

**MINUTES**  
**MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 8, 2010**  
**MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Nicole Heimarck called the Organizational Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Present:

**ATTENDANCE**

Mont Vernon School Board: Trevor Girard, Janet Gramatges, John Quinlan, Kim Roberge, and Bruce Schmidt

Administrative Team: Sue Blair, Nicole Heimarck, Dr. Mary Jennings, Betty Shankel, and Renea Sparks

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

- A. Chairman - Nicole Heimarck asked for nominations to serve as the Mont Vernon School Board Chair

**II. ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS**

Bruce Schmidt nominated Kim Roberge to serve as Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board. John Quinlan seconded the nomination.

Nicole Heimarck asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none, the board unanimously nominated Kim Roberge to serve as the Mont Vernon School Board Chair.

Kim Roberge took over the meeting and handled the remainder of the Election of School Board Officers.

- B. Vice Chairman - Kim asked for nominations for the Vice Chairman.

Kim Roberge nominated Bruce Schmidt to serve as Vice Chairman. John Quinlan seconded the nomination. Kim asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none, the board unanimously nominated Bruce Schmidt to serve as the Mont Vernon School Board Vice Chairman.

FINAL Minutes of April 8, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

C. Secretary - Kim asked for nominations for Secretary.

Bruce Schmidt nominated Janet Gramatges to serve as Secretary. John Quinlan seconded the nomination. Kim asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none, the board unanimously nominated Janet Gramatges to serve as the Mont Vernon School Board Secretary.

Kim Roberge introduced the new Board members to members of the faculty, administration and the returning board members. New to the board this year are Janet Gramatges and John Quinlan. Kim welcomed the new board members.

Board Members reviewed Committee Assignments for the upcoming 2010-2011 Year. The assignments are as follows:

Manifests – Bruce Schmidt and John Quinlan  
 Budget Committee Liaison – Town – Kim Roberge  
 Budget Committee Liaison – School – Trevor Girard  
 Policy – John Quinlan  
 Transportation – Kim Roberge  
 Brick School Maintenance Committee – Janet Gramatges

**A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to close the Organizational Meeting at 6:25 p.m. John Quinlan seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)**

Kim Roberge called the board meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

### **III. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Jennings welcomed new board members to the Mont Vernon School Board.

Dr. Jennings invited the new members to an orientation

workshop and asked that they attend one of the scheduled workshops. Dates and information were provided to the new board members.

- A. Principal's Report – Board members received a copy of the Principal's Report dated April 8, 2010, in their board packets.

Sue Blair told board members they have two new students at the Village School since the last board meeting.

Sue Blair told board members Barbara Belak has been awarded the NH School Counselor of the Year Award. Sue said they want to thank Barbara for all her hard work.

Sue Blair told board members they have hired a long-term substitute teacher for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Mrs. Shawn Hollister. Sue said she is a certified teacher and has done a great deal of work at Clark/Wilkins in Amherst.

Sue said to date, they have 25 students registered for Kindergarten and they hope they will have more on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sue reminded board members of the Pick-Up Patrol project the robotics team had previewed at a previous board meeting. Sue said they are hoping to do a mini preview of the program during the last quarter of school and for next year they plan a full implementation.

Sue said NWEA Testing has been scheduled. It is during the Week of April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>. Sue said the schedule would be sent home so parents know when their child (ren) will be taking the test. Sue said it is a computer driven test.

Sue said the NECAP Science test for 4<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sue also highlighted some upcoming events: Kindergarten Informational Evening, Thursday, April 15, 2010, Fourth

Grade Science Fair, Wednesday, April 21, 2010, and Environmental Camp, Grade 6, Week of May 17, 2010.

Kim Roberge asked if there were any comments from the public however none were forthcoming.

### III. PUBLIC TIME

The A. Minutes 1. February 3, 2010, were pulled by Bruce Schmidt from the Consent Agenda.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The A. Minutes 2. February 11, 2010, were pulled by Kim Roberge from the Consent Agenda.

The A. Minutes 3. March 11, 2010, were pulled by Bruce Schmidt from the Consent Agenda.

The D. Budget Transfers were pulled by Kim Roberge from the Consent Agenda.

**A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda Items B. Treasurer's Reports 1. November 2009, 2. December 2009, D. Transfers E. Donation F. 2010-2011 Professional Staff Nominations. Janet Gramatges seconded the motion. Four board members voted in favor of the motion with one abstention, John Quinlan. (4-0-1)**

**A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda Item A. Minutes 1. February 3, 2010, 2. February 11, 2010, and 3. March 11, 2010 as amended. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Janet Gramatges and John Quinlan. (3-0-2)**

**A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve the Budget Transfers as presented. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Janet Gramatges and John Quinlan. (3-0-2)**

A. NECAP/AYP Results – Dr. Jennings told board

### V. PRESENTATIONS

FINAL Minutes of April 8, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

members there were two parts to this presentation, the first would involve Sue Blair explaining what gains they have made as it related to NECAP and then Nicole Heimareck will discuss AYP.

Sue Blair acknowledged the Data Committee Team. The team included: Charline Brown, Tom Campbell, Scott Prescott, Barbara Belak and Sue Blair.

Sue explained her presentation included the NECAP Data from 2005-2009.

Sue highlighted the Levels of Performance – Proficient with Distinction, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Substantially Below Proficient.

A slide was shown detailing the results of the 2009 NECAP Math results for the Mont Vernon Village School vs. the State.

Sue told board members at every grade level, the students at MVVS scored higher than the expectation of the state in Math.

A slide was shown detailing the results of the 2009 NECAP Reading results for the Mont Vernon Village School vs. the State.

Again, Sue told board members at every grade level, the students at MVVS scored higher than the expectation of the state in Reading.

Slides were shown with 2009 NECAP Math and Reading results for students with IEP's at the MVVS vs. State IEP students.

Next, slides were shown detailing the 2009 NECAP Math and Reading results, utilizing Proficient and Proficient with Distinction as a Gender Comparison. Sue said in Reading, every student scored Proficient or Proficient with

Distinction.

Slides were shown for NECAP Reading and Math results for Current Seventh Grade Students using Longitudinal Data for 2005-2009.

Slides were shown for NECAP Reading and Math results for Current Sixth Grade Students using Longitudinal Data for 2005-2009.

Slides were shown for NECAP Reading and Math results for Current Fifth Grade Students using Longitudinal Data for 2006-2009.

Slides were shown for NECAP Reading and math results for Current Fourth Grade Students using Longitudinal Data for 2007-2009.

Sue explained to board members how the data has informed their professional practice:

- Further alignment of instruction with Grade Level Expectations. (GLE's)
- Ongoing implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Continued professional development in Differentiated Instruction, Response to Intervention, Responsive Classroom, and "Sharma Math"
- Late start and in-service days focused on Professional Development Committee work and Critical Friends Groups.
- Teachers are continuing to offer flexible grouping in both math and reading.
- Teachers target weaknesses by looking closely at commonly missed NECAP released items in grades 2-6.
- Data and progress monitoring are used to structure the 30 minute Math Camp sessions based on student need.

FINAL Minutes of April 8, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

- Provides teachers with meaningful direction for Tier II interventions.

Nicole Heimarck provided a Performance Analysis for the NECAP results for 2005-2009.

Nicole told board members many have already seen some of this information back in February, however, she wanted to recap some of the important data for the board as well as present the information to new board members.

A slide was shown entitled MVVS 4-year Comparison: Reading 2005-2008, Teaching Year Data, % Proficient, % Proficient with Distinction. Nicole told board members 87% of the student population at the Village School performed either Proficient or Proficient with Distinction in 2009. Nicole said this is the highest score the school has seen to date.

A slide was shown entitled MVVS 4-year Comparison: Math 2005-2008, Teaching Year Data, % Proficient, % Proficient with Distinction. Nicole told board members 81% of the student population at the Village School performed either Proficient or Proficient with Distinction in 2009.

Nicole presented a slide entitled AMS 4-year Comparison: Reading, 2005-2008, Teaching Year Data, % Proficient, % Proficient with Distinction. Nicole said 93% of the students at AMS in grades 6-8 scored either Proficient or Proficient with Distinction.

A slide was shown entitled AMS 4-year Comparison: Math, 2005-2008, Teaching Year Data, % Proficient, % Proficient with Distinction. Nicole said 82% of the students at AMS in grades 6-8 scored either Proficient or Proficient with Distinction.

Nicole showed board members a slide, which provided a Comparison of Area Districts results in Reading for 2009

for Grades 3-8. Nicole said they like to provide this comparative data annually.

The final slide Nicole presented was the Area District Comparison for grades 3-8 for 2009 Mathematics.

A handout was given to board members entitled 2010 NH Adequate Yearly Progress Status, District Summary Report, Based on May 2009 NH-Alt and October 2009 NECAP Assessment Data.

Nicole told board members they had received this data confidentially on Monday and the results were in the newspapers on Wednesday.

Nicole said NECAP is the assessment that informs AYP. Nicole said NECAP is given to our students in Grades 3-8 and the state does it in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Nicole said AYP can be achieved two ways:

- 1) 95% of the student population must participate in the state assessment or you don't make AYP.
- 2) Performance measured through an Achievement Index; Confidence Interval and Safe Harbor.

