

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, October 11th 2018

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 01 10 19

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent of Schools, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, John Schuttinger- Principal MVVS, and Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student
7 Services

8 Mont Vernon School Board: Chair- Thomas Driscoll, Vice Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Secretary-
9 Peter Eckhoff, and Kim Roberge.

10 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

11 Public: MV Community Member

12 I. Call to Order

13 **Chair Mr. Thomas Driscoll called the Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.**

14 II. Public Input

15 No Public Comment

16 III. Superintendent's Report

17 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, discussed that he does not have a lot of things since the SAU
18 Meeting last week.

19 He added that last week's Grandparent/ Senior Friend's Day on October 5th was really amazing.
20 The Library/Media Specialist posted some great things to the FB page.

21 They will be talking about Consolidation and the Budget tonight. Also, the Business
22 Administrator unexpectedly resigned last Thursday.

23 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle has an update on the data dashboard.

24 Ms. Landwehrle added that they are working with someone to build their dashboard and he is
25 continuing to build their dashboard and translating data to a scale. Plus, they are working on the
26 how they might use this through RTI.

27 Mr. Steel added that he visited the 8th grade at Ecology School and it was really great.

28 Mr. Driscoll asked about the data tool.

29 Ms. Landwehrle replied, that years ago the DOE used to use a tool called Performance Plus. It is
30 still available but very expensive.

31 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel and Ms. Landwehrle

32 IV. Principal's Report

33 Principal Mr. John Schuttinger discussed that Family Lunches start in November.

34 He then asked if there were any questions.

35 The Board had no further questions.

36 He added that Ms. Dawn Garneau, MVVS 6th Grade Teacher, is here along with three 6th grade
37 students to talk about their recent field trip to a farm.

38 One student discussed the animals that they had seen.

39 Another student explained that he liked the variety of classes that were offered. His favorite was
40 cryptography.

41 A different student discussed taking a class on structure building.

42 The first student then explained how they tried to have less food waste.

43 The students then discussed other fun activities.

44 Mr. Driscoll asked what was their favorite thing.

45 The students replied, the 4 hour hikes.

46 He then asked what was their least favorite thing.

47 The students responded, going to bed.

48 Ms. Roberge asked if the students made friends with students from Amherst.

49 The students replied, yes, they had dinner with a few of them.

50 Ms. Garneau noted that they had many opportunities to meet new friends.

51 The Board thanked Ms. Garneau and the students.

52 V. Consent Agenda

53 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to accept the Consent Agenda items 1. Minutes of September**
54 **13, 2018 2. July 2018 Treasurer's Report 3. Budget Transfers and 4. Revised DOE 25 FY**
55 **2018. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

56 VI. FY 20 Budget

57 Mr. Steel noted that he put this budget together last weekend and there will probably be a couple
58 of changes from Finance Director, Ms. Katie Hannan and Director of Human Resources, Ms.
59 Carrie James after they get a chance to review it.

60 The key thing is for this year is that they kept all of the new things out for now. Both the default
61 and the proposed is flat. He added in a large increase to Amherst tuition, as a place holder, due to
62 not knowing what it will be yet.

63 There is a huge reduction in SPED tuition \$233,000. There is an estimated SAU budget, that is
64 not set yet. They did well with collective bargaining increases and turnover savings. It was less
65 than what they had put on the ballot.

66 He added that with the Medicaid pay back, it is in two installments over the next two years, but it
67 is a big number.

68 Mr. Eckhoff asked for the average on tuition increases from year to year.

69 Mr. Steel replied, that it roughly follows their overall budget.

70 Ms. Roberge asked about the increase in tuition. She does not like that they are going down with
71 7 students and then an increase in cost.

72 Mr. Driscoll added that it involves two factors.

73 Mr. Steel added that Ms. Roberge was correct and that the number should go down.

74 Mr. Driscoll added that they are almost at a default, and asked what the open ended items are.

75 Mr. Steel responded that there isn't anything in the proposed budget that is significant. He added
76 that there is an increase in classroom supplies and the main topics are the three additional
77 teachers and some facility projects. He added that there is some question whether or not the new
78 K teacher should be included in the default budget.

79 Mr. Driscoll remarked that he is not comfortable with the new K teacher being in the default
80 because they voters did not vote for it. He added that voters might think that they are hiding one
81 teacher.

82 Ms. Lawrence commented that it is justified.

83 Mr. Driscoll noted that they had too large of a class size. He added that they have a little off set
84 for one of the teachers anyways.

85 Ms. Lawrence added that they are being transparent with the budget and letting the voters know
86 why they would be including it in the default.

87 Ms. Roberge noted that she is not comfortable of it going in the default.

88 Mr. Driscoll asked what is the definition.

89 Mr. Steel then explained that it is "contractual obligations". He then added that it is last year's
90 budget plus or minus contractual obligations, debt obligations or one-time expenses removed.

91 Ms. Lawrence replied, then no, she does not want it in the default.

92 Mr. Steel explained that statute for the default budget has changed recently that makes
93 "contractual obligations" much stricter.

94 Mr. Driscoll added that they also have some history with the K situation.

95 Discussion ensued.

- 96 Mr. Eckhoff agreed that it should not be in the default.
- 97 Mr. Steel discussed that this year they have taken in 9 students this year with IEP's that need
98 significant support.
- 99 Ms. Lawrence asked what would the additional person be doing.
- 100 Ms. Director of Student Services, Ms. Meg Beauchamp, replied Tier 3 intervention.
- 101 She then discussed the reason for the additional full time special education instructor to focus on
102 Learning Center support.
- 103 Mr. Driscoll asked if she can explain more about the Learning Center.
- 104 Ms. Beauchamp explained Under IDEA every school district is required to offer a continuum of
105 services.
- 106 Mr. Driscoll asked how is this changing over time. He then asked about the student population.
- 107 Discussion ensued.
- 108 Mr. Driscoll asked if they have seen a steep increase in that percentage of students.
- 109 Ms. Beauchamp added that they have seen some students move in but the level of need is such
110 that it is mathematically impossible for them to cover all of the meetings.
- 111 Mr. Driscoll asked about the math and reading interventionist
- 112 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they can assist with the Tier 2 level, but they have enough students
113 that are not identified that they are supporting.
- 114 Ms. Lawrence asked about the tiers.
- 115 Mr. Steel explained the different level of tiers. It is from the RTI framework.
- 116 Ms. Lawrence asked if any of students would be a better fit for going to Amherst and the
117 program that they have.
- 118 Ms. Beauchamp replied that they looked at that on a case by case basis, there may be one
119 student.
- 120 Principal Schuttinger added that they would need to increase tuition, and offer transportation.
- 121 Ms. Beauchamp commented that they would be paying an exorbitant cost without benefiting
122 many students.
- 123 Ms. Landwehrle explained that at this point the teachers are feeling the lack of support and not
124 able to provide the level of support that is needed. For example, if there is a student two grade
125 levels behind in math it is hard to pull that student aside and provide that student support while
126 teaching the class.

