

MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2007
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL

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Leo White called the board meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Mont Vernon School Board: Howard Brown, Bruce Schmidt, John Schwope, and Leo White

Administrative team: Dr. Mary Jennings, Meredith Nadeau, and Betty Shankel

Minutes Taker: Lyn Jennings

- A. Principal's Report – Board members received a copy of the Principals Report for 6/14/07.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meredith said Jim Miner has a list of summer projects to be completed at the Village School. Meredith reminded board members they saw the list at the May 10, 2007, meeting and nothing on the list has changed since that meeting.

Meredith told board members she is in the process of scheduling summer professional development with regards to the Literacy Curriculum. She said all staff will be involved and it will last at least two days.

Meredith said they are in the process of trying to fill vacancies at the Village School and hold it together until the end of the year with substitutes.

Howard Brown asked Meredith where the kiln would be installed. Meredith said it is going into the Art Room.

Leo White asked if the fire department approved the kiln installation and Meredith said yes.

Meredith told members of the board Paul Philbrick updated her on the field progress, stating over the summer they will be working on the backstop area and drainage work.

- B. School Board Workshop/Summer Meeting –Dr.

Jennings told board members the SAU workshop is scheduled for June 28, 2007. She said if board members plan to attend, they should RSVP as soon as possible and complete the questionnaire online prior to the workshop.

Mary said two school board members have sent their summer schedules to her and based on the responses she received she would like to schedule a Mont Vernon Board Meeting for Thursday, August 2, 2007.

- C. Bus Route – Betty Shankel told board members she is trying to find out if the Town of Mont Vernon has cleared the brush at the bus stop in the Spring Hill Lane area. Betty said she has been trying to get the brush cleared for the past six weeks, but has had no response.

John Quinlan, one of the Mont Vernon Selectmen, agreed to look into the issue to determine when the brush would be cleared.

Leo White asked if First Student agreed to look at the Bus Routes. Betty Shankel said First Student agreed to look at the Mont Vernon bus routes and a couple of configurations will be done.

Kim Roberge commented on the article in the newspaper regarding the Mont Vernon surplus and the possible plans for the surplus to be spent.

PUBLIC TIME

Kim said at the public meeting, a budget is put forth and approved by the taxpayers and if there is a surplus, the taxpayers expect the money be returned to them to reduce their tax impact. Kim said this is the process they've followed for the past twelve years and she would be extremely disappointed if it was altered.

Leo White explained they put an article in the newspaper to get feedback.

Zoe Fimbel said she agreed with Kim Roberge, and spending a proposed surplus of \$50,000 doesn't fall under reasonable and prudent. Zoe said the items should be put on next years budget and be voted on. Zoe said the surplus should come back to the voters, stating the

taxpayers like to get money back. Zoe said she hopes the board votes to give all the surplus back and not spend any of the money.

Dr. Jennings told members of the public the budget was created 18 months ago and as the year goes on, they do transfers. Dr. Jennings said the money would go back to the taxpayers if the board doesn't approve the transfers.

Dr. Jennings explained next years budget was already set 8 months ago and the reason they are discussing these proposed expenditures is because they came up and a surplus is available to be used if approved.

Meredith said the laptop cart has been discussed since she arrived at the Village School. She said it has been the number one request since her arrival. Meredith said she believes the need for the cart is going to continue to exist until purchased.

Meredith said over the past year they have been able to manage their funds, keep expenses down and they now have the opportunity to bring this request for a laptop cart forward. Meredith said this expense will always be around until approved.

Bruce Chakrin, Director of Technology said the state has new standards as to what the district needs to provide to their students. Bruce said added to the state standards is the use of Digital Portfolios, which is an assessment tool and record of each student's progress.

Bruce explained the state is starting to require technology be integrated into the classroom rather than a separate computer class.

Zoe Fimbel asked for the current makeup of computer education in the classroom. Meredith provided an explanation.

John Schwope noted there was a trend towards incorporating computer education into the classroom rather than pulling the students out for a separate class.

One meeting attendee asked who would have ownership of the cart and Meredith said the technology teacher in

the school and the technicians in the SAU Office.

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Meredith said from past experience, students are very careful with the machines because they want to use them. Meredith said they also come with warranties should a repair need to be done.

John Schwope said the budget for the laptop cart is \$42,000. He asked if they looked into any other options to lower the requested amount, for example refurbished / returns from Dell.

Bruce Chakrin said he spoke with the site educational representative at Dell and these computers are not available to the district. Bruce said there is not a great deal of computers that are all the same. He said by purchasing refurbished computers, there would not be a tremendous cost savings.

Leo White expressed his opinion prior to calling for the board to vote on expending \$42,000 on the laptop cart.

Leo said he understands why they should have the laptop cart, but he thinks this is the wrong way to get it done. Leo said in his opinion, the laptop cart should be part of the budget and approved at the town meeting.

Leo said several people have called him and have said the same thing. Leo said in the past the tradition has been an expense item of this size, be part of the budget process.

A motion to approve Budget Transfer Number 200722 was made by John Schwope and seconded by Bruce Schmidt. All members of the board voted in opposition of the motion and the motion failed.

The C 1. Nomination of Professional Staff was pulled from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Howard Brown and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following items: A. Minutes 1. May 10, 2007; B. Budget 1. Treasurer's Report, 2. Manifest, 3. Budget Transfers; D. Acceptance of Donations 1. Stop & Shop -182.14 to be placed in the Activity Fund/Field

Trip Account, 2. Joanna Kitchel - \$99.75 and 3. Mont Vernon PTA - \$1,271.00 to be placed in the Activity Fund to fund the Kiln purchase.

