

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, January 11, 2018

3 Meeting Minutes

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Peter Warburton- Superintendent of Schools, Adam Steel- Business
6 Administrator, John Schuttinger-Principal, Christine Landwehrle- Director of Curriculum &
7 Professional Development, Meg Beauchamp- Director of Student Services, Director of
8 Technology- Bruce Chakrin and Stephanie Grund- Finance Department.

9 Mont Vernon School Board: Sarah Lawrence- Vice Chair, Stephen O’Keefe, Jason Chavez, and
10 Kim Roberge

11 Minute Taker: Danae Marotta

12 Public: Peter King- MVVS Moderator, Eileen Nabor- Mont Vernon, NH, Sam Hinkley- MVVS
13 AFC Member, Mont Vernon, NH and community members.

14 **Regular Board Meeting**

15 I. Call to Order – Vice - Chair Sarah Lawrence

16 **Vice Chair Ms. Sarah Lawrence called the regular meeting to order at 6:00PM.**

17 Ms. Lawrence asked about the enrollment.

18 Business Administrator, Mr. Adam Steel replied, 185 on Oct 1, they budgeted for 181. He then
19 noted the average 5-year Kindergarten enrollment is 23.

20 He then noted his chart for today then projected forward. He added that they could certainly get
21 more scientific data from census data, etc.

22 Ms. Roberge noted that there is a large house being built with 5 bedrooms and there are a lot of
23 new home permits.

24 Mr. Steel added that 181 is also projected for next year.

25 Ms. Roberge asked about the projected for this year.

26 Principal Mr. John Schuttinger added that they are at 191 right now. He noted that next year they
27 are projected for 181.

28 Mr. Steel added that last year at this time they were projecting 167.

29 Ms. Roberge emphasized the amount of new home permits.

30 Discussion ensued over enrollment.

31 Ms. Roberge asked about the contribution from the Unreserved Fund Balance.

- 32 Mr. Peter King added that the entire roof was replaced in 2004.
- 33 Mr. O’Keefe suggested they defer the \$50,000 this year.
- 34 Ms. Roberge mentioned that they could put in \$10,000.
- 35 Mr. O’Keefe asked when the Special Education piece ends.
- 36 Ms. Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services, replied it depends on the age of the kids. She
37 added a couple of years anyway.
- 38 Ms. Lawrence added that it also assumes that there are no new kids coming in.
- 39 She then asked about the student/teacher ratio.
- 40 Mr. Steel replied, 15:1. He noted that it is generally best to be consistent.
- 41 Ms. Roberge asked Ms. Landwehrle, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, for
42 some positive test scores, or growth for the benefit of the teacher contracts.
- 43 She added that she is looking to highlight the positive education that is here.
- 44 Ms. Landwehrle replied, sure.
- 45 Mr. Steel asked the Board if they were going to change to have the \$50,000 come out of surplus
46 for the roof.
- 47 Ms. Roberge asked Mr. King what he thought the Budget Committee would think of that idea.
- 48 She added that if they don’t have surplus then they wouldn’t put money in being that the Special
49 Education costs are high this year.
- 50 Mr. King replied yes, he would be in support of it.
- 51 Ms. Roberge asked that if they don’t put it in this year they would then ask for \$75,000 next year
52 to make up the difference.
- 53 She added that they could use the surplus from this year
- 54 Mr. Steel if they are going to take \$50,000 no matter what then you can’t really mention surplus.
55 He added that if you have only \$30,000 then \$30,000
- 56 Mr. King added that the net is the same.
- 57 Mr. Steel remarked that he is hesitant to say there is no tax impact because the money that should
58 have been returned, off sets the tax rate.
- 59 Ms. Roberge noted that they do want to explain it and be transparent.
- 60 Mr. Steel added that they gave the taxpayers back \$354,000 last year and this year \$25,000.
- 61 Discussion ensued over which warrant articles to keep in.

62 Ms. Roberge added that some might not understand the tax impact of the warrant article. She
63 added that it should come from the unreserved fund balance.

64 Mr. O’Keefe asked how did they pay for the roof.

65 Mr. King added that it was bonded, they had no money in reserve. He added that a big tarp was
66 over the roof for a long time.