- 127 Ms. Lawrence asked why would you have that student in a fifth grade math level when they are
128 at a third grade level.
- 129 Ms. Landwehrle responded that they are currently set up by grade levels, as mastery learning
130 continues, that will change. They aren't ready yet to tackle a true competency based
131 environment, however, they are moving in that direction. They will be better able to help the
132 special education students in the classroom when they are competency based.
- 133 Ms. Lawrence commented that it does not make sense.
- 134 Ms. Beauchamp replied, 33 with the 8 and then then 6 referrals. They do not know about the
135 referrals at this time.
- 136 Ms. Roberge added that she would like to see the past 5 years and how many one on ones that
137 they have. It is a huge increase.
- 138 Ms. Beauchamp added that the current population requires a significant amount of Learning
139 Center time.
- 140 Mr. Driscoll asked if they could summarize it with Learning Center hours.
- 141 Ms. Beauchamp added that she can put together information for the Board.
- 142 Ms. Landwehrle explained that it is the direct instruction part that is challenging when you have
143 multiple levels below.
- 144 Mr. Driscoll added that they have to come up with a way to understand it and communicate it to
145 the public. They may decide to discuss it in Non-Public Session.
- 146 Ms. Lawrence asked about the Amherst supports.
- 147 Ms. Beauchamp replied that elementary has one special education case manager per grade level.
- 148 Ms. Landwehrle added that is with two math interventionists with two reading specialists.
- 149 Mr. Steel asked what is the State average right now.
- 150 Ms. Beauchamp noted that the State average covers 15%.
- 151 Ms. Lawrence added that they are at 20%.
- 152 Discussion ensued.
- 153 Mr. Steel added with the second K/6th grade teacher that the justification is easier when you have
154 30 students in one class. If K enrollment does not reach the expected levels, rearrange and not
155 hire that additional 6th grade teacher and leave that position open and save money. He added that
156 they will have flexibility based on enrollment numbers.
- 157 Ms. Roberge noted that they are going to be concerned with space soon.
- 158 Mr. Driscoll asked if they have room for an additional 6th grade classroom.

- 159 Mr. Schuttinger replied, yes, but computers will be on a cart.
- 160 Ms. Roberge added that there is a lot of other things in the budget from a maintenance
161 standpoint. She then suggested that they complete them from this year's budget the closer they
162 get to the end.
- 163 Mr. Steel replied that there is \$53,000 in facility costs.
- 164 Mr. Driscoll added that some maintenance things are in the budget and he would be surprised if
165 it is not.
- 166 Mr. Schuttinger added that they are looking at the playground for annual maintenance, rust on
167 chains, etc.
- 168 Ms. Roberge added that last year they would have done things if they had known that they would
169 have money left over at the end of the year.
- 170 Mr. Steel added that Ms. Hannan is excellent at what she does, in that she is cautious, but they
171 need to think realistic as well.
- 172 Ms. Roberge commented that she appreciates that but they need to look more closely at the end
173 of the year.
- 174 Ms. Roberge added that she was going through the Manifest today and asked about the \$6,000
175 for shows.
- 176 Ms. Landwehrle replied that it was grant money and they would not be able to use that for
177 playground equipment.
- 178 Mr. Schuttinger added that he would like to discuss an increase for the support staff, and had
179 already discussed giving them snow days like administrators and teachers.
- 180 Mr. Steel added that they need to keep in mind the competitive job market right now, it is hard to
181 find people and keep them.
- 182 Mr. Driscoll replied that they should look at it.
- 183 Ms. Lawrence asked Principal Schuttinger if he had a number in mind.
- 184 Mr. Schuttinger added that he is working with Ms. Hannan on that and will get back to them.
- 185 Discussion ensued.
- 186 Mr. Driscoll added that they are building a lot of houses.
- 187 Mr. Steel added that his experience is that, on average, there is 1 K-12 student for every single
188 family home that is built.
- 189 Discussion ensued over new construction in Mont Vernon.
- 190 Mr. Driscoll asked for a summary slide and to better explain to the public this is what they see in
191 the town. It will justify the two extra teachers.

192 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel.

193 VII. District Consolidation Discussion

194 Superintendent Steel added that he is here for Board feedback now that they talked about it at the
195 recent SAU board meeting.

196 He further added that he presented warrants and his sense is that Amherst and Souhegan are open
197 to it.

198 The next step is to hear from each Board because there is some effort to move forward. With
199 consolidation, they are looking at keeping the grades together and wondered if MV voters would
200 be ok with having their children here for Pre-K and K. Also, the ASD is likely looking at
201 building a school and that is gaining momentum. He is not sure if MV voters would be happy
202 making debt payments on a facility in another town.

203 Mr. Driscoll added that they answered one of the concerns with only MV voters being able to
204 close the MVVS.

205 He added that Mr. O'Keefe was opposed to it at this time.

206 Mr. Eckhoff remarked that he would like to see more hard data, projections, tax rate impacts, etc.

207 Mr. Steel analyzed the three budgets and applied it the apportionment formula as if it was one
208 big cooperative and it was pretty close.

209 Mr. Driscoll added that there would be increased costs associated to merging.

210 Mr. Steel noted that the labor piece, the two labor unions and the PPC, once they are all together
211 the MMVS teachers will get a big pay raise as a result to that.

212 Ms. Roberge noted that she had some concerns about consolidation first, with the 5th and 6th
213 grades. They are trying do enrichment. Second, the voting rights on the board. There would
214 never be the numbers. Third, what the ASD is going to do from a building stand point.

215 She remarked that she doesn't believe that there is enough benefit to go further in the process.

216 Ms. Lawrence added that she does feel like they are being heard and there is a lot of alignment in
217 both towns so far. She added that she feels comfortable with the voting aspect and they are
218 keeping the kids in the forefront.

219 Mr. Driscoll added that there is a lot of people in this town and they might not be comfortable.

220 Ms. Lawrence added that if all the kids are in one pool to be educated then you are looking for
221 the best interest of the kids.

222 Mr. Steel added that he is thinking that the MV people would want to have more than PK and K
223 here then send them to Amherst.

224 Mr. Driscoll added that means that the ASD would send their kids here for Pre-K and K.

- 225 Mr. Steel replied, yes, and his biggest concern is that parents would want their children in the
226 MVVS for more than a couple of years.
- 227 Ms. Lawrence remarked that she does not think that they should stop looking at it though.
- 228 Mr. Driscoll added that it was a big decision by the Board.
- 229 Mr. Schuttinger added that there is a town line and then a school district line.
- 230 Ms. Roberge commented that she moved to MV for her children to go to a small school. It could
231 be a K-2 but not K-4, there is not enough room.
- 232 Mr. Driscoll asked about a referendum.
- 233 Superintendent Steel discussed that they could put something on the ballot that stated something
234 like would they be in favor of consolidating with the ASD and SCSD if it meant that the MVVS
235 stayed viable with potentially only one grade of students.
- 236 Mr. Driscoll suggested possibly tuitioning in the 5th and 6th grades.
- 237 Mr. Steel replied, that they would not be able to fund the tuition.
- 238 Mr. Driscoll added that they need to keep kids in this school.
- 239 Discussion ensued.
- 240 Mr. Eckhoff commented that he likes the new educational benefits and where they are going.
241 How they get there is the hurdle.
- 242 Ms. Lawrence added that they should discuss it further.
- 243 Mr. Steel gave his support for the great teachers and staff of the MVVS.
- 244 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel.
- 245 VIII. Q1 Facilities Report
- 246 Ms. Roberge mentioned that this is a lot of information.
- 247 Mr. Steel suggested putting it in next month's agenda packet.
- 248 Ms. Roberge replied, yes, she would greatly appreciate it.
- 249 Mr. Eckhoff asked about a solar option. He asked if that is something they can take a look at.
- 250 Mr. Driscoll added that it is worth revisiting when they replace the roof.
- 251 Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that he will look into it and bring back some information for the Board.
- 252 Mr. Steel noted that they will see it again in next month's packet.
- 253 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel and Director of Building and Grounds, Mr. John
254 Robichaud.

255 IX. NHSAS Update

256 Ms. Landwehrle explained that this is not a lot of information but she wanted to get this data in
257 their hands right away. They also didn't have the comp district data until very recently.

258 There are a few things that she wanted to share. She will come back with comp district data, she
259 has ASD data but only 3rd, 4th and 8th grades. Also ASD had a few big drops and she can't say
260 whether it is a curriculum issue. She reminded the Board that these are raw achievement scores.

261 Mr. Driscoll asked if he can see the cohorts for the students that have been at the MVVS since
262 Kindergarten.

263 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes.

264 Ms. Lawrence asked if this also includes students with an IEP.

265 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes, they are included and would impact the data.

266 She added that this test is from last spring and it is from the State.

267 She then explained how this test is different from Smarter Balanced Assessment.

268 Discussion ensued.

269 She then discussed how they can read the results of the test. It aligns to Common Core and what
270 they are teaching.

271 Ms. Lawrence asked if the special ed students were given accommodations.

272 Ms. Beauchamp and Ms. Landwehrle both replied, yes, and it was untimed for all.

273 Ms. Landwehrle added that there was some concern about the schedule and that could have
274 caused a small impact.

275 Mr. Driscoll asked if they test students in the morning.

276 Ms. Landwehrle replied, yes, they do try to test in the morning but they can do a better job.

277 She commented that with the 6th grade tested too early and that can also cause an impact.

278 She is not trying to minimize anything and they will definitely take a closer look. She then
279 suggested they look at NWEA scores, so they are looking at both assessments.

280 Additionally, they are moving towards being a PACE district.

281 Mr. Driscoll added that they need to get to a point where they are consistent.

282 Ms. Landwehrle added that she believes that there were a lot of factors impacting this test.

283 Ms. Roberge asked if she could break it apart by class, maybe one skewed another.

284 Mr. Eckhoff asked if a parent gets a score that and they call the teacher

285 Ms. Landwehrle suggested the parent reach out to the teacher first and look at the NWEA results.

286 Mr. Driscoll asked what are the next steps.

287 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she will aggregate by class but would like to compare it to NWEA
288 results for the next board meeting.

289 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

290 X. Science Curriculum Presentation

291 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that she added a link on the NH State Standards. The big change is
292 that they were very content driven it has changed to developing models and applying content.
293 They are focusing on cross cutting concepts like structure and function. She also put in the
294 science and engineering practices.

295 She then discussed Mystery Science, (online high quality subscription) they have a joint
296 subscription with the ASD, and it is tightly aligned to the standards.

297 She then provided the topic list K-4 and what the One Note looks like. The teacher can also
298 create extra pages.

299 They are continuing to refine their pacing and their units. They have been housing a lot of
300 supplies in the 6th grade classroom to support a STEM approach.

301 Mr. Driscoll asked if they what they had budgeted for the science consumable supplies.

302 Ms. Landwehrle responded that they have increased it from \$500 to \$1,000.

303 She added that they budgeted for science kits at grade levels and for an additional kit. For
304 example, the Kindergarten science kit was \$2,000, but that does include a lot.

305 Mr. Eckhoff asked if they are going to measure girls within science and math.

306 Ms. Landwehrle added that AMS Principal, Ms. Bethany Bernasconi, did her dissertation on that.
307 She added that they keep an eye on that in high school.

308 Mr. Eckhoff added that you might want to know what college they went to and possibly a career
309 in science and math.

310 Ms. Landwehrle agreed. Next month she will need board approval.

311 Ms. Landwehrle added that she can set them up with a Mystery Science Account.

312 She added that Literacy curriculum is in there for next month for Kindergarten.

313 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle.

314 XI. Update on Unassigned Fund Balance

315 Superintendent Steel added that there is a message from Ms. Stephanie Grund, she broke down
316 expenditures on the second page. It was in response to get a more accurate amount.

317 Mr. Driscoll asked if these were unperceived expenditures.

318 Mr. Steel replied, that these are not unanticipated expenditures but purchase orders that were
319 open for a higher amount. He added that they were being conservative.

320 Ms. Beauchamp noted that Contracted Services are hard to predict and they change throughout
321 the year.

322 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel and Ms. Grund.

323 XII. Non-Public Session

324 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91- A:3 II (b) and (c) at**
325 **8:15 pm. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion**
326 **passed.**

327 **Mr. Driscoll called a Roll call: Driscoll- Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Roberge-Yes and Eckhoff-**
328 **Yes.**

329 **Motion to leave non-public session at 9:03 PM by Ms. Roberge, seconded by Ms. Lawrence,**
330 **motion passed.**

331 XIII. Public session reconvened at 9:03PM.

332 **Motion made by Kim Roberge to approve an extended FMLA leave was seconded by Sarah**
333 **Lawrence and approved unanimously by the board.**

334 **The motion made to adjourn the meeting at 9:04PM by Kim Roberge and seconded by**
335 **Sarah Lawrence was approved.**

336 Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.