

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Thursday, January 10, 2019

3 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Meeting Minutes- Approved 02 06 19

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5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant  
6 Superintendent, John Schuttinger- Principal MVVS, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student  
7 Services, Porter Dodge- Director of Operations SAU #39, Bruce Chakrin- Director of  
8 Technology, and Sue Leger- Professional Development Coordinator SAU #39.

9 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Thomas Driscoll, Vice Chair- Sarah Lawrence,  
10 Secretary- Peter Eckhoff, Stephen O'Keefe and Kim Roberge (via phone)

11 Public: Peter King, 36 Kendall Hill Rd, Mont Vernon NH, Eileen Naber, 14 Beech Hill Rd,  
12 Mont Vernon NH, Charlie Baker, 5 Bakers Way, Mont Vernon NH, Autumn Grdina, 17 Old  
13 Milford Road, Mont Vernon NH, Anne Dodd, 36 Mason Road, Mont Vernon NH, Bonnie  
14 Angulas, 3 Bakers Way, Mont Vernon NH and community members.

15 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

16 I. Call to Order

17 **Chair Mr. Thomas Driscoll called the Meeting to order at 6:00PM.**

18 He then asked Ms. Roberge if it was unreasonable for her to be here and if she was alone.

19 Ms. Roberge replied, yes to both questions.

20 II. Public Input

21 No Public Comment

22 III. Superintendent's Report

23 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, commented that he does not have much as it is related to the  
24 budget.

25 IV. Principal's Report

26 Principal of the MVVS, Mr. John Schuttinger, added that he forgot to mention in December that  
27 they are minus one student at AMS (25 in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 28 in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

28 Additionally, the Music Teacher had coordinated with the Town and be there for the tree lighting  
29 ceremony.

30 Mr. O'Keefe asked how the Breakfast program is going. He then highlighted the PD Committee  
31 meeting today and one member of staff did an excellent job presenting.

32 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, added that it was important that the staff  
33 run the meeting and she did a great job.

34 Mr. Driscoll asked about the informal observations.

35 Mr. Schuttinger replied, that he will have them completed for next week. For Breakfast, in  
36 September it was about 7 to 8 students per day and they are now up to 17 to 18 per day in  
37 December.

38 Superintendent Steel added that they were about to stop it at the middle school but will continue  
39 for the rest of the year.

40 Principal Schuttinger remarked that Ms. Dawn Mallows and Ms. Sharon Colburn brought a  
41 Ninja Blender and starting doing smoothies. The children have seemed to enjoy them.

42 Mr. O'Keefe asked what are they offering.

43 Principal Schuttinger explained that they offer the students a really great variety.

44 The Board thanked Principal Schuttinger.

45 V. Consent Agenda

46 **Ms. Sarah Lawrence motioned to accept the Consent Agenda items 1. Minutes of 10/11/18**  
47 **(2nd Revision of Draft Minutes of October 11, 2018) 2. Minutes of December 13, 2018 and**  
48 **3. Consolidated Board Report 7/1/18 to 12/21/18. Mr. Stephen O'Keefe seconded the**  
49 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

50 **Mr. Driscoll called a Roll Call: Driscoll-Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Roberge-Yes, Eckhoff-Yes and**  
51 **O'Keefe- Yes.**

52 VI. Faculties Report

53 Superintendent Steel added that at the end of last Board Meeting they discussed having a  
54 facilities plan and to add \$75,000 to a fund, that changed to \$50,000. So the warrant article will  
55 be for \$50,000 to cover the 4 major things over the next 10 years the roof, ventilation,  
56 playground and fire alarm/sprinkler systems. The presentation tonight lays everything out and  
57 there will always be \$50,000 in the fund as long as the project estimates are accurate.

58 He then added that the sprinklers were on the original report as needed and today he had a fire  
59 technician take a look at them.

60 Mr. Driscoll asked if sprinklers were required in the building.

61 Mr. Steel replied, no, it is an existing school.

62 Mr. Driscoll clarified Mr. Steel's comments.

63 He then noted that there were two items in the budget that he wanted to discuss. First, a few  
64 years ago when they reduced teachers they added a para to support the lower grades and now that  
65 they are adding teachers, they can remove that position.

66 Mr. Steel added that there is not consensus from him but he will support it. Principal Schuttinger  
67 is opposed to it and they have discussed it already.

68 Mr. Driscoll added that that para assisted 1<sup>st</sup> grade as well.

69 Mr. Steel noted that his priority is having two teachers at every grade level.

70 Mr. O'Keefe asked what were Principal Schuttinger's reasons for opposition.

71 Ms. Roberge added that they have 19 enrolled now.

72 Principal Schuttinger discussed that they are at a deficit if they lost that K regular ed para. Every  
73 K room in Amherst has a paraprofessional. It is understood and respected that their numbers are  
74 higher, however, he would like to see them continue to share one para between two rooms.

75 Mr. O'Keefe added that he sees Superintendent Steel's point of view, and if there is a severe  
76 need can we add it back.

77 Mr. Steel added that the cost is approx. \$22,000.

78 Mr. O'Keefe added that he doesn't see it being a huge issue.

79 Ms. Lawrence added that she understands their hesitation but they do get good benefit.

80 Mr. Driscoll added that they could fund that fairly easily.

81 Principal Schuttinger replied that they are at 21 for K enrollment.

82 Discussion ensued.

83 Ms. Roberge added that the ratio doesn't come close to Amherst's and it is hard on the taxpayer  
84 even if it is \$20,000.

85 Ms. Lawrence added that she understands Ms. Roberge's point of view.

86 Mr. Steel added that that is the only reason why he is not in support is because they want those  
87 two teachers.

88 Ms. Roberge added that they would hope that their services would be much better as their ratios  
89 are lower.

90 Mr. Driscoll mentioned that the Board is in agreement in removing the full-time regular para and  
91 keeping the full time teachers as the priority.

92 He then discussed that in regards to special education they are half a teacher short. They can  
93 keep a full time special ed teacher/case manager and reduce by one full time para or they can go  
94 half-time special ed teacher and full-time para.

95 Mr. O'Keefe asked how many kids do they have in referral.

96 Director of Student Services, Ms. Meg Beauchamp, replied two. They have 32 but do know who  
97 they will get with Early Supports and Services.

- 98 Mr. Driscoll added that they have that \$30,000 contingency fund that they can possibly use.
- 99 Ms. Beauchamp added that they have not touched it yet.
- 100 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the state special education fund.
- 101 Ms. Beauchamp replied that is Special Education Aid and completely different. When they  
102 submit for special education aid and they receive reimbursements of special education aid that  
103 goes back to offset your tax rate, it doesn't go into your budget.
- 104 Ms. Lawrence asked about the likelihood of filling a half time special ed teacher vs full time.
- 105 Ms. Beauchamp replied, it would be really hard, to find a part time. I am not trying to sway them  
106 in anyway just tell them the information.
- 107 Mr. Schuttinger agreed with Ms. Beauchamp. With the part time positions, many are looking for  
108 full-time with benefits.
- 109 Ms. Lawrence asked if there is a different set of skills that you would be looking for with full  
110 time.
- 111 Ms. Beauchamp responded that anytime you can add a high level of skill to your staff you are  
112 benefitting the entire population of the school. They are looking for really go interventionist  
113 skills.
- 114 Ms. Roberge asked if they have ever asked for a part-time special ed teacher.
- 115 Principal Schuttinger replied, no, not since he has been here.
- 116 Ms. Roberge commented they have to discuss what they have now. From her standpoint they  
117 would be looking at part time next year and to remove that position the following year unless  
118 that need it. If they are presenting it to the Town, anything more than half time then they really  
119 can't support the uncertainty.
- 120 Mr. Driscoll added that there is a benefit though.
- 121 Ms. Roberge commented on the teacher ratio.
- 122 Mr. O'Keefe asked about Math Interventionist, Ms. Charlene Brown's position.
- 123 Principal Schuttinger replied, yes, she is the only math teacher for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She is pushing in to  
124 support the staff in their current teaching of Math.
- 125 Mr. O'Keefe noted that his point is that they clearly need help from a Special Ed standpoint.
- 126 Ms. Beauchamp added that it is too multi-faceted to put into simplistic terms, because you are a  
127 small school that has to cover Pre-K to grade 6.
- 128 Discussion ensued.
- 129 Ms. Beauchamp added that they can consider hiring a .5 professional staff member but her  
130 recommendation is that they hire a full-time special educator.

131 Mr. Steel reminded the Board that with all appropriations they are up a total of \$44,672 from last  
132 year. He then described three different scenarios for the Board to consider. His recommendation  
133 is that they remove the two paras and keep the full time case manager in the default.

134 Ms. Roberge mentioned that she will not support a full time position in the default budget, and  
135 knows that it is allowed from a legal standpoint. At the end of next year, and the hours are gone  
136 she hopes that it comes up for discussion to remove that position unless the need is required.

137 Ms. Beauchamp added that when she was hired there were 17 special education teachers, now  
138 they have 10. If there is no need to have that case manager, then they won't have them.

139 Ms. Roberge thanked Ms. Beauchamp for her assurance.

140 Ms. Lawrence asked Ms. Roberge for her thoughts.

141 Ms. Roberge replied that she likes the idea of removing both of the paras and putting in a half  
142 time teacher.

143 Mr. Steel responded that it is not an option.

144 Ms. Lawrence asked about the third option.

145 Mr. Driscoll clarified option 3, where a Case Manager cost is split between the default and the  
146 proposed budget.

147 Ms. Lawrence remarked that 3<sup>rd</sup> option allows flexibility.

148 Ms. Beauchamp added that they need the half time position for the needs that are not being  
149 covered.

150 Ms. Roberge asked Superintendent Steel about the new default budget law.

151 Mr. Steel explained that the multi-year contracts, like bus transportation, can no longer be carried  
152 in the default budget.

153 Mr. Driscoll added that the amount is \$14,805.

154 Ms. Roberge suggested possibly putting it on a warrant article and advise the tax payers in the  
155 Town as to what the legislature is doing.

156 Superintendent Steel remarked that putting it on a warrant article is risky, if it was voted down  
157 then it is questionable whether you can use that increase at all.

158 Discussion ensued.

159 Mr. Driscoll added when it comes up in the presentation and then they can highlight that change  
160 that increases are not covered.

161 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to move to the Public Hearing a proposed budget in the**  
162 **amount of \$5,160,557 and a default budget calculation of \$4,944,981. Ms. Sarah Lawrence**  
163 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed (5-0).**

164 **Roll Call: Driscoll-Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Roberge-Yes, Eckhoff-Yes and O’Keefe- Yes.**

165 Ms. Roberge asked about moving the Late Start and having another one that was not planned for.

166 He then explained that he did not feel that it was safe for staff and students given the icy  
167 conditions.

168 Ms. Roberge asked if it was in their contract to make it up.

169 Superintendent Steel replied that he will look into it.

170 VII. Adjourn Regular Meeting

171 **Mr. Thomas Driscoll noted that the Board will recess at 6:54PM.**

172 VIII. Public Hearing- Call to Order

173 **Chairman Driscoll opened the Public Hearing at 7:08PM**

174 IX. Public Hearing

175 He then introduced the other members of the MVVS School Board and Superintendent Mr.  
176 Adam Steel.

177 Mr. Steel discussed the State of the Schools address, noting that through the NWEA Assessment  
178 data that they have high achieving students.

179 He then reviewed the NWEA Students Hitting Growth Targets: noting that the lowest  
180 performing students are significantly above the norm, and the middle two quartiles are also  
181 exceeding the norm. With the highest quartile, they are working towards identifying a plan for all  
182 of their students.

183 He then reviewed the Growth Summary Reading and Math with the Observed Growth.

184 He then explained the soft skills that employers are looking for in the future are being taught at  
185 an early level. They are looking for soft skills not just academic knowledge. The good news is  
186 that this is what they believe in and it is imbedded in their culture.

187 With regards to strategic planning, they have two key strategies, first with Deeper Learning to  
188 solve complex problems. Second, building relationships. They want their students to build  
189 relationships with their themselves with their peers, with their teachers and the community. They  
190 want their students to grow in all the different phases of their life.

191 He then turned it over to Chairman Driscoll to discuss the budget.

192 Mr. Driscoll then read Article #2 Operating Budget.

193 Article #2 Operating Budget

194 *“Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not*  
195 *including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately,*  
196 *the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first*

197 *session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling five million, one hundred and sixty thousand,*  
198 *five hundred and fifty-seven dollars (\$5,160,557)? Should this article be defeated, the default*  
199 *budget shall be four million, nine hundred and forty-four thousand, nine hundred eighty-one*  
200 *dollars (\$4,944,981), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by*  
201 *previous action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or the governing body may hold*  
202 *one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised*  
203 *operating budget only? Majority vote required.”*

204 He then gave an Executive Summary with the main points:

- 205 • Default Budget Calculation is a reduction of 4.2% from FY19
- 206 • Total appropriations in all warrant articles is a reduction of \$291 over FY19
- 207 • Tuition (both out-of-district and to ASD) reduce the default by \$297,710
- 208 • Two classroom teaching positions add \$155,187, but are offset by the reduction of two
- 209 paraprofessionals in the amount of \$42,963
- 210 • A full time case manager is split between the default and the proposed budgets

