

1 Mont Vernon Village School

2 Thursday, March 14th, 2019

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 04 11 19

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, and John Schuttinger- Principal MVVS, Charline Brown, MVVS Math
7 Interventionist and Jan Mattie- MVVS 3rd Grade Teacher.

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

10 Public: Jessica Hinkley, 13 Ridgeway Road, Mont Vernon NH/ MVVS Board Member (recent
11 elect)

12 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

13 I. Call to Order

14 **Chair Mr. Thomas Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:12PM.**

15 Superintendent Steel explained that they will be doing the Organizational Meeting at the April
16 meeting.

17 II. Public Input

18 No Public Comment

19 III. Superintendent's Report

20 School Calendar

21 Superintendent Steel noted that there is the School Calendar in the Agenda Packet, they had
22 discussed at the previous SAU Meeting. There are just a couple of changes, November 1st is the
23 Conference Day as instruction is hard the day after Halloween. Second, in October the PD day
24 for staff falls near Columbus Day. Everything else stays consistent. Additionally, they are
25 looking at starting school in the Fall of 2020 the day before Labor Day.

26 Unless there is any feedback, he is looking for a motion for adopting the proposed calendar.

27 Strategic Planning Update

28 They had a recent Strategic Design Team meeting and since this board last met they have had
29 two meetings. They have been visiting the schools and will be here at the MVVS soon. There has
30 been a SWOT analysis and there has been a community survey with 600 responses. The next
31 step will be pretty crucial.

32 Mr. Driscoll asked for the raw results to be visible.

33 Mr. Steel replied, yes, as long as there is no identifying information.

34 Amherst Students at the MVVS

35 It sounds like the Amherst Board is looking to continue keeping the three students here at the
36 MVVS. He just wanted to confirm their thoughts.

37 Ms. Roberge added that there was a caveat on that in regards to the date of May 1st and
38 enrollment numbers.

39 Mr. Steel replied, yes. He then read a letter from one of the families.

40 *“March 13th, 2019*

41 *Dear Mont Vernon School Board Members,*

42 *I apologize for not being able to be at the meeting tonight in person, but perhaps we can find a*
43 *way to joint live stream your meeting and the Amherst Heritage Commission Meeting (where I’m*
44 *currently taking the minutes) in the future!*

45 *My son, Baylen, is currently in Mrs. Philibotte’s Kindergarten classroom. We were lucky enough*
46 *to be able to make the choice in the fall to send him to MVVS from Amherst. We are 1 of 3*
47 *families who chose to make that decision. It was both very easy and a very difficult decision for*
48 *us.*

49 *Easy, because MVVS is wonderful in so many ways. Baylen was lucky to experience*
50 *Kindergarten in a smaller school with low classroom numbers. He has felt easily encouraged*
51 *and challenged. He has been able to receive individual time in the classroom, which we believe*
52 *is very important. His educational skills have improved and his pride in them shows.*

53 *Difficult, because we don’t know what will happen in future years. The longer we are allowed*
54 *the choice to keep Baylen at MVVS, the more engrained he becomes in the school. He has*
55 *already expressed his interest to stay at this school in future years. We worry for him if this*
56 *arrangement is dissolved within the next 2,3,4 years. He also has a younger sister who will be*
57 *entering school in a couple of years, giving us another question to face at that time. So, we*
58 *waiver with what the right decision is; however, we still hope it’s a choice we will be allowed to*
59 *make.*

60 *We thank you very much for allowing Baylen and our family so open-heartedly into your school.*
61 *We ask that you consider allowing him, and the other Amherst students if they so choose, to*
62 *remain at the MVVS for 1st grade, and hopefully for future years.*

63 *Thank you,*

64 *Kristan Patenaude and Mike Hebert (and Baylen Hebert)”*

65 Mr. O’Keefe added that he is in full support of having ASD students here at the MVVS.

66 Ms. Roberge added her concern with larger class sizes and knows there are more than 20 homes
67 that are under construction and should be completed by September.

68 Mr. Steel added that the number of 16 or less, by May 1st, was discussed on Feb 6th.

69 Discussion ensued.

70 Principal, Mr. John Schuttinger added that in the time he has been here they have gotten usually
71 2 or 3 for the first grade over the summer. True, it is still March, however, this is the largest
72 show of the community that have been in support of the budget. They are gaining more support.

73 Ms. Roberge added that it is a great benefit and need to keep in mind the numbers.

74 Mr. Eckhoff added that at some point they need to make a commitment with the amount of time
75 that an ASD student is here.

76 Ms. Roberge echoed Mr. Eckhoff and added that the Amherst Board has to agree as well.

77 Mr. O'Keefe remarked that there has to be input from the ASD Board.

78 Mr. Roberge noted that there are other lots almost ready to be built on and the winter houses will
79 be completed soon. There are options with the Consolidation Sub-Committee.

80 Mr. O'Keefe added that he is open to conversations with the Amherst Board.

81 Discussion ensued.

82 Mr. Driscoll mentioned that they are negotiating the AMS Tuition this year.

83 The Board thanked Superintendent Steel.

84 IV. Principal's Reports

85 Principal Schuttinger noted that on Friday, February 15th the PTA sponsored the third annual
86 Sweetheart Dance. The event has grown in participation over the past two years and it is a great
87 event. He then thanked the PTA for continuing to host this event.

88 Children's Stage Adventures (CSA) joined them the week of February 18th. During the week
89 they worked with 60 of their students to present *THE FISHERMAN* and *HIS WIFE* for a school
90 performance on Friday afternoon and an evening performance for the community. He then
91 thanked the PTA for sponsoring this week-long experience.

92 Mr. Driscoll asked about Yoga for the Classroom during Late Starts.

93 Mr. Schuttinger replied that he did not attend that session although he heard it went well. They
94 use GoNoodle and Web Pop to get the kids up and moving. The kids definitely have a blast.

95 He then gave the Board handouts on Absences and 2 proposals for activities this coming
96 trimester, one on STEAM Club and the other on Math Carnival.

97 Principal Schuttinger explained the absences. He added that there is Collaborative Team Time
98 and although the numbers look dramatic it has been really well spent.

99 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, added that Ms. Kathleen Murphy is the
100 Assistant Principal for Curriculum and the main lead. It has been great to see the work together

101 with both schools. It has enabled the MVVS teachers and the CW teachers to connect more
102 closely. They have done a lot of Literacy work with the first grade with the it has been such a
103 positive experience this year.

104 Principal Schuttinger then reviewed the School Enrichment Activities- March 2019- Student
105 Survey. He explained the Math Club keeps coming up consistently in the lower grades, which is
106 exciting to see. Additionally, kids are looking for different physical activities.

107 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the Title IV grant.

108 Ms. Landwehrle replied that she is writing the grant and that would be for summer because there
109 is a tight timeline. They know they will be getting the grant again and these responses are helpful
110 to have.

111 She further explained that with entitlement grants, the funds stay with the DOE until they tell
112 them what they are going to do with it. Once it gets approved, the District will pay for it and then
113 get reimbursed. She has met with curriculum coordinators and there is not a lot offered during
114 the summer. They were thinking of offering a STEM Camp, buying Boston Science Museum
115 kits. She added that there is a lot of interest during the summer.

116 Mr. Driscoll asked about the stipend amount.

117 Mr. Schuttinger explained that you have two proposals one is for STEAM Club and Math
118 Carnival.

119 Ms. Roberge added about the lower grades, as these are for 4th -6th grades. She then asked if they
120 are targeting similar individuals with the two activities.

121 Mr. O'Keefe remarked that he had suggested a recreation type program. He gave his support of
122 the Math Carnival noting that he heard good things about it.

123 Principal Schuttinger added that there are two stipends left and will remind staff that they are
124 looking for K-2.

125 Mr. O'Keefe added that they are close to the end of the school year.

126 Math Interventionist, Ms. Charline Brown, commented that they will have to choose because
127 they are overlapping. They have done a Math Carnival Junior in the past, but recently, no one has
128 stepped up to offer to do it.

129 Mr. Driscoll added that scheduling is a big piece and they are figuring out what is popular. He
130 gave his support for both proposals and have something for the younger grades.

131 Ms. Roberge gave her support for having 2-6th grades, and they are engaging the entire student
132 population.

133 Discussion ensued.

134 Ms. Lawrence added that the Math Carnival Junior will use a stipend.

- 135 Ms. Roberge added that she is looking for an outside activity, K-6.
- 136 Ms. Lawrence noted that there are high school students that are looking for volunteer
137 opportunities.
- 138 Principal Schuttinger added that they he is looking for Board support if they have an outside
139 activity K-6, with larger enrollment.
- 140 Ms. Roberge asked about the absence sheet.
- 141 Superintendent Steel asked if these were occurrences or days.
- 142 Mr. Schuttinger replied, occurrences.
- 143 Superintendent Steel suggested he put it in days.
- 144 Ms. Roberge noted that they have supported PD but 10 days is a lot.
- 145 Ms. Landwehrle noted that with “PD External” they do so much in-house that they are able to
146 bring in such great outside resources.
- 147 Mr. Eckhoff asked about the pay for subs.
- 148 Ms. Landwehrle replied that Finance Director, Ms. Katie Hannan, will alert them when the
149 account is getting low.
- 150 Mr. O’Keefe noted that they had their Consolidation Sub-Committee and would like to invest in
151 video conferencing and buy Zoom technology. He would really appreciate it.
- 152 He then asked how the morning breakfast program was going and if it was subsidized. He heard
153 that there was a school that was giving the students a piece of fruit.
- 154 Principal Schuttinger noted that sounds great and will contact, SAU 39 Nutrition Director, Mr.
155 John Lash about a possible grant.
- 156 Ms. Roberge gave her support for AMS Principal, Dr. Bethany Bernasconi’s, Principal’s Report.
- 157 Ms. Lawrence noted that she has a bit of correspondence.
- 158 *“March 14th 2019*
- 159 *Dear Members of the Mont Vernon School Board,*
- 160 *I would like to ask that you reconsider the new dismissal policy where walkers are released after*
161 *the busses have been loaded. This is resulting in the walkers being kept after school for an extra*
162 *10-15 minutes each day. Delaying the release of students by this amount after school ends*
163 *impacts many different aspects of family’s plans and commitments.*
- 164 *I understand this change began over concerns for the safety of the students and agree that*
165 *student safety should be our number one priority. However, I feel there are other measures that*
166 *should be considered to solve this problem. Since it takes some time to load the busses, would it*
167 *be possible to release the walkers immediately, giving them five minutes to clear the area before*

168 *the busses are released? Or, could the busses to down Harwood and not Cemetery Road?*
 169 *Personally, most of the time I was already on my way before the busses were off school property*
 170 *as I have to pick up my oldest at school in Nashua where she is released at 3:25.*

171 *I do not use the pick-up line because I cannot guarantee that I will be in the front of it and get*
 172 *out of the parking lot in a timely manner as the timing of the pick-up line is unpredictable at best.*
 173 *I have used the pick-up line for the last 7 years, but given our schedule this year, the timing no*
 174 *longer works. My children are involved in after school activities and do not go home after school*
 175 *which eliminates the bus as an option as well.*

176 *As of now, with this current change, I have to release my children at 3:10 in order to be in*
 177 *Nashua by 3:45 to pick up my oldest daughter as I can't wait for them to be released until 3:25-*
 178 *3:30. I encourage the school board members to come to the school at dismissal and see what*
 179 *other solutions you can come up with.*

180 *Thank you for considering this.*

181 *Respectfully,*

182 *Kristen Scully”*

183 Principal Schuttinger added that he has seen pickup and understands that it is a challenge,
 184 especially with the snow. He has talked with Ms. Scully and other parents. At other schools there
 185 is typically an adult here easily before 3:00PM.

186 Ms. Roberge asked if he thinks it will get better when the snow is gone.

187 Principal Schuttinger replied, yes, although he does not see what Bus Driver, Mr. Howard
 188 Brown, sees and does not know his route.

189 Ms. Roberge noted that the Board's first priority is safety.

190 Mr. Driscoll suggested that they keep the dismissal as it is, talk with MV Police Chief Furlong
 191 and come back to the Board in April.

192 Principal Schuttinger agreed.

193 The Board thanked Principal Schuttinger.

194 V. Consent Agenda

195 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to accept the Consent Agenda items 1. Feb 6th 2019 Draft**
 196 **Minutes, 2. Q2 Consolidated Report, 3. Treasurer's Report and 4. School Calendar. Ms.**
 197 **Sarah Lawrence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

198 VI. Extra Programs

199 Ms. Landwehrle explained that she has a sheet reviewing the Mont Vernon Students in
 200 Accelerated Math at AMS. She explained that she organized it by classes and graduation dates.

201 She noted that Math Interventionist, Ms. Charline Brown, is the main 6th grade math teacher for
202 this year and is here to share her thoughts on accelerated Math.

203 Ms. Brown explained that she is anticipating 3-5 students out of a class of 20. This is a fair
204 percentage. To prepare their students they are trying to provide as many opportunities as they
205 can. She further explained that she found a website called Prepdog www.Prepdog.org for ELA
206 and Math. Kids are encouraged to review their own grade level and go on. These kids are curious
207 and approaching math in a different way. She then gave an example of how the kids are asking
208 questions. She is looking forward to her presentation to the Board next month.

209 Ms. Landwehrle added that they are planning on doing summer work to bring in and offer to
210 students. It can be set up as optional work in Empower.

211 The other piece is, they added an extra opportunity for an accelerated math course at the end of
212 7th grade. At the end they have to show competency, and can move into the accelerated math
213 course in 8th grade. Almost every student that has taken this course has moved in.

214 Mr. Driscoll gave his support for the program.

215 Ms. Brown explained that the move towards deeper learning is pushing forward the acceleration.
216 She believes strongly in what they need to do. Today she was speaking to second graders about
217 the Mathematician, Archimedes. The kids even reach out to her just to thank her for teaching
218 them about these amazing mathematicians.

219 Ms. Roberge thanked Ms. Brown for all of her work.

220 VII. Grading and Reporting Update

221 Ms. Landwehrle discussed that 5th and 6th grade teachers are using Empower for at least one
222 subject. K-4 teachers are also working with Empower and started with Math. K-3 will start to
223 transition to add in Literacy. Most of their Empower time is during the Collaborative Team
224 Time, which has been very helpful.

225 At the last faculty meeting, the MVVS teachers took a self-assessment. The April faculty
226 meeting will be around Empower and the Late Start in April will be as well. She is in touch with
227 Empower every two weeks and their lead technology person has fixed some issues for them.

228 Mr. O'Keefe asked about the full implementation.

229 Ms. Landwehrle replied, she is thinking for the beginning of next year.

230 VIII. NWEA- Winter Update

231 Assistant Superintendent Landwehrle discussed that these are the NWEA Winter Results that the
232 students took a few weeks ago. She further discussed an overview of the assessment for the
233 Board.

234 She then began with the Reading scores explaining that they are in a very high percentile.

235 She then reviewed the Observed Growth (Mean) and Projected Growth (Mean).

- 236 Ms. Roberge asked about the 4th grade.
- 237 Ms. Landwehrle replied that it was probably a few students with negative growth. She added that
238 3rd grade 69% met projection. She added that the teachers can pull a Quadrant Report which will
239 give them more information.
- 240 She then reviewed the Math- Mean RIT Scores and Percentiles.
- 241 She added that they are 88% met their projected growth. She added that with 4th grade they need
242 to look deeply at it and the bar didn't quite hit the dot.
- 243 Ms. Roberge added that they are concerned about 4th grade with reading and math.
- 244 Ms. Brown noted that with being a Title I Supervisor, they needed their own group.
- 245 Ms. Landwehrle finalized by explaining the Next Steps. They have looked at a more consistent
246 structural model and are doing some grade 5 work. They have also purchased materials for their
247 Tier II and III students and are very excited about that.
- 248 Mr. Driscoll asked about looking at it longitudinally and pacing or curriculum in the third grade.
- 249 Ms. Landwehrle replied that they have done some catch up.
- 250 Ms. Brown explained that it is a big change from additive training and multiplicative training.
- 251 Ms. Landwehrle added that it has been a tough position that they have been in and are excited
252 about the new materials in the future.
- 253 Mr. Driscoll added that if they can find the holes and fix them they will be much better off.
- 254 The Board thanked Ms. Landwehrle and Ms. Brown.
- 255 IX. Discussion- Board Goals
- 256 Superintendent Steel noted that they will discuss this at April Meeting.
- 257 X. Non-Public Session
- 258 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to enter into Non-Public Session 91-A:3 II (a), (b) and (c) at 8:**
259 **30PM. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**
- 260 **Mr. Driscoll called a Roll Call: Driscoll-Yes, Lawrence-Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, Roberge- Yes**
261 **and O'Keefe- Yes.**
- 262 **Motion to leave Non-Public Session, Ms. Roberge and seconded by Ms. Lawrence. Motion**
263 **Passed.**
- 264 XI. Reconvened Public Session at 8:56PM.
- 265 **Motion made to accept Amherst students with the parameters of 16 or less by May 1st, of**
266 **MVVS students by Ms. Roberge and 2nd by Ms. Lawrence. Motion Passed.**
- 267 XII. Meeting Adjourned at 8:57 PM.