

MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2006
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Page 1268

Leo White called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

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

Administrative Team: Dr. Mary Jennings, Nicole Heimarck, Meredith Nadeau and Elizabeth Shankel

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

A. Opening of School: Status of Fields – Board members received a handout entitled School Board Update 9/8/06 detailing current issues / projects at the Village School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Jennings told board members the Village School had a very smooth opening with no significant issues. The opening enrollment total is 245.

Dr. Jennings said she wanted to congratulate Nicole Heimarck for the excellent job she did on putting together the K-12 staff development day, which, was held on September 5, 2006. Dr. Jennings said teachers were able to select from a variety of workshop sessions.

Meredith told members of the board the McCollom Field construction has yet to begin. Meredith said the insurance certificate was received on 9/8 and the perimeter fencing was installed on 9/8.

Meredith said the project hasn't been started yet, because the contract has yet to be signed. Meredith said the Board of Selectmen, the Recreation Commission and the contractor have not come to an agreement on the terms of the contract. Meredith said Peter King reviewed the contract and suggested the town not sign the contract. Peter said the contract was too one sided and there is no protection against contractor mistakes.

Nicole Heimarck updated the board on the search for a Math Consultant. Nicole said Meredith, Kim Tighe, and she met with a candidate and highly recommend her because of the number of years experience with the Everyday Math Program, her extensive experience coaching teachers, running family nights as well as her work with utilizing assessment data.

Nicole updated the board on the Social Studies curriculum. Nicole said the curriculum was updated two years ago, and was

withheld from implementation, because the state recalled the revision. The state has now implemented the new program therefore, the SAU is moving forward with their Social Studies Pilot program for K-12. She said they will be evaluating 5 different programs and teachers will be asked to pilot 2-3 different programs. All teachers will participate in each pilot and will be asked to pilot one unit from each program.

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

**PUBLIC TIME /
PRESENTATIONS**

A. Goal Setting – Leo White introduced Mark Joyce, from the New Hampshire School Board Association. Mark was asked to assist the board in Goal Setting.

ACTION ITEMS

Mark told the board the process he uses for Goal Setting is simple. He asks the board to share any and all ideas for the school district this year or in the future.

He said the first part of the process is a production thinking exercise where participants suggest goals. All the ideas go down on paper; there is no discounting or dinging an idea.

The next part of the process is participants get an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any of the ideas written down.

Once all ideas are clarified and discussed, each participant gets the opportunity to prioritize the ideas, choosing his/her top seven.

The final step in the process is pulling out the major themes, which usually ends up being four to five initiatives.

First Step – Goals / Initiatives:

- 1) To establish a curriculum which is cohesive, challenging, and stimulating to students in which the level builds to the next level.
- 2) Long-range facilities plan
- 3) Improved communication system (Board to/from public)
- 4) Technology Plan
- 5) Technology fit as the resources of the community permit
- 6) Review and update board policies
- 7) Improve orientation for new board members
- 8) To try and create and perpetuate an environment where teacher and administration morale is high.

- 9) Ensure we have more than adequate professional development opportunities.
- 10) To improve individual student achievement in reading, writing and math.
- 11) Explore / Implement a gifted and talented curriculum.
- 12) Maintain a cost per pupil within 10% of state average.
- 13) Investigate stage lighting.
- 14) Pursue feasibility of eliminating line item veto from school district meeting.
- 15) Make use of assessment data the NWEA in policy, program, and budget development.
- 16) Maintain working relationship with Amherst School District.
- 17) Develop/Implement Wellness Policy.
- 18) Assessment system in place tied to item 1.
- 19) Maintain a safe / healthy school environment.
- 20) Investigate sending 6th graders down to Amherst.
- 21) Look at improving health care benefits for paraprofessional staff.

Once this list was completed, participants were given the opportunity to discuss or question any of the ideas brought forward.

Mark Joyce asked participants to come forward and place their initials in front of their top seven goals / initiatives.

Once completed, Mark identified the goals / initiatives with the most initials, which was eight. Mark asked participants to see what other goals / initiatives they thought could be placed within each.

2) Create a long-range facilities plan.

13, 20, 16

#10) To improve student achievement in reading, writing and math.

1, 11, 9, 4, 5

Next participants were asked to look at goals / initiatives with six.

#6) To review and update board policies.

17, 7, 12

#15) Make use of assessment data the NWEA in policy, program, and budget development.

18

Discussion followed, participants wanted to include a couple other ideas as their top initiatives.

- #3) Improve communication to / from between the public.
- #19) Maintain a safe/healthy school environment.

Mark told board members he would take the information as presented above, go back to the office, compile the information and put it in a presentable format for Dr. Jennings and the board to review and discuss. He said this would take a couple of weeks to complete since he is also working on this process for Amherst and Souhegan.

- A. Mont Vernon/ Amherst Facilities Plan – John Schwope updated board members on the Amherst Master Plan. John said Amherst is still working on their options. John said Amherst was given a few different options to choose from and they are trying to decide which way they want to precede. John said the board is still trying to come to an agreement on which option is best for them.
John said a special meeting has been called for on September 26, 2006, to try to come to an agreement on which option is best for them.
John said the board should start discussing their options since Amherst’s options are tied to Mont Vernon’s options.
Dr. Jennings said there has been discussion on renovating the brick school or moving the SAU offices to the Clark School. She said either plan has financial implications for Mont Vernon.
Dr. Jennings said it would be wise for the board to review the Facilities Plan for Mont Vernon.
Leo White said he would put the topic on a future agenda.
- B. Technology Plan – John Schwope said he has put together a proposal / idea sheet on how the board would go about putting together a Technology Plan. He said the information was circulated to board members and currently it is in Draft mode.

DISCUSSION ITEM

John said he welcomed any comments or suggestions from Dr. Jennings or members of the board.

Dr. Jennings asked the charge for the Technology Plan be put on the next agenda for discussion.

A motion was made by John Schwope and seconded by Howard Brown to approve the donation from Target as presented by the Administration for \$100.81, and to approve the August 24, 2006 minutes of the school board. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board members discussed Budget Transfer Numbers 200701, 200702, and 200703.

A motion was made by Jayson Darula and seconded by John Schwope to accept Budget Transfer Numbers 200701-200703 as presented. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Leo White asked why the board was being asked to approve the Mont Vernon School District Manifest as well as the Treasurer's Report for July. Dr. Jennings said the board should have approved these items in the past, so the Administration is bringing this information to be approved on a monthly basis going forward.

Lyn Jennings requested in the future, the District Manifest provide only the data for which she has completed auditing through her monthly reconciliation. Lyn said she agreed with the July data as presented on the Mont Vernon District Manifest, but did not agree with August or September yet since those reconciliation's were not complete. Lyn asked the board approve the Manifest as presented for July data only.

A motion was made by John Schwope and seconded by Jayson Darula to accept the School District Manifest, July 2006 data as presented and to approve the Treasurer's Report – 2006. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Howard Brown to adjourn the meeting. Jayson Darula seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT