

MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 25, 2006
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Page 1239

Jayson Darula called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Mont Vernon School Board: Howard Brown, Peter King (arrived 6:10 p.m.), John Schwope, and Jayson Darula.

Administrative Team: Howard Colter, Susan Ward, and Meredith Nadeau.

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

Jayson Darula invited comments from the public.

PUBLIC TIME

Nicole Martin came before the school board to let board members know she was upset about the news the MVVS would only be offering Spanish next year. She said one of the reasons she chose Mont Vernon to live was because they taught both French and Spanish. She said she does not understand why it has been determined Spanish is more important than French. She said we live near the French Canadian Border and she believes French is just as important to learn as Spanish. She wanted to know why French was being cut from the curriculum.

Jayson Darula said the decision had not been made yet, the discussion was taking place at this evenings board meeting.

Meredith Nadeau said her recommendation was based on the resources available. She said they have one teacher to teach both languages and surveys sent home to parents resulted in a majority of the parents preferring Spanish be taught.

Meredith said they looked at the possibility of switching half way through the year but felt students would not develop proficiency in either language. Meredith said their goal for the students was to develop mastery in one language.

**BUSINESS &
INSTRUCTION**
Student Services

1. Title I Funding Update – Meredith told Board Members the state is delaying final allocations until June 1, 2006, therefore, she does not have a better number than what she provided at the last meeting which was \$13,000.
1. World Language – Meredith recommended to members of the board they move forward with teaching one language next year. Meredith recommended they teach Spanish based

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION**

on feedback received from student and parent surveys.

Peter King asked which grades would be offered Spanish next year. Meredith said Spanish would be taught in all grades for one hour a week. Meredith said they are hoping to increase the amount of time Spanish is taught per week in grades 5 and 6 to 1 ½ hours.

Members of the board received the administrations recommendation and there was no opposition to it.

2. MVVS Goals – Meredith provided members of the board with a copy of the Draft Village School Goals for 2005-2008 dated 10/26/05.

Meredith said on the last Late Start Day, she met with the teachers and they put together a month – month plan detailing how they would meet the objectives for the goals they set. Meredith said the entire staff participated. Based on the recent meeting with staff, Meredith said they know what their focus will be for next year and then they will be able to do some planning for the next two years. The staff will be given a copy of the calendar which will help them plan their strategy to achieve the objectives in order to meet the MVVS Goals.

John Schwope said usually when goals are set, you start with the end in mind. John asked if there were any pre-determined, quantifiable measurements in place to determine if the staff achieved their goals. Meredith said they did have ways of measuring whether the goals were met for both the school and as an individual staff member.

John Schwope asked if there should be a more formal process to determine goals for the school.

Howard said there could be school board goals and school goals and each can take separate tracks. Ideally, you should come to the table for discussion, but he does not know if they need to be one in the same.

John asked if members of the board should be involved in goal setting as they relate to student learning.

Howard said it was a good question, and he does not think members of the board would be assisting with developing school goals.

Peter King said members of the board could support these goals by coming up with some of their own objectives.

3. School Board Consideration of Request for Waiver for Flood Days – Howard Colter told members of the board they needed to determine if they wanted to request a waiver from Commissioner Lionel Tracy for the two days of school they

missed due to the flooding rains on May 15, 2006, and May 16, 2006. Howard said in an email from Commission Tracy, in all likelihood the requests to waive missed days due to the flooding rain would be approved.

Howard said the Souhegan District directed him to request a waiver for the two missed days and last night Amherst followed suit.

Howard said he takes providing an education to children very seriously and the students are supposed to go to school for a minimum of 180 days. Therefore, he recommended to the Souhegan and Amherst boards they not request a waiver for these two missed days. Howard said he respects the decision of the other boards, and both Souhegan and Amherst voted unanimously to request a waiver. Howard said he does not know why Mont Vernon would not do the same, and request a waiver.

Peter King said he was glad Howard spoke about the seriousness of taking away two days of education for the students.

Members of the board as well as the administration spoke about what these two days mean to the employees. If the waiver is approved, based on the contract, the teachers would be released from teaching for two days however, they would need to work these two days and they would need to get them in before the end of June.

Howard said support staff would be allowed to come in if there was work for them, and if not, they would lose wages.

Board members suggested some of the time be utilized for in service training.

Howard Brown said the kids attitude is "you can make me go these two days, but do not plan on me learning anything."

Howard said a parent's role is to teach their children, and he tries to teach his kids something new every day and plans to do this for the two missed days as well.

A motion was made by Peter King and seconded by Howard Brown to approve the Superintendents recommendation to request a waiver from the Commissioner of Education for the two days missed on May 15, 2006, and May 16, 2006. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

1. FU06 Budget Update - Susan Ward provided board members with a copy of the Mont Vernon School District FY 06 Monthly Budget Report at 4/30/06 Including Year End Projection. **FINANCE**

Susan said they continue to project out through the remainder of the year. Susan said they are above the curve for revenue and remain okay for expenses, and predicts they will end the year on a positive note.

Susan provided members of the board with a copy of the Mont Vernon School District Revenue Report for Fund 10 dated from 4/23/06 to 4/30/06.

Also provided was a copy of the Mont Vernon School District Budget Variance Analysis as of 4/30/06.

Board members received copies of MVVS Budget Transfer Request numbers 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. Susan said Budget Transfer Request #'s 16, 19, and 20 were informational only.

A motion was made by Peter King and seconded by Howard Brown to approve Budget Transfer Request numbers 17 and 18 as presented by the administration. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Susan wanted to acknowledge the work done by Lisa and Ernie on these reports.

Susan provided board members with a copy of the MVSD Projected Electricity Costs and Heating Oil Costs for FY06.

Susan said they are looking at what is in the tanks now and determining if it is prudent to top off the tanks in order to receive the current contracted rate of \$1.799 per gallon.

Members of the board agreed it makes sense to take advantage of our current rate of \$1.799 per gallon if oil is needed.

1. Facility Use Request From Amherst Recreation – Meredith provided board members with a copy of an Application for the Use of School Facilities by the Amherst Recreation that she received last week. The request is to use McCollom Field for Youth Baseball – Practice and Games from May 20, 2006 through July 31, 2006. Discussion took place amongst board members. Since the request involved a considerable amount of time for the field, Meredith was asked if any of the dates conflict with the school. Meredith said no. As in the past, if the school needs the field, the Amherst Recreation would be notified.

Peter King said in the past, they received a lot of complaints of trash left behind after practices and games.

Howard suggested under the Comments section of the request form, adding the following:

Requirements – Policing of grounds at the end of each practice and game, removal of trash.

One Portable Potty be installed and maintained.

**COMMUNICATION
AND COMMUNITY
RELATIONS**

Board members agreed with the changes suggested by Howard and Meredith will include them prior to approving the Amherst Recreation’s request.

A. April 13, 2006 - A motion was made by Peter King and seconded by Howard Brown to approve the minutes of April 13, 2006. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

B. May 11, 2006 – A motion was made by Peter King and seconded by Howard Brown to approve the minutes of May 11, 2006. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

John Schwope said he went to the Amherst Master Plan Committee meeting this week and wanted to provide members of the board with an update. He said they are early in the planning process of determining what their building needs are for the next 15 years. John said he is glad Mont Vernon has been invited to be a part of the discussion. John said the committee is in the process of establishing goals. John said the committee plans to meet once a month and the next meeting is June 14, 2006. **OTHER**

Members of the public asked when the public discussion would take place for the Alpha Math program.

Jayson Darula said when Leo White returns from his business trip, the board will set a date, which will be well publicized in order for the public to attend to provide input regarding the Alpha Math program.

A. Mont Vernon School Board Meeting June 8, 2006 at 6 p.m. **NEXT MEETING**

Peter King moved to adjourn. Howard Brown seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**