit around that, and he is pleased with the enthusiasm. He is impressed with the
151 leadership of the staff and their willingness to take that on. It was successful.

152 He gave a quick update on the Music Teacher; and is optimistic on moving that candidate
153 forward. He recognized the MVSPTA. It is so important that they rely on each other.

154 It was very exciting on the first day for the Kindergarteners and first graders. There are a lot of
155 new families. He applauded the welcoming of the first day. While they are still challenged, they
156 will do events outside. They will get creative to keep that sense of community.

157 He thanked the MVVSPTA and the public as there are umbrellas on the picnic tables. He and
158 Mr. Preston walked the ground and there are going to look at that space around the leach field for
159 something more permanent. Mr. Preston has quotes, and they are meeting with the fire chief
160 tomorrow. They had an Emergency Management Meeting that went well the other day. They will
161 continue the meetings once a month.

162 They are at an enrollment of 213 as of submission of this report.

- 163 Mr. Steel added that the new students are evenly distributed among the grade levels.
- 164 Principal Lecklider added that regarding communication, he wants to get out to all parents. He
165 knows that there are community members that are interested in the school but are not on the
166 email list.
- 167 Mr. Steel noted that they have a Nixle group, and everyone can sign up.
- 168 Principal Lecklider added that he would like to be at the Lamson Farm Day.
- 169 With student leadership, he will be talking to the 5th and 6th graders and see how they can take on
170 leadership. He will continue to update each month.
- 171 Open house was virtual, and he thanked staff that were here. He was impressed with the way that
172 the staff prepared for that. He thanked the staff and the parent community for being involved.
- 173 Just a note that Girls on the Run start on Thursday. He thanked the parents that are coaching and
174 teachers that are volunteer coaches.
- 175 For grade level updates, for this report he put a sampling of each grade. He can get highlights
176 from each grade K-6.
- 177 Mr. Eckhoff asked if a staff member could come from each grade.
- 178 Principal Lecklider noted that was their plan.
- 179 Ms. Lawrence added that she appreciates the snippet of information.
- 180 Mr. Lecklider remarked that he can give an update and it is helpful to the community.
- 181 He remarked that tomorrow is Picture Day.
- 182 They had their Critical Friends Group first PD today and it went well today. He thanked the staff
183 for their work.
- 184 Mr. O’Keefe asked if he could add enrollment for homeschool students that are pushing in for
185 specials and enrollment for grades 7-8.
- 186 Ms. Landwehrle added that they have 10 students that are pushing in for specials.
- 187 Mr. O’Keefe inquired about observations for formal and informal. PD update on Late Start days.
188 He asked if they can involve students from a leadership standpoint.
- 189 Mr. Steel noted that they are working on that SAU wide.
- 190 Mr. Eckhoff asked if they can do something from a PTA standpoint for NWEA testing and
191 counterbalance with a special treat.
- 192 Ms. Clark inquired if there was any data on that.
- 193 Mr. Lecklider replied that he has a lot of experience with the SAS test and goal setting. They can
194 have an assembly and it is easy to do in the spring. They are always interested in the individual

195 growth of students. The nice thing about NWEA is that they do it in the fall, winter and spring
196 and there is a flow to it. It is important to incentivize and bring excitement to it.

197 Mr. O’Keefe explained the difference between NHSAS and NWEA.

198 Ms. Clark asked if they are using it for ways to improve or support from Covid.

199 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they are looking at both. You can look at every standard and it gives
200 teachers deep information on students.

201 Mr. Eckhoff asked what happens if a student is absent.

202 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they do have a make up day for each test.

203 Mr. Eckhoff inquired about remote students.

204 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she schedules zoom sessions and they do NWEA for remote
205 students.

206 Mr. O’Keefe asked if they are included in their results.

207 Ms. Landwehrle replied yes, she cannot exclude them. They have had that discussion before,
208 and it is a small number, although larger for last year. She can flag those for the board. One
209 student one way or another can have a big impact on the overall score.

210 VI. Building Projects Funding Plan

211 SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Amy Facey, noted at their August 24th, 2021 meeting, the
212 Mont Vernon School Board requested a plan to complete the HVAC Duct Board Replacement
213 Project at the Village School. In addition, a report on the plan for CRRSA-ESSER II and ARPA-
214 ESSER III was also requested.

215 The HVAC Duct Board Replacement Project was previously recommended to be completed in
216 FY25, however, given the current elevated importance of air quality in schools, the availability
217 of grant funds, and savings from the roof project, we are asking the board to consider
218 accelerating this project. The total project cost is estimated at \$247,000 and can be completed in
219 phases.

220 Phasing the project and using grant funds will allow for a balance of funds to remain in the
221 Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) in case of an unanticipated emergency. In addition, we would
222 recommend the board continue their practice of requesting \$50,000 be added to the ETF from the
223 unassigned fund balance to allow for sufficient funds to complete Phase 3, as well as future
224 projects.

225 HVAC Duct Board Replacement Project Funding Plan:

- 226 • 1 ESSER III Spring 2022 \$ 55,000.00
- 227 • 2 ETF Spring 2022 \$ 95,000.00
- 228 • 3 ETF Spring 2023 \$ 97,000.00
- 229 • TOTAL \$ 247,000.00

230 ETF Sources and Uses Schedule:

231 Source: ETF \$361,000.00 Project Status

232 Use: Roof Replacement \$207,102.00 Complete

233 HVAC Project Phase 2 \$95,000.00 Proposed

234 Balance (Spring 2022) \$58,898.00

235

236 Ms. Facey paused for questions.

237

238 Mr. O'Keefe asked how they are being phased in.

239 Ms. Facey replied to it would be 2/3^{rds} of the building then the final 1/3rd.

240 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the blowers.

241 Mr. Steel noted that the duct work was more critical, and the long term is for the RTU's.

242 Mr. O'Keefe asked for the breakdown for the numbers.

243 Mr. Steel added that the original plan was for ventilation replacement or repair in FY 25, FY 28
244 for the playground and the fire system for FY 31.

245 Mr. Steel noted that they can wait but there is concern that the ESSER funds expire.

246 Mr. O'Keefe added that this is the first phase.

247 Mr. Steel commented that they will be requesting the \$50k each year so they can stay ahead. The
248 duct work is important because it is in bad shape and causing inefficiencies.

249 Ms. Facey noted the proposed Sources and Uses Schedule for the ESSER II grant funds. The
250 HVAC Design work is complete, and funding for an outdoor classroom is estimated at
251 approximately \$18,000. ESSER II funds are available for obligation through September 30th,
252 2022.

253 Mr. O'Keefe added that there is no subfloor for the outdoor classroom. He wants to be mindful
254 of that.

255 Principal Leckliter mentioned that the cost is just for the structure, not for furniture or flooring.

256 Mr. O'Keefe commented that without a proper sub floor it will deteriorate.

257 Ms. Facey added Phase 1 of the HVAC Project is proposed to be funded from this grant, as well
258 as the other projects and grant activities listed. ESSER III requires that 20% of the funds be
259 reserved to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions
260 and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

261 To ensure compliance with this requirement, at least \$20,000 needs to be specifically earmarked
262 for this purpose. Uses that would meet this requirement include the Remote Instruction Teacher,
263 Instructional Materials for Phonics and Word Study, and Laptop Replacements. ESSER III funds
264 are available for obligation through September 2023.

265 Ms. Landwehrle added that they have 1 student from the MVVS to be remote, they did not want
266 to run out of funding. It is a significant support.

267 Mr. O'Keefe asked if they could use the additional capital for the two interventionists.

268 Ms. Landwehrle noted that it depends on the rate for the remote student, and it might change.

269 Mr. O'Keefe suggested that they add it into the budget.

270 Ms. Facey noted the ESSER III projects. They have until summer of 2023 to expend these funds.
271 The next steps would be to share outdoor classroom plans with teachers for input, connect with
272 Fire Marshall for approval on outdoor classroom and submit ESSER II and ESSER III grant
273 activities to NHDOE for approval.

274 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to approve the proposed funding plan for HVAC Duct Board**
275 **Replacement Project. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion**
276 **passed.**

277 Mr. Eckhoff added that with inflation it could be \$260-265k.

278 Mr. O'Keefe commented that phase 3 could be variable.

279 Ms. Facey added that they can possibly use the trust fund.

280 The Board thanked Ms. Facey.

281 VII. Social Emotional Update

282 Principal Lecklider introduced MVVS Counselor , Ms. Anna Girard. They have been connecting
283 to things that happened in the past and looking forward to the school year. As a community they
284 have refreshing ways to look at this.

285 Ms. Girard commented that she is a licensed clinician. This past year has been tough, and she is
286 trying to make it as normal as possible. In this school, they do a Second Step curriculum. This
287 week with 4th graders, they worked on empathy with partners. For the entire curriculum, the
288 parent can log in and see the theme for that week. She is meeting with IEP children and there are
289 going to be groups. They are going to get some of the older kids to work with the younger kids.
290 She has to see the culture and needs of the school. The teachers also have follow-up items to
291 Second Step. She provides them with materials.

292 Ms. Landwehrle added that they have used Second Step for a number of years, and they use that
293 at Clark Wilkins.

294 Principal Lecklider added that the Responsive Classroom is truly happening here K-6. He added
295 in the memo some of the various things that are happening.

296 Ms. Lawrence asked about how long it takes.

297 Principal Lecklider replied 10- 15 minutes.

298 Mr. Eckhoff asked about an update for next month. He would like to get an accurate picture of
299 how it is working out.

300 Ms. Lawrence asked about reaching out to the remote student.

301 Ms. Landwehrle replied that the one student has a partner with an Amherst student. She believes
302 that they are feeling fairly connected and will reach out to that family.

303 Mr. Eckhoff asked about the naming of the MVVS mascot.

304 Mr. Lecklider replied that it is coming.

305 The Board thanked Principal Lecklider and Ms. Girard.

306 VIII. Middle School Discussion

307 Ms. Lawrence commented that this discussion is about the Amherst facility needs and what it
308 might mean for their community and how they will explore options based on the impact.

309 Mr. O'Keefe added previous to her role as Business Administrator, Ms. Facey has led the Joint
310 Facilities Advisory Committee and as a part of the contract negotiation Ms. Lawrence and
311 himself negotiated a 5-year extension to the contract. It allows MV to study their future. There
312 are an enormous benefit and a downside. They want to bring this discussion to the community.

313 They can continue the existing agreement; however, they are trying to fix their Town Hall and
314 Library and it is a big ask. They could stay the course, bring the 7th and 8th graders back in house
315 or look at another alternative.

316 He suggested formulating a committee made up of 7 community members that will look into this
317 issue and report back.

318 Ms. Lawrence gave her support.

319 Mr. Eckhoff added that the numbers are a moving target.

320 Mr. Steel replied \$25-35m.

321 Mr. O'Keefe mentioned that he thought it was \$48m

322 Mr. Steel replied that the amount went down.

323 Mr. O'Keefe noted that it would be a couple of million plus the tuition contract.

324 Ms. Lawrence added that there would be a lot of change adding back the 7 and 8th grade.

325 Mr. Steel explained that 7th and 8th grade is different. Adding 7th and 8th grade here would be
326 adding 4 teachers, couple of paraprofessionals, another administrator, athletics, one special
327 education teacher, and unified arts teacher, some additional IT and custodial support, and Ms.
328 Beauchamp, Student Services Director suggested a school psychologist. They would really want
329 to discuss how they would have athletics. All things being equal, it looks like that the annual
330 recurring cost would be similar to his rough estimate.

331 The question is what is the long-term debt effect to making an addition to this building compared
332 to the Amherst Middle School. To Mr. O’Keefe’s point would you rather amortize that for money
333 for building your own or one that you are effectively renting.

334 Mr. O’Keefe added that is what they need from the community. He added that the faculty have to
335 have a presence on that. he would like to formulate on that pretty soon.

336 Mr. Steel referenced the Right to Know Law, Non-Public session (k).

337 Mr. O’Keefe added that they will get up to speed.

338 Ms. Clark asked about the timeline for the contract.

339 Mr. Steel noted that the facility project will be on the ballot this March.

340 Mr. O’Keefe added that they will have a gradual reduction to 0 if they decide their own strategy.

341 Ms. Lawrence asked Mr. O’Keefe about his idea for a committee.

342 Mr. O’Keefe replied he would like one faculty member included and would not like the board to
343 be a voting member. He had a community member reach out to volunteer.

344 Ms. Lawrence asked for the next steps.

345 Mr. Steel replied to identify the charter of the committee and determine how membership is
346 comprised. The board sets the specific purpose.

347 Mr. O’Keefe noted that he would like to study the following:

- 348 1.Continue, with the ASD Agreement and absorb the added capital costs.
- 349 2. Create. Start and fund their own middle school program in house with costs.
- 350 3. Study, if there is a viable alternative options.

351 Mr. O’Keefe added that there is always an opt-out they are exploring their options.

352 Mr. Steel suggested that they start in late January and staffing resources.

353 Mr. O’Keefe inquired if the Amherst facilities bond does pass, are they are mandated to pay.

354 Mr. Steel replied that with the first bond payment there is a lag. The November or December
355 time frame is fine and suggested that a Board Member to be present at those meetings.

356 The Board gave their support.

357 Mr. Eckhoff added that Town Meeting will be after the vote. They need to have their preliminary
358 items ready.

359 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to comprise a committee 7 individuals, 1 board (non-voting) and 1**
360 **faculty member, to research the middle school options for the MVVS and the future**
361 **participate and report back to the board with a recommendation for May 5th, 2022,**
362 **meeting. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

363 Mr. Steel added that the SAU can publicize for committee members.

364 IX. Public Comment

365 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the bus situation.

366 Mr. Steel noted that they are pretty good here at the MVVS. This week is key to figure out the
367 issues. They have access to their GPS and know where the busses are at all times. Previously,
368 MV used to have 4 busses.

369 Ms. Facey added that they have three new drivers in training.

370 X. Meeting Adjourned

371 **Ms. Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:14PM.**