211 He then discussed the graph with the Appropriation Overview.

212 Mr. Peter King, 36 Kendall Hill Rd, Mont Vernon NH, asked if it was going to be on the  
213 website.

214 Ms. Eileen Naber, 14 Beech Hill Rd, Mont Vernon NH, asked about the \$50,000 warrant article.

215 Mr. Driscoll replied that is the Warrant Article #3, from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

216 He then reviewed what goes into the default budget calculation.

217 Ms. Naber asked about the teacher increases.

218 Superintendent Steel replied that he will change the slide for clarification.

219 Mr. King asked about the half-time special ed teacher.

220 Mr. Steel added that the new default budget law no longer allows for increases in rates in multi-  
221 year contracts. It is a change to the law that perhaps leaves some question.

222 Ms. Naber asked about the warrant for \$50,000 coming from surplus, if you don't have it left  
223 over then you can't save it.

224 Superintendent Steel replied that they will not know until the fall and after the audit is  
225 completed.

226 He further clarified that they are a year behind.

227 Mr. Driscoll added that you are voting to spend the money, it is coming from the revenue side.

228 Superintendent Steel added that there will be from last year's balance if there is one, June 30<sup>th</sup> of  
229 this year.

230 Mr. Charlie Baker, 5 Bakers Way, Mont Vernon NH, asked about the carry over.

231 Mr. Steel clarified that they do not carry over money from year to year, the Town can carry funds  
232 over.

233 Mr. Driscoll then reviewed the Projected Staffing Levels.

234 Ms. Naber asked where can they find this information.

235 Mr. Steel responded that it will be on the website in the morning.

236 He then noted the major stories including, enrollment shifts have led to increased staffing  
237 requirements, shifting special education to in-district servicing of students reduces out-of-district  
238 tuition, but increases staffing costs- a net budget decrease and transportation contract increases  
239 cannot be included in the default budget.

240 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, reviewed the middle school model (Grades  
241 4-6). They are trying to stay in line with what Amherst is doing, with content that is rich and  
242 deep. They have moved to the STEM and Humanities model. The teachers can dive deeply with  
243 a two-hour block; and it allows for a flexible schedule when needed.

244 It is flexible in the sense that it is great to work together on something. For example, because it is  
245 just two teachers the strength is the expertise and that it does still fit in an elementary model.

246 She then reviewed the NWEA Map assessment results- Current Grade 6- Need for Additional  
247 Classroom Teachers.

248 Ms. Landwehrle added that there are a number of variables that and it was a significant shift in  
249 performance. They couldn't find another change.

250 Ms. Bonnie Angulas, 3 Bakers Way, Mont Vernon NH, commented that the teacher in the class  
251 room might be a reason as well.

252 Ms. Autumn Grdina, 17 Old Milford Road, Mont Vernon NH, added that she has had experience  
253 with that teacher and does not believe that is the case.

254 Ms. Anne Dodd, 36 Mason Road, Mont Vernon NH, asked for the number of IEP's in the  
255 classroom, noting that might have an impact.

256 Superintendent Steel replied that it is confidential information.

257 Mr. Driscoll reviewed the enrollment.

258 He remarked that they did not have a budget committee this year, and the Administration has  
259 done a wonderful job in making things transparent.

260 He then read Article #3 Capital Reserve Fund.

261 Article #3 Capital Reserve Fund.

262 *"Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000)*  
263 *from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2019, to be added*



264 *to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established in March 2007?*  
265 *Majority vote required.”*

266 He then added that they are trying to extend that beyond the roof and they have taken a look at  
267 major items such as, ventilation, dust and contaminate, playground, and fire alarm system  
268 upgrade. The net result is the funding plan as presented.

269 Mr. Driscoll asked if there were any further questions.

270 X. Close Public Hearing

271 **Chair Mr. Tom Driscoll closed the Public Hearing at 7:58PM**

272 XI. Action item

273 **The Board reconvened at 8:10PM.**

274 **Mr. Peter Eckhoff motioned to approve article #2 and #3 as presented, and bring it to the**  
275 **Deliberative Session. Mr. Stephen O’Keefe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous,**  
276 **motion passed.**

277 **Mr. Driscoll called a Roll Call: Driscoll- Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Eckhoff-Yes, and O’Keefe-**  
278 **Yes.**

279 XII. Non-Public Session

280 None

281 XIII. Review of Meeting/ Adjourn

282 **Ms. Sarah Lawrence motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM. Mr. Stephen O’Keefe**  
283 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**