

Voter's Guide

2019 Deliberative Session

of the

Mont Vernon School District

(Grades K-12)

February 6, 2019

7:00 PM – Mont Vernon Village School

Officers and Agents of the School District

Mont Vernon School Board

Thomas Driscoll, Chair
Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair
Peter Eckhoff, Secretary
Stephen O'Keefe
Kim Roberge

School District Moderator

Peter King

School District Clerk

Sue Ledger

School District Treasurer

Lyn Jennings

Office of the Superintendent

Adam Steel, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Landwehrle, Assistant Superintendent
Meg Beauchamp, Director of Student Services
Porter Dodge, Director of Operations

School Administration

John Schuttinger, Principal

Message from the Mont Vernon School District Board Chair

In 2018 the voters of Mont Vernon approved the proposed budget for the FY18/19 school year. We are extremely grateful for the show of support as we continue to strive toward maintaining the balance of providing an outstanding education while being fiscally responsible. Last year our voters approved a three-year contract that the board negotiated with the Mont Vernon Education Association. We are extremely proud of our staff and feel they are well deserving of our support for the great work they do with our children. Our school community continues to be committed to maintaining a safe and caring environment for all our students. It is our hope that the Village School provides a place where all students are engaged, challenged and encouraged to grow as learners.

Our full day kindergarten program is currently in its fourth year and we continue to receive positive feedback from parents and staff. In reviewing student outcomes from last school year, our kindergarten students made significant growth moving from the 88th percentile in math to the 97th percentile and growing from the 91st percentile to the 96th percentile in reading. The percent of students meeting target growth was 79% in math and 66% in reading, significantly above the norm of 50%. All other grade levels are also performing above, and in many cases far above, the norm. In reading, our students are consistently performing between the high 80th and high 90th percentile range. Additionally, they are showing significant growth from year to year, especially in the lower grades. This growth far exceeds the norm. In math, our students are typically performing between the 70th and 90th percentile range, again consistently above average. We are seeing strong growth in nearly all grade levels with our highest growth in the lower grades. Last year we increased our Math and Reading interventionist positions from half time to full time. Overall, our interventionists are servicing many more students than they have in prior years and are providing both in classroom or pull out support depending on need. We will be doing a full analysis at the beginning of next year to evaluate the effectiveness of the full day intervention program.

Our building continues to be a great source of pride, this year we were able to upgrade to LED lighting throughout the facility. This was funded through a special program with Eversource and has zero-budget impact. In addition to the planned roof replacement in FY22 the board has developed a long-range plan to maintain the building and infrastructure for years to come. Our hope is to level the maintenance costs by continuing contributions to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund each year over the next several years at a constant amount.

The board continues to be challenged by our enrollment numbers. This is the second year we have seen a slight increase in students. We try very hard to balance class size, classroom needs and staffing while maintaining a fiscally responsible budget. At the start of the school year we were faced with a larger than expected kindergarten class which the board authorized the immediate hiring of a second teacher to keep the class size in line with our expectations. At the same time, we were able to provide space for three students from Amherst school district which was experiencing their own growth problems. The tuition for these students helped to offset the cost of the added staff. Considering the student enrollment numbers, the board has proposed to add two additional teachers in this year's budget, bringing our staff back to two full time teachers per grade level starting in FY19/20. This year we are also faced with more demands on our special education teachers/case managers which the board authorized add staff to support these

requirements. These costs were offset by the drop in out of district tuition and the use of the Special Education Trust fund.

As always, we need to thank the teaching staff, administration, volunteers, committee members, parents, community members and children who continue to contribute to the success of the Village School. Their ongoing commitment and dedication to the success of our students is something we all should be grateful for. “It takes a village to raise a child”.

Sincerely,

Thomas Driscoll
Chair, Mont Vernon School Board

MONT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

TOM DRISCOLL, CHAIR	TDRISCOLL@SPRISE.COM
SARAH LAWRENCE, VICE CHAIR	SLAWRENCE@SPRISE.COM
PETER ECKHOFF, SECRETARY	PECKHOFF@SAU39.ORG
STEPHEN O’KEEFE	SOKEEFE@SPRISE.COM
KIM ROBERGE	KROBERGE@SPRISE.COM

Mont Vernon School District Voting

The Mont Vernon School District follows the guidelines of Senate Bill 2 (SB2) which are outlined in RSA 40:13. Voting on budgets, appropriations, and other articles culminates with ballot voting; however, prior to the March ballot vote is the Deliberative Session, which will be held on February 6, 2019, at 7:00 PM at Mont Vernon Village School.

The Deliberative Session is the first session of the annual meeting and consists of explanation, discussion, and debate of each article on the warrant. Only voters registered in Amherst can amend wording and dollar amounts and vote on approving the warrant articles.

All warrant articles that are presented at the Deliberative Session, including articles that are amended, are then placed on the official ballot and moved to the second session of the annual meeting for a final vote by ballot on March 12, 2019.

Mont Vernon School District Voting is a Two-Step Process

Deliberative Session – 1 st Session 7:00 p.m.	February 6 th Mont Vernon Village School
School District Meeting – 2 nd Session (Ballot Vote) 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	March 12 th Mont Vernon Village School

In many ways the Deliberative Session resembles District Meetings of years past, but with one fundamental difference. Discussion and voting at this meeting will focus on the *wording* of the questions to be placed on the March 12th ballot, *not* on voting whether the budget, bond, or other warrant articles pass or fail. The wording of a warrant article can be amended to change the dollar amount and/or the wording. In recent years towns and school districts have seen warrant articles amended at the Deliberative Session to \$0.00, thereby defeating the original intent of the article. In other instances, the wording of an article has been amended to completely reverse the petitioner's intent. Simply stated, it is important to attend the Deliberative Session and vote on Election Day for the full effect of your vote to be heard.

Contact the Mont Vernon Town Clerk for voter registration information and for absentee ballots.
Phone: (603) 673-9126

<http://www.montvernonnh.us/index.php/departments/town-clerk>

2019 Mont Vernon School District Warrant

**Mont Vernon School District
Annual Meeting Warrant
February 6, 2019 and March 12, 2019
Mont Vernon, New Hampshire**

To the inhabitants of the Mont Vernon School District in the Town of Mont Vernon, County of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified of the following Annual School District Meeting schedule:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)

You are hereby notified to meet at the Village School in said District on the 6th day of February 2019 at 7:00 p.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles 2 through 3. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended, and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

You are hereby notified to meet at the Village School in said District, on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to vote by official ballot on warrant articles numbered 1 through 3.

Article 1. Election of Officers (voting by official ballot March 12, 2019)

To the following school district offices:

- a. To choose two (2) School Board members for the ensuing three (3) years;
- b. To choose one (1) school district moderator for the ensuing one (1) year;
- c. To choose one (1) school district clerk for the ensuing one (1) year; and,
- d. To choose one (1) school district treasurer for the ensuing one (1) year.

2019 Mont Vernon School District Warrant (Cont.)

Article 2. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling five million, one hundred and sixty thousand, five hundred and fifty-seven dollars (\$5,160,557)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be four million, nine hundred and sixty-seven thousand, nine hundred and ninety-three dollars (\$4,967,993), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School Board (5-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: -\$0.56 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$1.35 per thousand.

*NOTE: Warrant Article 2 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles.

Warrant Article 2 Commentary:

The proposed Mont Vernon School District operating budget for the 2019-2020 (FY 2020) school year is \$5,160,557. This is a decrease of (\$291.00) or (0.005%) in comparison to the FY2019 total appropriations. This year we have seen major reduction in out of district tuition for special education as well as reduction in AMS tuition (\$297,710) or (5.7%). Our enrollment numbers have increased again this year with a projected 194 students. As many voters and parents are aware the board has struggled with being on the edge of grades with too few students for two teachers per grade level and too many for a single teacher. At the start of the current school year given rise in the Kindergarten enrollment the board authorized the hiring of an additional Kindergarten teacher. This year we are looking to add this position to proposed budget along with an additional teacher in the 6th grade. We have also seen a rise in the needs of some of our students are looking to add an additional case manager to our staff to better serve the needs of our students and meet their individual requirements. One additional note of importance this year is due to changes in legislation some contracted costs are no longer allowed in the default budget, should the proposed budget be defeated, the default will not cover some increased costs such as our multiyear transportation contract. The board feels strongly the proposed budget is necessary to best meet the needs of our students, while also being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. The board unanimously supports the proposed budget and is asking for voter support on March 12th.

Article 3. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established in March 2007. With said sum to come from the year-end unassigned fund balance (surplus) if available on June 30, 2019? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Mont Vernon School Board (5-0)

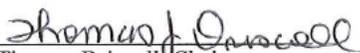
Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.19 per thousand.

Warrant Article 3 Commentary

The Board unanimously supports adding the amount of \$50,000 to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust. We are anticipating a roof replacement in FY21-FY22 which is projected to cost \$300,000. This year as part of the Board goals we asked the administration to prepare a long-range plan for our school and infrastructure. With the goal to continue level funding for these larger projects in a similar manner to the roof. This plan will include major items such as the ventilation, playground equipment, and fire alarm upgrades. The trust is intended to meet maintenance needs, including unplanned emergencies. It is prudent for any district to have these reserves. The Board is asking for voter support on March 12^h.

Given under our hands as said Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, on the 24th day of January 2019.


Thomas Driscoll, Chairperson

Peter Eckoff


Sarah Lawrence


Stephen O'Keefe

Kim Roberge

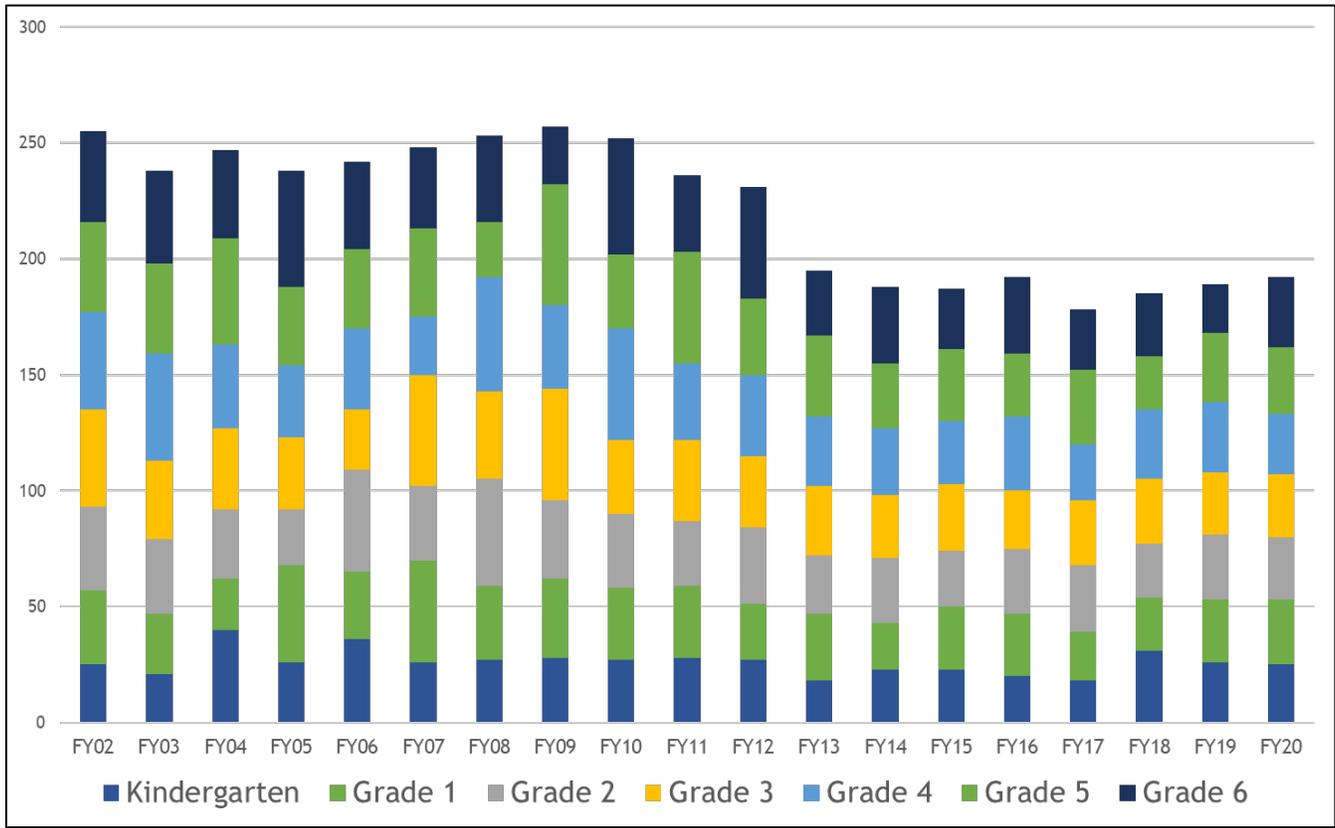
DEFAULT CALCULATION

FY19 Budget + Teacher Contract	\$5,160,848	
Special Education Tuition	-\$233,210	-4.5%
Tuition to ASD	-\$64,500	-1.2%
SAU #39	\$5,079	0.1%
CBA Increases / Turnover	\$14,981	0.3%
Health Insurance	\$22,052	0.4%
Medicaid Payback	\$25,290	0.5%
0.5 Special Education Teacher	\$42,494	0.8%
Everything Else	-\$5,041	-0.1%
<u>FY20 Default Budget Calculation</u>	<u>\$4,967,993</u>	<u>-3.7%</u>

PROPOSED BUDGET CALCULATION

FY20 Default Budget	\$4,967,993	
Remove Regular Paraprofessional	-\$23,012	-0.4%
Remove SPED Paraprofessional	-\$19,951	-0.4%
Utilities	\$3,200	0.1%
Classroom Supplies & Materials	\$6,010	0.1%
Transportation Contracts	\$14,805	0.3%
0.5 Special Education Teacher	\$42,494	0.8%
Additional Kindergarten Teacher	\$70,199	1.3%
Additional 6 th Grade Teacher	\$84,988	1.6%
Everything Else	\$13,831	0.3%
<u>Operating Budget (New Taxes)</u>	<u>\$5,160,557</u>	<u>3.7%</u>
CRF Roof Warrant Article	\$50,000	
<u>Total Appropriations on Ballot</u>	<u>\$5,210,557</u>	

Enrollment



PROJECTED STAFFING LEVELS

Grade Level	Current			Proposed		
	Students	Teachers	Ratio	Students	Teachers	Ratio
Kindergarten	26	2*	13.0	26	2	13.0
Grade 1	27	2	13.5	26	2	13.0
Grade 2	28	2	14.0	27	2	13.5
Grade 3	27	2	13.5	28	2	14.0
Grade 4	30	2	15.0	27	2	13.5
Grade 5	30	2	15.0	30	2	15.0
Grade 6	21	1	21.0	30	2	15.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14.5</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13.9</u>

Roof Replacement Plan

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Existing		\$100,000
FY18	\$50,000	\$150,000
FY19	\$50,000	\$200,000
FY20	\$50,000	\$250,000
FY21	\$50,000	\$300,000
FY22	\$50,000	\$350,000

- ▶ Targeted Replacement in FY21 - FY22
- ▶ Estimated cost of \$300,000
- ▶ Contribution of \$50,000 each year
- ▶ Voters approved \$50,000 in FY18 and FY19

Long Term Facilities Plan

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
Roof	\$300,000	FY22
Ventilation	\$180,000	FY25
Playground	\$100,000	FY28
Fire Alarm system, upgrade	\$140,000	FY28

Funding Plan

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Balance Forward	\$100,000		\$ 100,000
FY18	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 150,000
FY19	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 200,000
FY20	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 250,000
FY21	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 300,000
FY22 (Roof)	\$50,000	\$300,000	\$ 50,000
FY23	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 100,000
FY24	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 150,000
FY25 (Ventilation)	\$50,000	\$180,000	\$ 20,000
FY26	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 70,000
FY27	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 120,000
FY28 (Playground)	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$ 70,000
FY29	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 120,000
FY30	\$50,000	\$0	\$ 170,000
FY31 (Fire Alarm)	\$50,000	\$140,000	\$ 80,000

Tax Impact

	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>Difference</u>
All Appropriations	\$5,210,848	\$5,210,557	-\$291
Revenue	-\$424,772	-\$522,851	-\$98,079
Adequacy	-\$1,101,456	-\$1,137,897	-\$36,441
Tax Effort	\$3,684,620	\$3,549,809	-\$134,811
Valuation	\$259,828,064		
<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>\$14.18</u>	<u>\$13.66</u>	<u>-\$0.52</u>

Estimated Tax Impact

Warrant Article	Approved	Not Approved
Budget	-\$0.52	-\$1.35
CRF Contribution	\$0.00	-\$0.20

	<u>Total of All Budgets & Warrants</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Average Home</u>
FY19	\$5,210,848	\$14.18	\$4,254
FY20	\$5,210,557	\$13.66	\$4,099
<u>Difference</u>	<u>-\$291</u>	<u>-\$0.52</u>	<u>-\$156</u>

If both articles pass, the average tax bill will go *down* by \$156.

If both articles fail, the average tax bill will go down by \$465.

MODERATOR'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mont Vernon School District Deliberative Session

1. Only Mont Vernon registered voters are entitled to participate in the meeting and vote. This does not include SAU and school district staff and employees necessary to the meeting.
2. Each motion to amend will be voted on before another motion to amend will be entertained.
3. Each speaker will state his or her name and address and will be limited to three minutes. No individual will be allowed to speak a second time until all who wish to speak for the first time have spoken.
4. Speakers must speak from the central microphone. All comments must be addressed to the Moderator and not to the audience. Personal attacks or discussions will not be allowed. Please don't simply repeat comments made earlier but add substantively to the debate. If someone "steals your thunder" while you're waiting to speak, note your agreement with that speaker, but in the interest of time please don't repeat their comments at length.
5. No motion to call the question will be accepted by the moderator until there has been sufficient debate on the article.
6. A motion to restrict reconsideration in accordance with RSA 40:10 should be made immediately following the announcement of the vote on that article.
7. Motions to pass over, table, and postpone will not be accepted, within the discretion of the moderator.
8. Any voter may challenge any ruling of the Moderator. Majority vote decides.

Peter King
Mont Vernon School District Moderator