

**MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 23, 2006**  
**MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Page 1219

Leo White called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present:

**ATTENDANCE**

Mont Vernon School Board: Howard Brown, John Schwope, Jayson Darula, and Leo White

Administrative Team: Howard Colter, Susan Ward, Meredith Nadeau, and Kathy Skoglund

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

Leo White invited comments from the public, but none were forthcoming.

**PUBLIC TIME**

Mrs. Sandahl said the Village School has done Real Life Math Projects with its students for the past fifteen years. This year some of the projects included: Cooking, making a cat scratching post, watching the stock market for a month, remodeling a kitchen and building an aquarium. Mrs. Sandahl said five of the students would be presenting their projects to members of the School Board. Board members enjoyed presentations by the following students:

**BUSINESS &  
INSTRUCTION  
Real Life Math  
Projects**

- 1) Liz Housley who turned their attic into a bedroom.
- 2) Elizabeth White who compared the cost of homemade cookies to the cookies at the Black Forrest Café. (Bake or Buy)
- 3) Bailey Gendron built an unusual house for her two Bearded Dragons.
- 4) Dwight Clay built a birdhouse.
- 5) Liam Brown tracked and compared the estimated cost to the actual cost of his February vacation to Iowa to see family.

Susan Ward provided Board Members with a copy of the Report of Appropriations Actually Voted on at the Mont Vernon Annual School District Meeting. Board Members were asked to review and sign the MS-22.

**Review and Approval  
of MS-22**

Bob Naber provided each board member with a copy of the report the Future School Site Committee drafted.

**Discussion of Future  
School Site  
Committee**

Bob said it was determined the NH School Board Association was doing the bulk of the work therefore, the Future School Site Committee decided to focus their attention on a school site.

Bob said they looked at seven previously recommended sites and researched an additional 2-3 sites.

Bob said in February the committee reviewed how they wanted their final report to look, and determined what additional data was needed.

Bob said a mileage check was done on all the sites they picked to research and all but two of the sites were within 2 miles from the Fire Station.

Leo White asked how many sites jumped out at the Committee as possible future school sites?

Bob said they tried not to recommend specific sites, but he thought the Archibauld property was a good possibility especially since the town owned the property and there were no restrictions.

Leo said the Committee was given a charter in the Fall and asked if it had been completed. Bob said yes, it had been completed.

Board members thanked the Future School Site Committee for their work on this project.

Howard Colter thought the Administration and School Board should take some time to reflect on the Annual School District Meeting that took place on March 17, 2006.

Howard thought overall, many positive decisions were made.

Howard suggested next year discussion be encouraged prior to the Annual Meeting.

Susan suggested utilizing the website to post important budget documents for the community to review. She thought data could be posted during the year that would make it more helpful for community members to make decisions for the Annual School District Meeting ahead of time rather than the night of the meeting.

Susan said it is an inexpensive way to get data to the community.

John Schwope suggested discussion and debate be held prior to the District meeting. He said the night of the meeting should really be to vote for or against the Budget as a whole. John said he liked the idea of having more than one night for budget discussion, since more dialog with the community needs to take place.

## **Review Annual School District Meeting**

Susan provided board members with a copy of the Budget Variance Analysis as of 2/28/06 for the Mont Vernon School District. Susan said Jim Miner continues to monitor the oil and electricity accounts. Susan said they are constantly looking for ways to reduce costs.

Leo told Susan they do not need the Mont Vernon School District Budget Report by line item detail.

Discussion amongst board members and the administration followed.

Leo said going forward; the board would like to see the Budget

## **FY06 Budget Update**

Report summarized by function rather than by line item detail. Board Members agreed they want to continue to see the Budget Variance Analysis.

Susan provided board members with copies of Budget Transfer Requests. Board members reviewed the requests.

A motion was made by John Schwope and seconded by Jayson Darula to approve Budget Request Transfer Numbers 11 through 14 as presented. Members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Nicole Heimark told members of the board their preliminary review of the NECAP results were quite good. **NECAP Summary**

Nicole said testing was done in Reading and Math in grades 3-8 and in Writing in grades 5-8.

Nicole said the statewide results for Writing were low and it is a National concern.

Nicole said the results for Amherst and Mont Vernon showed students struggled in Geometry and Measurement and in Analysis and Interpretation for Reading.

Nicole said since this is the first year of data for the NECAP results, they have nothing to compare to

Howard asked Nicole if we were able to determine individual student weaknesses and going forward are we able to compare them year-to-year. Nicole said yes, next year, we will be able to do this once we have two years of data.

Jayson Darula asked if we were just teaching to the test and if so is it detrimental to the students.

Meredith said by teaching to the test, we are teaching to the standard.

Nicole said the test results are public information and can be accessed at the DOE website.

John Schwope asked Nicole how she felt about this assessment. Nicole said she is quite pleased with the data and she said the structure of the NECAP allows them to track individual student results.

John asked if the Administration was planning on doing a “Results for Dummies” presentation.

Nicole said faculty would be receiving training on data analysis on March 29, 2006.

Howard suggested scheduling some time for parents to come in so they can better understand what these test results mean.

Meredith provided the following report:

1. Facilities Update: A lockdown drill was conducted on March 20, 2006. Meredith said the drill was very successful. Police

**ADMINISTRATORS  
REPORT**

and Fire were on hand to assist in the drill. Meredith said all the doors that were supposed to be locked were locked except for the conference room.

- 2. Professional Development: The LoTi project training dates have been set. The first is scheduled for April and then one in May.

Five Staff members are confirmed for Responsive Classroom training on June 26 – June 30, 2006. The training will address how teachers can build climate in their classroom.

Curriculum/Instruction: The Title One on-site visit from the DOE took place on 3/22/06 and was highly successful. A detailed report will be presented pending receipt of the report of the NH DOE.

Other: There was a request to use the facilities by the U-11 AAU Basketball club. Meredith said based on the current guidelines, the club would be required to pay a \$50 fee each time they practiced at the Village School. Meredith said she recommends waiving the fee. She said the use of the facilities would be subject to availability. Meredith said they would like to use the facilities once a week.

A motion was made by Jayson Darula and seconded by Howard Brown to approve the fee waiver for the U-11 AAU Basketball club. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Meredith told board members about some important upcoming events:

- 3/29 Chorus concert at 6:30 P.M. (Snow date 3/30)
- 3/31 AMS Dance 7-9:30 P.M. for grades 6-8
- 4/3 Track practice begins
- 4/4 Late Start
- 4/4 PTA meeting at 9 A.M.
- 4/4 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent information night with Porter Dodge & Deb Martel at the MVVS at 7 P.M.
- 4/5 Kindergarten/First Grade pre-registration @ 6:30 P.M.

Board members did not receive a copy of the minutes in their packets and requested the minutes of March 9, 2006 and March 15, 2006 be placed on the next agenda, April 13, 2006.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Leo White presented board members with a copy of the format suggested by Dr. Joyce’s presentation at the SAU Meeting on March 21, 2006. Board members agreed to use the new format as suggested by Leo.

**OTHER**

Leo said he believes next year the budget will be tightly scrutinized so he suggested the Board and Administration come up with a well justified, informed budget. To accomplish this he suggested looking at the process of Zero Based Budgeting – start with each line item at zero and justify every dollar.

Leo asked the administration for feedback as well as recommendations on this idea for the next meeting.

- A. April 11, 2006 – Superintendent Finalist Candidates Interviews (Tentative)
- B. April 13, 2006 – Mont Vernon School Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- C. April 18, 2006 – Organizational and Regular SAU 39 Board Meeting (Tentative)

**IMPORTANT  
DATES**

Jayson Darula moved to adjourn. John Schwope seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**