

**MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2008
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL**

Jayson Darula called the board meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

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

Administrative team: Nicole Heimarck, Dr. Mary Jennings, Betty Shankel and Renee Sparks

Minutes Taker: Lyn Jennings

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. **Principal's Report**: – Board members received a copy of the Principals Report for 4/10/08.

Meredith told board members she had two recent issues to update board members on that were not included in her report.

Meredith said they have recently received two new students requiring ESOL services. Meredith said she anticipates there will be some budget transfers needed to cover these unanticipated expenses.

Meredith said she anticipates they will have three students requiring ESOL services next year and they did not include anything in the budget for these services. Meredith said the projected cost for these services for next year is between \$9,000-\$10,000.

Meredith told board members they held Kindergarten Registration on Wednesday evening, April 9, 2008. Meredith said there are 24 students currently enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year.

Meredith said twenty out of twenty-four parents participated in the survey given by the District regarding a two and a half day schedule. Meredith said rather than Kindergartners going to school 5 days per week for 2 ½ hour days a day, they were proposing two full days,

either on Mondays and Thursdays or Tuesdays and Fridays and the half day being Wednesdays.

Meredith said parents were overwhelmingly in favor of the two and a half day schedule.

Meredith said they compared the number of instructional hours for the proposed two full day and one half day schedules and there were only a difference of two to three hours in total between the two.

Meredith said based on Kindergarten Registration night and the parent surveys, she would propose the district implement the proposed two full day, one half day schedule.

Leo White asked if the parents were the driving force behind this proposed schedule change or if it was Gretchen Dunn.

Meredith said the parents requested it and Gretchen studied it.

Gretchen said she feels strongly the children will benefit from this proposed new Kindergarten schedule.

Bruce Schmidt said he attended Kindergarten registration night as a parent of an incoming student not just as a school board member and all he sees is positives, no negatives.

Board members said they would vote on Meredith's recommendation under Action Items.

Dr. Jennings announced the district had hit their maximum number of snow days, five, and if they missed another day due to snow or rain, she would like authorization from the board to add minutes to the school day rather than extending the school year by a day or coming to school on a Saturday.

Dr. Jennings said High School Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 13, 2008, and if the district had another snow day or rain day, it would push graduation into the next week, which would be a hardship for parents, grandparents, etc.

John Schwope asked if they would add the additional time on to the beginning or end of the school day.

Dr. Jennings said it would be added on to the end of the day. Dr. Jennings said they would call the bus company and let them know all schools would be ending ten minutes later.

Jayson asked if they should impose the additional time on to the school day now in case it's needed.

Dr. Jennings said no, timing is everything, and if the day were needed in the next few weeks, they would definitely have to make up the time however, if later they may get the time waived.

Board members will vote on Dr. Jennings' recommendation under Action Items.

Jayson Darula asked for comments from the public but none were forthcoming.

III. PUBLIC TIME

Leo White pulled the D. Budget Transfers from the Consent Agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Jennings pulled the E. Nominations from the Consent Agenda because she told board members they would be discussed in Non-Public Session.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Howard Brown to approve Consent Agenda Items A. Minutes March 13, 2008; B. Budget 1. Treasurer's Report – February 2008; and C. Manifest – February 2008 Transfers. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Leo White had a question on Consent Agenda Item D. Budget Transfers specifically Budget Transfer No. 200807.

Leo White asked if there was another line item they could transfer from other than Teachers Salaries.

Betty said yes, they could transfer the funds from the

Health and Benefits line, Property or SPED Tuition.

Leo explained his reasoning for the request. Leo said at the district meeting they explain that the Salaries are set by contract and if they transfer available funds out of the Teacher Salaries, he believes they will lose the taxpayer's trust.

John said since the need for the funds are related to where they are transferring them from, he doesn't see it to be an issue, and is comfortable with funding the transfer through the Teachers Salaries line.

Bruce Schmidt said he was comfortable with the transfer as presented by the administration and saw no need to change it.

Howard Brown said the average person going into the district meeting has an idea of the negotiated items and if they see these items being moved around, they may lose trust. Howard said he agrees with Leo.

Dr. Jennings said there will always be extra money in the budget, since it is created 12-18 months in advance.

A motion was made by Leo White and seconded by Howard Brown to transfer the funds needed for Budget Transfer No. 200807 from Health Insurance to Substitutes – Teachers and Substitutes – Special Ed.

Discussion followed. John said that it didn't make sense to take the funds from Health Insurance but rather made sense to take the funds needed from Teachers – Substitutes since they were related line items.

Two board members voted in favor of the motion, Leo White and Howard Brown and three board members were opposed to the motion, Jayson Darula, Bruce Schmidt and John Schwoppe. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Budget Transfer No. 200807 as presented in the Consent Agenda. John Schwoppe seconded the motion. Three board members voted in favor of the

motion, Jayson Darula, Bruce Schmidt, and John Schwope with two members opposed, Howard Brown and Leo White. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Leo White to approve Budget Transfer No. 200808 as presented in the Consent Agenda. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed. (5-0)

- A. **Health/PE** – Board members received a handout from Nicole Heimarck entitled Mont Vernon Village School Board Report: Health and Physical Education Curriculum Revision Process January – April 2008.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Nicole highlighted what the teachers in Health and PE have accomplished to date and what they are planning on doing for the rest of the year.

Nicole said in January 2008, there was an In-Service Day for all the teachers in Health and PE across all three districts.

Nicole said at the In-Service Day they explored the integration of Health and PE. They looked at what it would look like and what the implications would be.

As PE/Wellness teachers, they looked at what the implications would be for integrating Health into their curriculum.

As teachers of Health, they looked at what the implications would be for integrating more with PE/Wellness.