All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Board members wanted to personally recognize Ann Allwarden prior to accepting the nomination for Literacy Teacher / Coach.

A motion to accept Consent Agenda Item C. 1. Nomination of Professional Staff was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Schwope. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

- A. Math Curriculum 2007-2008 – Dr. Jennings said she and Meredith met to discuss the Math Curriculum for 2007-2008.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Jennings said they are proposing the Village School offer Alpha Math and Math with flexible grouping.

Dr. Jennings said they don't feel they have enough students to offer three Math programs.

Howard Brown asked how many students qualify for Alpha Math.

Meredith said she didn't know yet since some students were taking exams the next day.

Dr. Jennings said flexible grouping allows you to take students beyond a set curriculum.

Dr. Jennings said with flexible grouping, she is not sure Alpha Math will be needed next year.

Meredith said the intent of flexible grouping is to meet the needs of each student as to where they are at in the curriculum.

John Schwope said he likes this approach because it focuses on all students besides the top two students or the Alpha Math students.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Adoption of Social Studies Curriculum – Dr. Jennings told board members Nicole Heimarck was out sick and there would be no formal presentation at the board meeting. Dr. Jennings said she or Meredith would be happy to answer any questions

Dr. Jennings said board members saw the presentation on the Social Studies curriculum at the SAU Board meeting. She said Mont Vernon's portion is the same as Amherst. Dr. Jennings said they are presenting a unified curriculum.

Meredith said teachers will be involved in some professional development work over the summer.

Bruce Schmidt said page 40 of the curriculum should state Amherst and Mont Vernon not just Amherst.

Bruce Schmidt asked why a couple of the regions were left off on page 47 where it says Alaska and the territories.

A motion was made by Howard Brown and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adopt the Social Studies Curriculum as presented. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

- B. Approval of School Handbook – A motion was made by John Schwope and seconded by Howard Brown to accept the Parent Handbook and Staff Handbook. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
- C. End of Year Budget Transfers - A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Schwope to approve Budget Transfer number 200721. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

A. Policies Review

- 1. Policy on Policies – Board members were

DISCUSSION ITEMS

given the opportunity to comment on each of the policies they received in their board packets.

BAAA – There were no comments on this policy.

BFE – There were no comments on this policy.

BGA – There were no comments on this policy.

BGB – There were no comments on this policy.

BGC - There were no comments on this policy.

BGD - There were no comments on this policy.

BGE - There were no comments on this policy.

BGF - There were no comments on this policy.

2. Policies on Facilities -

ADC - Bruce Schmidt pointed out in the last paragraph on the first page it should read the principal rather than he principal.

Bruce also asked why there was a disclaimer on the policy since it is their policy suggesting it be removed.

KF – In the fourth paragraph, third line, remove the word *or* so the sentence will read – Approval may be denied due to lack of appropriate space, if a previous activity by the applicant resulted in a violation of any aspect of any School Board policy or guidelines, or if the facility is to be used for an unlawful purpose.

In the eighth paragraph, the sentence was changed to read as follows – Whenever a community group is permitted to use a school facility, at least one district employee must be on hand. This may be waived by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

A motion was made by Howard Brown and seconded by John Schwope to approve Policy KF as amended. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn the meeting. John Schwope seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**REVIEW OF
MEETING/ADJOURN**

KF - USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Category R

Also ECA

It is the School Board's desire that the citizens of our town enjoy the use of school facilities. It is the board's intent that such use should take place with proper regard to all applicable statutes and ordinances, and that such use should take place with respect for the preservation of the facilities for school use. The Superintendent will establish administrative procedures and regulations to implement this policy.

When not in use for school purposes, school facilities may be used by community groups and organizations, as well as other non-community based groups, provided that the application process has been completed and is approved. The application process will include the submission of proof of insurance.

First priority for the use of all school facilities is granted to the schools for activities and programs. Second priority for the use of school facilities is granted to officially recognize school-related organizations and Town Recreation. Third priority is granted to those activities and organizations that serve the youth of the community, such as Brownies and Scouts. All other proper requests shall be granted on the basis of availability.

No person, group, or organization has any vested right to use the school facilities. The School Board reserves the right to make the final decision on the use of any school facility. Approval may be denied due to lack of appropriate space, if a previous activity by the applicant resulted in a violation of any aspect of any School Board policy or guidelines, or if the facility is to be used for an unlawful purpose.

Authorization for use of school facilities shall be considered neither an endorsement nor approval of the activity, group, organization, or the purposes they may represent.

When schools have been closed because of inclement weather, the facilities will be closed for all use. The schools do not assume the responsibility of contacting groups when such closures occur.

Organizations connected with and promoting recognized school functions will not incur any facility use fees but personnel and/or equipment fees may be assessed. The School District should not incur additional costs due to the community use of school facilities.

Whenever a community group is permitted to use a school facility, at least one district employee must be on hand. This may be waived by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The Superintendent or his/her designee, on the basis of this policy and its accompanying regulations, shall approve all rentals of school facilities. The Board must approve any special requests or exceptions to this policy and/or regulations.

It shall be the responsibility of any user of a school facility to leave the school facility in a satisfactory condition. All users of school facilities agree as a condition of use to pay the cost of any damages to the facilities and school equipment other than damage caused by normal wear and tear.

First Reading, May 10, 2007

ADOPTED: June 14, 2007