Nicole said the Village School achieving AYP is a very significant accomplishment.

Nicole told members of the board the Village School is still a DINI – District in Need of Improvement. Nicole said there are 17 new ones bringing the total in the state to 69. There are also 34 new SINI's in the state.

Nicole told board members they received AYP in both Math and Reading.

- B. Responsive Classroom – Sue Blair told board members she wanted to recognize some staff members for all the work they did related to

Responsive Classroom – Charline Brown, Barbara Belak, and Melanie Jones.

Charline Brown presented the Guiding Principles of Responsive Classroom.

1. The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
2. How children learn is as important as what they learn.
3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. There is a specific set of social skills that children need to learn and practice in order to be successful academically and socially; cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control (CARES).
5. Knowing the children we teach – individually, culturally, and developmentally – is as important as knowing the content we teach.
6. Knowing the families of the children we teach is as important as knowing the children we teach.
7. How we, the adults at school, work together is as important as our individual competence.

Charline explained the first six weeks of Responsive Classroom is devoted to four intentions:

- Create a climate and tone of warmth and safety.
- Teach the schedule and routines of the school day and our expectations for behavior in each of them.
- Introduce students to the physical environment and materials for the classroom and school. (and teach them to use and care for them)
- Establish expectations about ways we will learn together in the year ahead.

FINAL Minutes of April 8, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

Charline explained the Teaching Practices:

Morning meeting: A daily routine – approximately 15-30 minutes long – 1) greeting; 2) sharing; 3) group activity; 4) news and announcement.

Rules and Logical Consequences – A clear and consistent approach to discipline that fosters responsibility and self-control.

Classroom Organization – Strategies for arranging materials, furniture, and displays to encourage independence, promote caring, and maximize learning.

Guided Discovery – A format for introducing materials that encourages inquiry, heightens interest, and teaches care of the school environment. The goals include: Help children explore materials with confidence and imagination, to build common vocabulary and to develop children's ability to work cooperatively and learn from each other.

Academic Choice – An approach to giving children choices in their learning that help them become invested, self-motivated learners.

Reaching Out to Parents/Guardians – Ideas involving parents or guardians as true partners in their children's education.

Charline provided the Outcome for Responsive Classroom.

- Increases social skills and academic engagement
- Establishes positive classroom climate
- Increases learner investment and independence
- Decreases disruptive behavior

Kim thanked Charline for her presentation.

- C. FY11 Quarterly Report – Board members received a copy of the Mont Vernon School District

FINAL Minutes of April 8, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

Quarterly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 dated 7/1/2009-3/31/2010 in their board packets.

Betty told members of the board the results are looking pretty much the same as reported to the board last quarter.

Betty told board members they are expecting an additional \$13,500 than budgeted in Revenue.

Betty explained they are anticipating expenses to be under by approximately \$135,000 of which a big part of this is due to the Tuition to the Middle School being less than projected based on FY09 actual expenses and a decrease in anticipated enrollment.

Betty explained they also had a savings due to new hire rates, a savings in the actual cost of the Actuarial Study, savings due to Principal late hire date, the cost of the benefits were lower than projected, cost of bus contract lower than projected and the actual interest on the bond was lower than projected.

Betty told board members they are anticipating a surplus of approximately \$150,000.

- A. FY11 MS-22 – Betty told board members this is the document they send to the DRA each year after the budget is complete. Betty said she needs the document signed by the School board.

## VI. ACTION ITEMS

**A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to authorize the Board, Superintendent, and School District Clerk to sign the MS-22. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)**

- A. Wellness Policy JLCF – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Dr. Jennings told board members the Souhegan School Board took the Wellness Policy and changed it according

## VII. DISCUSSION ITEM

FINAL Minutes of April 8, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

to the USDA Guidelines. Dr. Jennings said the changes happened last Spring.

Dr. Jennings said Amherst saw some inconsistencies also and made changes.

Dr. Jennings said over the past few years, the policy has been phased into the districts however, by 2011 the districts needed to be 100% compliant. Dr. Jennings said the policy committee went back and reviewed the policy and made changes based on USDA Guidelines.

Dr. Jennings said the celebration section was taken out of the policy. Dr. Jennings said the policy is now only what we are responsible for during school.

Bruce Schmidt said he is still confused on Section D. Fundraising Activities, since the MVEA and PTA sell food items.

John Quinlan thinks Section E should be taken out of the policy.

Bruce asked if Sue had talked to the teachers and asked if they think the policy is reasonable and enforceable. Sue said she has spoken to the teachers and she can enforce the policy.

**A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn the meeting. John Quinlan seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. (5-0-0)**

**VIII. REVIEW OF  
MEETING/ADJOURN**