Nicole said it took a half-day to reach consensus. Nicole explained the consensus among teachers K-8 is that the curriculum revision process should proceed largely in “tandem,” but the goal should not be full integration. Nicole said teacher’s felt aligning each discipline’s curriculum with the State Frameworks is more of a priority.

Nicole said they had Curriculum Revision Planning Meetings in February / March 2008.

Nicole said an ad-hoc committee of Health and PE teachers met to plan the Curriculum Revision Process, which would include a larger committee of grade level representatives (K-12) from across the district.

Nicole said the goals to accomplish between now and the end of April were as follows:

- To develop a local set of Health and PE Standards aligned with the State Frameworks and articulated by grade level.
- To identify points of intersection between Health and PE and Guidance.
- To create a delivery model at the elementary level, which is consistent across elementary levels and not relying just on the teachers.

Nicole said a Curriculum Revision Day in Health and PE will be held in April, 2008, and Jeanne Sturgis is helping Nicole organize the day.

Nicole said during this day Health Educators will meet with Guidance to examine the Health Standards and identify current areas of intersection.

Also, PE teachers will work in Grade Span groups to assign the Standards to grade levels. They will also identify areas of concern and identify where the gaps are.

Howard asked if the revision process will intersect with the Wellness Policy and Nicole said yes.

- B. **Quarterly Financial Report** – Board members received a copy of the Quarterly Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 dated 7/1/2007-3/31/008.

Betty Shankel told board members that not much had changed on this report since the last time it was presented.

Betty said Interest Income is higher than expected because the Treasurer has done a good job investing the districts money.

Betty said State and Federal Revenues are as expected.

Betty said she anticipates an overage in Regular Education of approximately \$112,000 because funding from the General Fund was not required for Title I Tutors since it was funded through a grant and Tuition to the Middle School was lower since Enrollment was lower than anticipated.

An overage is also expected in SPED Tuition – Middle School because an anticipated OOD Placement was not required.

Betty said there is an anticipated overage in Operations and Maintenance because the actual costs were lower than anticipated in Fuel Oil and Electricity.

Also expected was an overage in Health/Dental Insurance because the rates were lower than expected.

Betty said she anticipates there will be plenty of money at the end of the fiscal year to go back to the taxpayers as well as \$31,000 to be allocated towards the Village School paving project. Betty said she anticipates the taxpayers will receive approximately \$150,000.

Jayson thanked Betty for the update.

- C. **Attorney Selection Process** – Dr. Jennings told board members she sent a letter out to twelve different law firms for a proposal for their services based on the recommendation at the last board meeting to hire an attorney to assist the district in negotiating a new Tuition Agreement between Amherst and Mont Vernon.

Dr. Jennings said if agreeable to all board members, once she found out which law firms were interested, she would present them to Jayson and John since they were the Liaison's to the Amherst Board for the tuition agreement. Dr. Jennings said once Jayson and John had interviewed the candidates, they would bring a recommendation before the full board for their approval. All board members agreed with the proposed process.

A. **2008-2009 School Year Calendar** –

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Leo White and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adopt the 2008-2009 School Year Calendar as presented. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Dr. Jennings told board members they added the dates of the Late Start Days to the calendar thanks to Meredith and Scott.

Dr. Jennings said as requested, they also noted key religious holidays on the calendar.

B. Proposed Kindergarten Schedule Change – A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Leo White to approve the proposed new schedule of two sessions for Kindergarten each consisting of two full days and one half day. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

C. Permission for the Superintendent to Extend School Day if Required – A motion was made by Leo White and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to authorize the Superintendent to extend the school day by adding minutes to the day should they be needed. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

A. Review of District Meeting – Leo White asked for this item to be put on the agenda so board members could provide feedback regarding the District Meeting in March.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

John said he thought there were too many people presenting the slides and going up to the microphone.

Jayson suggested they use a wireless microphone next year so people wouldn't have to be getting up and down, but rather the microphone get passed around.

Howard suggested one person present the slides.

Bruce said he thought Leo and John did an excellent job as the main speakers.

Leo said he did not like having one long table because he was not able to make eye contact with the administration, such as Meredith.

Dr. Jennings suggested lining the tables up next year in the shape of a U.

Meredith suggested establishing a calendar of meetings for the Budget Committee so that the administration, board and committee members knew their responsibilities from the beginning.

Betty suggested providing the Budget Committee with a list of procedures / responsibilities to assist them in their role.

Board members agreed they also have to find out who the Budget Committee Chair is right away.

Board members agreed at the next meeting they would appoint a board member as Liaison to the Budget Committee.

B. Policies – 1st Reading –

Howard told board members he needed to rescind two old policies, which they did not do at the last board meeting.

A motion was made by Howard Brown and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to rescind the old version of Policy AB – Non Discrimination/Equal Opportunity, policy adopted October 1994, and Policy ACB – Environment Free of Student Harassment adopted October 1994, revised April 2003. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Discrimination and Discipline Policies –

KED – Grievance Procedure for Section 504 Complaints
– There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

Admission of Students –

IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students - There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

JCA – Change of School or Assignment - There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

JEC – Manifest Educational Hardship - There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

JFAA – Admission of Students - There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students - There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

JG – Assignment of Students to Classes & Grade Levels
- There were no comments from board members regarding this policy.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Leo White to enter into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). By roll call vote – Schmidt-yes, White-yes, Brown-yes, Darula-yes, and Schwope-yes, all board members voted to go into Non-Public Session at 7:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Leo White to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (5-0) The meeting adjourned at p.m.

**VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION –
RSA 91-A:3, II (a)**

**IX. REVIEW OF
MEETING/ADJOURN**