67 Ms. Roberge added that the budget is at a steep increase. She added that it might go to default.

68 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned so that Article 5 comes from Year-end Unassigned Fund**
69 **Balance (surplus). Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous,**
70 **Motion passed.**

71 Mr. O’Keefe added that people are going to ask about the difference from the default to the
72 proposed. He asked about the average cost of the house.

73 Mr. Steel replied, that it is based on a \$300,000 house.

74 Discussion ensued.

75 Ms. Roberge added that she would like to hear some positive things with the teacher contract.

76 She asked if they have to vote on the budget now.

77 Mr. Steel replied, after the Public Hearing.

78 Ms. Roberge asked about the amount of public that were in attendance last night.

79 She added that she watched it over live stream.

80 Mr. O’ Keefe asked if the Amherst Recreation Department is paying to use the MVVS gym.

81 Mr. Peter King added that they had worked that out a long time ago with resident rates.

82 II. Review of Public Hearing Information

83 III. Adjourn

84 **Ms. Sarah Lawrence motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Ms. Kim Roberge**
85 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

86 Public Hearing

87 I. Call to Order – Vice - Chair Sarah Lawrence

88 **Vice-Chair Ms. Sarah Lawrence opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM.**

89 II. Public Hearing

90 She then welcomed members of the public. She then introduced herself along with other Board
91 Members.

92 She then introduced Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Peter Warburton. He then introduced
93 members of the Administration.

94 Ms. Lawrence then read **Article #2: Operating Budget**

95 **Article 2. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate as an operating**
96 **budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations**
97 **voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as**
98 **amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling five million,**
99 **eighty thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four dollars (\$5,080,794)? Should this article be**
100 **defeated, the default budget shall be four million nine hundred and fifty-five thousand, one**
101 **hundred and fifteen dollars (\$4,955,115), which is the same as last year, with certain**
102 **adjustments required by previous action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or**
103 **the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and**
104 **XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? Majority vote required.**

105 She then reviewed the executive summary.

- 106 • Increase of 8.2% (\$382,947) over FY18:
 - 107 ○ Special education adds 7.2% (\$338,044)
 - 108 ○ New teaching position add 1.9% (\$87,898)
 - 109 ○ All other changes reduce 1.0% (\$-47,688)
- 110 • Default Budget Calculation is a 5.5% increase over FY18
- 111 • The difference between the default and the proposed is 2.7%

112 She then explained the Appropriation Comparison:

113 Budget: FY 18(\$4,616,289), FY 19 (\$5,080,794) Difference= \$464,496

114 Warrant Articles: FY 18 (\$81,549), FY 19 (\$130,054) Difference = \$48,505

115 Total: FY 18 (\$4,697, 847),FY 19 (\$5, 210, 848)Difference= \$513, 001

116 She asked if that took into account the roof.

117 Mr. Steel replied, yes.

118 She then reviewed the default budget and calculation (\$4,995, 115).

119 She then explained the proposed budget and calculation (\$5,080, 794). This amount includes the
120 new teacher, facilities, technology equipment, paraprofessional dental and everything else.

121 Ms. Lawrence then went over the budget composition pie chart.

122 She then discussed the Major Stories:

- 123 • Special education costs increase significantly from FY18
- 124 • Addition of 1 classroom teaching position
- 125 • Transportation savings anticipated
- 126 • Addition of partial dental insurance coverage for paraprofessionals

127 She then discussed the enrollment. She added that the projected was 167, and current enrollment
128 is 191.

129 She then reviewed the staffing levels for grades K- 6. She added that the ratio is still 15:1.

130 Mr. King asked if it is projected for 31 in 1st grade, are there 31 in Kindergarten now.

131 Principal Schuttinger replied, yes, now with the full day Kindergarten they are they are not
132 seeing the same changes because they are coming for full day K and stay for full day 1st grade
133 and so on.

134 Ms. Nabor asked what grade is getting the extra teacher.

135 Ms. Lawrence replied, this is projected for next year.

136 Principal Schuttinger replied, they are looking at second grade to make that change.

137 Ms. Nabor asked now is this projected.

138 She then asked why they need two teachers with 23 students.

139 Ms. Roberge emphasized that with the lower grades it is important to have two teachers in the
140 lower grades.

141 Ms. Nabor asked if next year there will be 1 Kindergarten room.

142 Principal Schuttinger replied, no, currently there are two rooms, 16 in one and 17 in the other. He
143 added that the room that they have suffices by the State law.

144 Ms. Lawrence noted that the Administration had originally asked for three new teachers but then
145 they had decided on one. It was a compromise already.

146 Mr. O’Keefe added in regards with the teacher position and with test scores, having one teacher
147 with 25 kids had been an issue. It was the best conclusion that they had come up with.

148 Ms. Lawrence remarked that the Board wanted to give the kids more support when they are
149 younger.

150 She then reviewed the certified staffing FY 14- FY 19 and the non-certified staffing.

151 Ms. Kim Roberge then discussed the **Article 3: MVEA contract.**

152 **Article 3. “Shall the Mont Vernon School District approve the cost items included in the**
153 **collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and MVEA (Mont**
154 **Vernon Education Association) which calls for the following increases in salaries and**
155 **benefits at the current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:**

156 Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
157 2018-2019	\$80,054
158 2019-2020	\$81,700

159 **2020-2021** **\$77,677**

160 **and further to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand and fifty-four dollars**
 161 **(\$80,054) for the 2018-2019 year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to**
 162 **the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would**
 163 **be paid at the current staffing levels?" Majority vote required.**

164 She added that they had a discussion and had gone with a three-year agreement, eliminates the
 165 most expensive health insurance plan at the expiration of this agreement, salary increases of
 166 3.25%, 3.50%, and 4.00% plus a step, narrows the competitive pay gap between competing
 167 school districts and adds several stipends for after-school activities for students.

168 She added that these were cost of living increases and so they have a teaching staff that bridges
 169 the gap between other districts.

170 Mr. Steel added that it was even more than 20%.

171 Ms. Roberge added that they were looking to add more after school activities and they added
 172 funds for stipends. In order to maintain the level of teachers, it was a fair agreement to bring to
 173 the taxpayers. She noted that they had zero cost of living increases for their last three year
 174 contract.

175 Mr. King asked about the 3.25%.

176 Mr. Steel explained that they teachers are on a step scale there is a certain number of steps. He
 177 added that some teachers have maxed out in year one or two and not getting a cost of living and
 178 not getting both.

179 Mr. King replied, thank you for the explanation. He added that in the past the step was it.

180 Ms. Nabor asked is that 3.25% plus the step.

181 Ms. Roberge replied, if they are moving a step, then yes.

182 Ms. Nabor asked so someone might get 5%.

183 Mr. Steel added that 9 out of 23 teachers are at the top of the step, 15 out of 23 will be at the top
 184 of the step at the end of the contract.

185 Mr. Steven O'Keefe discussed the **Article 4: Roof Contribution to CRF**

186 **Article 5. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate fifty thousand**
 187 **dollars (\$50,000) from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June**
 188 **30, 2018, to be added to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**
 189 **established in March 2007? Majority vote required.**

190 Ms. Nabor remarked don't portray this a zero tax impact.

191 Ms. Lawrence then discussed the estimated tax impact for Articles 2 Budget, 3 MVEA Contract
 192 and 4 Roof Contribution.

- 193 Ms. Nabor asked if people voted down Article #3, would the teachers get their raise under the
194 default budget.
- 195 Mr. Steel replied, they would get no step or increase at all. He added that they are assuming in
196 this table the only thing that changes in this table is whether the budget passes or not.
- 197 Mr. King added that he is still confused.
- 198 Ms. Roberge added that you are getting to vote three times.
- 199 Mr. Steel mentioned that he changed the slide, merging the two columns for better
200 understanding.
- 201 Ms. Roberge added that they should break it out differently for the public at the deliberative
202 hearing.
- 203 Ms. Lawrence asked if the public had any questions and thanked the public for their feedback.
- 204 Ms. Nabor asked about the Special Education budget.
- 205 Ms. Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services, replied some of the costs would be
206 reimbursed through Cat Aid.
- 207 Ms. Nabor then asked, if you have \$30,000 in reserve funds to alleviate Special Ed costs, why
208 have you not used it this year.
- 209 Ms. Beauchamp added that it won't affect next year's budget.
- 210 Ms. Roberge replied they still may have to use it this year. She noted that it was a surprise this
211 year. It is January, there may be nothing left and then nothing for the roof contribution.
- 212 Ms. Lawrence added that last year they gave back to the taxpayers \$354,000 and this year
213 \$25,000 possibly. That equates to approx. \$400 on a \$300,000 home valuation.
- 214 Ms. Nabor added that it seems like you put away for a rainy day fund and now it is raining.
- 215 Mr. King asked if they are doing everything they can to be fiscally responsible and educate the
216 kids in the area of Special Education.
- 217 Ms. Beauchamp replied, yes, last month she did an entire non-public session and she wanted the
218 Board to know what she is up against. It was a perfect storm scenario. She looked at a variety of
219 ways and figured out their options. She noted that the Board asked some hard questions, and
220 there were things that you can't plan for.
- 221 Ms. Lawrence added that the Board did ask some pretty tough questions. She then noted the
222 Board's support for Ms. Beauchamp's information.
- 223 Mr. Sam Hinkley, MVVS Budget Finance Committee, remarked they had some of the same
224 concerns and added that it was not feasible.

225 **Ms. Sarah Lawrence motioned to close the Public Hearing at 7:40PM. Ms. Kim Roberge**
 226 **seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

227 III. Close Public Hearing

228 (reconvene to MVVS Learning Commons Room)

229 IV. Action Item

230 1. FY19 Warrant

231 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to place Article 1 on the warrant, “Election of Officers (voting**
 232 **by official ballot March 13, 2018)**

233 **To the following school district offices:**

234 **a. To choose two (2) School Board members for the ensuing three (3) years;**

235 **b. To choose one (1) school district moderator for the ensuing one (1) year;**

236 **c. To choose one (1) school district clerk for the ensuing one (1) year; and,**

237 **d. To choose one (1) school district treasurer for the ensuing one (1) year”.**

238 **Mr. Stephen O’Keefe seconded the Motion, the vote was unanimous motion passed.**

239 Discussion ensued over the slides.

240 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to place Article 2 on the warrant “Shall the Mont Vernon**
 241 **School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations**
 242 **by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set**
 243 **forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for**
 244 **the purposes set forth therein, totaling five million, eighty thousand, seven hundred and**
 245 **ninety-four dollars (\$5,080,794)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be**
 246 **four million nine hundred and fifty-five thousand, one hundred and fifteen dollars**
 247 **(\$4,955,115), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous**
 248 **action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one**
 249 **special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised**
 250 **operating budget only? Majority vote required. Mr. Stephen O’Keefe seconded the Motion.**
 251 **The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.**

252 **Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to place Article 3 on the warrant Article 3. “Shall the Mont**
 253 **Vernon School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining**
 254 **agreement reached between the School Board and MVEA (Mont Vernon Education**
 255 **Association) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current**
 256 **staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:**

257 **Fiscal Year Estimated Increase**

258 **2018-2019 \$80,054**

259 2019-2020 \$81,700

260 2020-2021 \$77,677

261 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand and fifty-four dollars
262 (\$80,054) for the 2018-2019 year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to
263 the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would
264 be paid at the current staffing levels?" Majority vote required. Mr. Stephen O'Keefe
265 seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.

266 Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to place Article 4 on the warrant (Trailer Article) "Shall the
267 Mont Vernon School District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call
268 one special meeting at its option to address Article 3 cost items only?". Mr. Stephen
269 O'Keefe seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.

270 Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to place Article 5 on the warrant Article 5. Shall the Mont
271 Vernon School District raise and appropriate fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the
272 year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2018, to be added to
273 the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established in March 2007?
274 Majority vote required. Mr. Stephen O'Keefe seconded the Motion. The vote was
275 unanimous. Motion passed.

276 V. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II. (a) (b) (c)

277 VI. Review of Meeting/Adjourn

278 Ms. Kim Roberge motioned to close the meeting at 8:00PM. Ms. Sarah Lawrence seconded
279 the Motion. The vote was unanimous, Motion passed.