

**MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2008
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL**

Jayson Darula called the board meeting to order at 6:09 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 Renea Sparks

Minute Taker: Renea Sparks

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Principal's Report: – Board members received a copy of the Principal's Report for 05/15/08.

Meredith gave board members a brief report on Professional Development planning for summer curriculum work in progress.

She also reported on end of the year testing that was being administered to students at MVVS on May 20th and 21st which included 4th grade science NECAP. The end of the year DIBELS assessment is scheduled for the week of May 27th.

Meredith said the students celebrated a successful Million Minutes Reading Program celebration on Tuesday. She thanked Bruce Schmidt for his help with this program.

Meredith would like to have a volunteer from the board to help with the interview process for the Spanish teacher.

The MVVS building will be used for ESY work this summer.

Meredith said Jim Miner will present a project list for MVVS this summer and board members will receive the list at its' June meeting.

Jayson Darula asked for comments from the public but **III. PUBLIC TIME**

none were forthcoming.

Leo White pulled the minutes from the Consent Agenda. **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Howard Brown to approve Consent Agenda Items A motion was made by Leo White and seconded by Howard Brown to approve the minutes of April 10, 2008 as amended. The motion passed unanimously. B. Budget 1. Treasurer’s Report – March 2008; and C. Manifest – March 2008. All members of the board voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Special Ed Presentation – Meredith and Renea gave an overview on the special ed services that are provided to Mont Vernon students. The percentage of identified students at MVVS is 16% and 15% at AMS. The state average is 14%.

They identified students by category of disability. Autism – 6; Specific Learning Disability 24; other health impaired – 5; developmental delay – 7; emotional handicap-3; speech and language-10 and 2 to be determined.

They provide the following programs/services:

- home based programming
- out of district day placements
- modified regular education
- consultation to private placements
- resource room support

AYP Results

Nicole Heimarck presented the Mathematics AYP data to the Board. She spoke about the differences between the 2007 and 2008 reports and how the annual measurable objectives have changed. These will change every two years. 2% rule is withdrawn, now there are only three ways to secure AYP instead of four.

Nicole also spoke about the “Follow the Child” intricate, calculating the growth target for every student. Follow the Child growth model is a pilot in New Hampshire and would like the DOE to accept it as a norm to answer NCLB growth progress requirement.

MVVS students in grades 3-6 made AYP in the area of reading and did not meet AYP in the area of mathematics in the educational disability category. The reason for this shortfall is that they are only 2 years into the new math program.

Growth and AYP target index went up 6 points, a bigger jump. Both tests are given on back to back days for two days of testing.

Release of questions, analysis of individual scores and areas of weakness. Common weakness; written output of math calculation questions and geometry.

Bruce asked about 2008 participation and of 167 and 148. Nicole explained about the testing year and the testing year performance data and that there are two prongs of that formula.

Nicole also explained the index scores and referred back to the confidence interval. She explained how the index system is calculated.

The target for the SAU is to track both the inclines and declines. The achievement gap is evident by tracking the index scores.

Meredith said there was no Title One program in district this past summer. There will be one this coming summer. Bruce noted it would be interesting to make note of it for looking at this next year. Since Mont Vernon is a targeted assistance school, Ed disability students do not receive assistance through Title One. Also, the SES category is based on free and reduced lunch qualification and some of those students may not qualify for Title One.

Nicole also presented results of NECAP and AYP reports for the Amherst Middle School. She commenced the results in reading for them. They made great gains. There were significant gains made in Math as well for the Ed disability students.

Lori Hayes asked about the economically disadvantage group versus Ed disability and the AYP for these subgroups relative to the scores

achieved because the economically disadvantaged actually scored lower, yet made AYP.

John asked if something can be attributed to the significant increase in the results. Nicole stated that there may have been an increase of seriousness of purpose as well as taking a look at the accommodations that may be available for all students, not just the special ed students. Also, Administration and teachers looked at testing the operational effectiveness of how the test was administered.

NECAP was administered as soon as school started (within a month) so there was not a lot of time for instruction, given that is why focus was on test operations.

Meredith explained some of the conversations she has had with staff regarding upcoming science NECAP for 4th grade.

Also, the focus on active proctoring and what can be done legally for these children. Nicole said that this has been a conversation at the state level too.

Bruce asked about what feedback parents may receive or should expect. He stated that as a parent of a 2nd grade student he had received a NWEA report. Meredith said for 2nd grade students, there have been two, but only one was sent home. John asked about what is on the state website and Nicole replied that the indexes can be accessed as well as growth data, etc.

The DOE does not rank the order of the school districts. John asked how do we use this tool as a point of discussion for the board. How important is our ranking compared to other towns?

Jason would want to show consistent improvements, he would like to be at the top of any list. The question is, is it achievable?

Bruce asked if it was meaningful and do we need to perform well as a school. Perhaps we do not need to

be on the top, but should always aim for improvement.

Howard thought that people who want to move to this area would consider it to be one of many things, such as crime in area, schools and that they should always want to aim for the top.

Bruce said if a school is always on top it would look at what they are doing and if they are teaching to test, then we do not want to do that, but if they have good instructional practices, maybe we can learn something from that.

Bruce called attention to the performance index points earned; proficient and proficient with distinction. We should always look to where the students are falling and is each category showing growth.

PTA President's Report

Lori Hayes was asked by Bruce to provide information about the enrichment programs and community programs.

Students in grade six have gone to the Museum of Fine Arts. The programs are coordinated by the teachers and approved by the Principal. The Principal has worked with the PTA to decide what can be done and supported and is there a possibility of grants.

The annual field day is planned by the PTA and is coordinated around a great BBQ. June 18th has been scheduled for Field Day this year. The schedule has not yet been developed. June 1st is the day they determine the budget for this next year. They had a little extra money this year.

Bruce asked about the amount of money that the PTA puts toward the programs and Lori Hayes estimated it to be about \$4,500 to \$5,000.

The Souhegan High School scholarship is \$500.

Lori Hayes asked if there is anything that the school

board would like them to do. Events both required funding and some do not.

Bruce thinks that PTA is doing a really great job. Jason thanked Lori Hayes for all her help and coming up to present this information.

Appointment of School Board Committee Assignments

VI. ACTION ITEMS

The School Board reviewed the committee/liaison assignments. The Building Oversight Committee was taken off the list and will be addressed on an “as needed” basis. The board also took off the Publicity/Communications Committee and the Middle School Transition Liaison Committee.

Leo stated he had attended a meeting of the Transportation Committee of which 2 issues were discussed. The first issue of concern that parents had at the beginning the year, seems to have resolved. The second issue was with the bus routes and still seems to be an issue. Howard suggested there is a need to take a look at the routes. Leo suggested looking at the policy and asked whether this should be added as an action item. Discussion ensued regarding the need to figure out how far we want students to walk to the bus or do the buses go to the cul de sacs, etc. Meredith stated that Betty is looking at this and at bus routes as part of a new bus contract. Jason Darula stated he would like to make this an agenda item for the next meeting.

Policies – 2nd Reading

Howard stated he did not go through each policy to make sure it was applicable to Mont Vernon, when and where it is necessary. Howard stated that there were some typos that needed to be made and also the words Mont Vernon should be put at the top of the policy. He felt the policies could still be adopted with changes he mentioned.

A motion was made by Howard Brown to adopt policies KED, ACE, IKE, JCA, JEC, JFAA,

JFABD and JG. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Policies – 1st reading

Policy IF was changed to reflect responsibility per minimum school standards.

Howard asked the board to make certain they look at the policies on the Angel website.

Leo asked about the change to Policy IF and about the volunteer policy IJOC; certification of coach is only for middle school and above.

MVVS Graduation

Graduation will be held June 17th at 6:30 p.m. Meredith will have the diplomas ready for board members to sign at the June meeting. The board needs to decide on how they would like to participate at the graduation.

John asked about a schedule of the events and if there could be a performance that all students could participate in?

Meredith will go to the 6th grade teachers and let them know there was some discussion regarding graduation. Nicole suggested this could be an action item for next year.

Graduation at AMS is June 18th. Jason will speak to Porter about attending the graduation at AMS as Mont Vernon School Board Chair.

There are approximately thirty Mont Vernon students graduating from Souhegan High School on June 13, 2008. Nicole thinks that it is the Souhegan High School Board, Chair that is on the stage for graduation.

Bruce Schmidt will represent the MVSBS in the Spring Gala parade held in Mont Vernon.

Chains on the trees in the playground need to be removed. Meredith said an arborist said that the actual trees need to be removed and have been holding up swing sets and now they are deteriorating.

John Schwope would like to hold a year end state of the Mont Vernon Village School with teachers and school board members. He volunteered to organize and schedule the meeting for the 1st or 2nd week in June. He asked Meredith to pick a date and time, she agreed to

give him some possible dates via email.

A discussion ensued regarding the preparation of next year's budget and what the school board is responsible for. One of the concerns is balancing the needs of the school district and students with keeping the budget at minimum, to perform it at the lowest possible cost.

It is something that should be addressed and spoken about more. There is a need to publicize the budget, let the community now that the board is thinking about the financial impacts that the budget presents.

Jason asked for a more conscious look at the allocation of time needed for the budget.

Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Howard seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**REVIEW OF
MEETNG/ADJOURN**