

MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2006
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY

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Leo White called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, Kim Tighe Elizabeth Shankel and Kathy Skoglund

Amherst School Board: Dwight Brew (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

A. Budget Process – Board members received a memo in their board packets from Betty Shankel addressed to Mary Jennings dated September 18, 2006, entitled Proposed Budget Process. At the next board meeting on November 9, 2006, the Administration will be presenting Educational programs and staffing initiatives for the 2007-2008 budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Also provided was a timeline outlining key dates for the 2007 Meeting / Election Deadlines for the FY 2008 Budget.

A couple of the key dates included: December 14, 2006 – FY 2008 1st Draft of the Budget; and January 11, 2007– FY 2008 2nd Draft of the Budget.

B. Principal's Report – Kim Tighe said the NWEA testing for grades 2 through 4 went well. She said they are receiving great information from the test results.

Kim said they are almost done NECAP testing in the 5th grade, they had two more days of it next week. She said testing was going very well.

Kim said they received a new Russian student who spoke no English upon his arrival at the Village School. Kim said they got a Translator as well as an Aid whom was with him during the entire first week of school. Kim said currently, the aid is with him only one hour this week but they are looking to increase the amount of time the aid will be spending with the student. She said the Russian student is doing very well.

Kim said the students were happy they were able to go back out to the field today during their gym classes.

Kim said thanks to Nancy and Gretchen for the excellent job they

did for putting together a successful Grandparents Day at the Village School. She said the show was a huge success.

Kim said they were planning on switching the late start day from November 14, 2006 to November 7, 2006, to piggyback with Souhegan for Election Day.

Dr. Jennings said Kim has done a great job during Meredith’s absence. She said she has been right on top of the issue regarding security at the Village School. She said they have been practicing their drills, etc.

Dr. Jennings said the NHSBA Delegate Assembly is scheduled for November 4, 2006, in Concord, NH. She said each board could send 1 delegate and 1 alternate.

**PUBLIC TIME /
PRESENTATIONS**

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Mont Vernon School Board Goals – Report and Next Steps – Board members received a handout entitled Mont Vernon School Board Goals. Dr. Jennings said Kim and Nicole put together this handout for board members this evening. Dr. Jennings said Kim worked with the faculty by sending the faculty a template for them to fill out to determine what was being done grade level wide as well as school wide as it related to the Mont Vernon School Board Goals. Kim also spoke to Meredith on the phone to get her input.

Nicole thanked Kim, Meredith and the staff for helping pull this information together.

Leo asked how the board stays informed these things are happening. Dr. Jennings said once the goals are established, regular updates will be provided at board meetings based on the adopted goals.

Board members agreed to hold a separate meeting at 5 p.m. on October 26, 2006 at the High School prior to the SAU Meeting to provide their input as well as their initiatives for the goals that are specific to the board.

B. Facilities Planning – Board members received copies of the Assessment of Educational Facilities Needs for K-8, a copy of the Amherst Master Plan options, as well as a copy of the SAU

Office options. Also provided in board packets was a copy of the Tuition Agreement between the Amherst and Mont Vernon School Districts, which, was executed on April 19, 2000.

1. Mont Vernon Facilities Plan – Dr. Jennings said upon her review of the Educational Facilities Needs for Mont Vernon, she believes based on the projections for the next 10 years, the way for Mont Vernon to go would be to use modules when additional classroom space is needed.

A handout was provided detailing the alternatives as presented by the NHSAA back in January of 2006. Leo said seven alternatives were provided by the NHSAA however, three of the alternatives were not recommended alternatives since they were not considered cost effective. Leo said of the four alternatives suggested, he believed two were feasible options. Alternative 1 – Build an addition onto MVVS, 7th and 8th grade remain at AMS. Alternative 2 – Add portable classrooms to MVVS fro K-6, 7th and 8th grade remain at AMS.

Leo said Peter King didn't think Alternative 2 was an option – Expand the MVVS to include K-8.

Leo asked if in the discussion with Amherst Board members had they considered having Mont Vernon send our 6th graders to Amherst? He said this was alternative 3 presented by the NHSAA. Dr. Jennings said no, not at this stage.

2. Amherst Master Plan Options – Board members received a handout detailing the Amherst School District Master Plan Options.

Dr. Jennings said Option 1a and 1b includes a new school. Options 2a, 2b, and 2c involve building additional classrooms at Wilkins as well as having the SAU offices at Clark, the Brick School or leased space. Option 2d – Pre FY2011 has Wilkins as grades 1-4, an additional 9+ classrooms at Wilkins, the Middle School as grades 5-8, and the SAU remaining at the Brick School. It also has the portables remaining at Wilkins.

Option 2d – Post FY2011 would be 100 fewer Mont Vernon students and the SAU remaining at the Brick School.

Dr. Jennings said based on the Master Plan options as

presented, it clearly shows what happens if the money goes away as in the case of option 2d, the cost to Amherst would be \$616,589.

The most expensive option is Option 1a and the least expensive options are Option 2d Pre FY2011 and Post FY2011.

Dr. Jennings asked if after 2011 Mont Vernon planned to pull their students out of the Amherst District? She also asked if Mont Vernon would like to continue their relationship with Amherst after 2011? Dr. Jennings said these are the type of questions the Amherst School Board is looking for answers to by Mont Vernon so they can plan which Master Plan option is best for their district.

Dr. Jennings said with regards to their facilities, Amherst does not have an enrollment issue but a quality of education issue.

Board members agreed community input and public involvement would be necessary in order to come to an agreement on where Mont Vernon wants to be in 2011.

Leo said what Dr. Jennings could tell Dwight as well as other members of the Amherst board is based on a review of Mont Vernon's options, as they were reviewed tonight, both viable options suggest Mont Vernon will continue the Tuition Agreement with Amherst.

Board members agreed they want to have a public meeting after Amherst's discussion on November 2, 2006. Leo said he wants to see what Amherst comes up with before Mont Vernon has a Public Hearing.

Board members agreed they would plan a Public Hearing at their next school board meeting.

Dwight Brew arrived at the Mont Vernon School Board meeting at 6:45 p.m. during the discussion of Mont Vernon's Facilities Plan as well as Amherst's Master Plan. Leo White updated Dwight on the board's discussion regarding the Master Plan as well as Mont Vernon's options.

Dwight Brew said Mont Vernon's participation / non-participation is critical for the Amherst Board to make their decision, but he understands the timeframe.

Jayson Darula said he understands Amherst's need to plan with certainty, and at a very minimum, Mont Vernon plans to uphold the Tuition Agreement between Amherst and Mont Vernon through 2011.

Dwight said if it is determined Mont Vernon wants to extend beyond 2011, they need to work together to share the costs with Amherst.

Jayson said he thought extending the agreement with Amherst would probably be the best option for the town.

Board members asked how the Amherst Board plans on addressing the issue such as Jim Jacobs explaining that all building options are because of Mont Vernon.

Dwight said the Amherst board plans to sit down and explain the facts. Dwight said it is critical we get the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee behind us. Dwight said they have to explain about Special Education costs, and the tuition agreement. Dwight said he is more concerned about the people they can't reach because he said they speak with people such as Jim Jacobs on a regular basis.

Dwight said he hopes the Amherst Board and the Mont Vernon Board can come up with a good deal to extend the tuition agreement beyond 2011.

Dwight said he would like a representative or two from the Mont Vernon board to meet with the Amherst board to discuss the options.

John Schwope wants to meet with the Amherst board and plans on meeting before the October 24, 2006 meeting.

3. SAU Options – Board members received a copy of the SAU Office Space Options as presented at the SAU meeting on October 5, 2006.

Dr. Jennings said she is not sure Mont Vernon has a

choice, however, they wanted to share the information with the Mont Vernon School Board so they are aware of the implications whether the SAU Offices remain at the Brick School, or they move to the Clark School or they Lease space. Currently, the information was presented utilizing a 30-year bond however, at the SAU Board meeting, they discussed a 10 or 20-year bond.

4. Mont Vernon Tuition Agreement – Dr. Jennings provided board members with a copy of the current tuition agreement between the Amherst and Mont Vernon Districts to make sure they understood the agreement.

Dr. Jennings highlighted a couple of sections in the agreement:

Section I. – Charges for Capital Expenditures – The Amherst and Mont Vernon School Board acknowledge that the Amherst School District may need to change current grade configurations, add space, or both at the Amherst Middle School. The Boards therefore agree to reconvene and implement an equitable basis for sharing capital expenses should there be a change to the present Amherst Middle School organization and building. This new basis shall be completed within 90 days of any Amherst School Board implemented organizational change and/or voter approval of new construction.

As far as costs of capital expenditures, refer to paragraph I of the tuition agreement, “Charges for Capital Expenditures.”

Section M – Mont Vernon School Board Participation in Amherst School Board Activities. There shall be at least two joint meetings of the Amherst and Mont Vernon School Boards for the purpose of consulting and advising regarding any matters of joint interest.

Leo White asked who was responsible for scheduling these meetings?

Dr. Jennings said the Superintendent is responsible for scheduling these meetings and she will plan them going forward.

Dwight Brew said it would be a good idea to have one soon.

C. Technology Plan Proposal – Board members received a copy of the Mont Vernon Village School – Technology Plan Development dated 9/12/06 Draft in their board packets.

Dr. Jennings explained John Schwope was not here to present the information to the members of the board.

Dr. Jennings said under Section I. The Technology Plan Committee, they would be adding an additional member to include – (1) Mont Vernon Community Member.

Board members are to let John Schwope know if they have any concerns prior to the next board meeting.

The Technology Plan will be included on the next agenda.

A motion was made by Howard Brown and seconded by Jason Darula to approve the Consent Agenda as presented – A. Minutes – September 14, 2006; B. Treasurer’s Report – August 2006; C. Manifest – August 2006.

CONSENT AGENDA

All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the Consent Agenda 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 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT