

MINUTES
MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2009
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Mont Vernon School Board: Jayson Darula, Trevor Girard, Kim Roberge, Bruce Schmidt, and Leo White
Administrative Team: Sue Blair, Nicole Heimarck, Dr. Mary Jennings, Jim Miner, and Renea Sparks
Faculty: Kim Tighe, and Melanie Jones
Public: Howard Brown, Maria Edvalson, Karen Erickson, Chasanne Gallien, Lydia Garrant, Lori Hayes, Lori Meader, Kelly Merryfield, and Caroline Morrissette
Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

Leo White called the board meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Principal's Report – Board members received a copy of the Principal's Report in their board packets. The report was dated October 15, 2009.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue told board members during the 2008-2009 school year a committee of eight staff members, reviewed the present report card and made significant changes.

Board members received a copy of the proposed Primary Report Card for 2009-2010. Sue said there would be no printing costs, as it would be printed in house. All the teachers would have access to the report card on line.

Sue explained to board members each student would receive a grade in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Citizenship & Social Skills, Spanish, Physical Education, Music, and Art. Students would also receive progress indicators specific to each area of study.

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

Sue told board members a letter would be sent home to parents with an explanation of the new report card prior to the new cards going home.

Jayson Darula asked if the teachers were on board with the changes being made to the report card.

Sue Blair said the teachers are on board with the changes being made.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve the new report card as presented by Sue Blair. Jayson Darula seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Sue said the alarm company was in on October 8th and 9th. All detectors were cleaned and system maintenance was performed on the alarm panel. Sue said the system is operating under normal conditions since the companies visit.

Sue said the water issue in Mrs. Mattie and Mrs. Lavoie's classroom has been addressed and the plumbing issue that was the cause has been reconstructed.

Leo White commented that he was in this area last week and he smelled the odor in one of the first grade classrooms.

Sue Blair said she has noticed a marked decrease in the odor in that area. Sue said she also checked with the teachers and they agreed the odor is better.

Sue told board members the NECAP/NWEA testing was completed and picked up by UPS today.

Sue said the attendance during the make up week had 20-

28 students absent each day. Make-ups were completed for all students except for three and one student has a medical exception.

Sue Blair commented on the State of the School. Sue said when she was notified of the terrible tragedy that took place in Mont Vernon she said the first day only three students were absent from school. She said she could say with pride the Village School is a wonderful place for kids to be.

Sue said they sent letters home to grade level parents when appropriate.

Sue said they operated under a strong veil of confidentiality to maintain the safety of the children.

Sue said Dr. Jennings dealt with all the media.

Sue said she and the staff believe they have weathered this storm well.

Sue thanked the community for their support.

Kim Tighe thanked Sue Blair for her leadership during this time. Kim said Sue handled the situation much better than she ever thought possible. Kim said Sue did an amazing job.

Leo White said he couldn't be any more pleased at how the school and SAU staff responded during this tragedy.

Leo thanked Sue Blair, Barbara Belack, and the MVVS staff and said everyone handled the situation professionally.

Leo also thanked Dr. Jennings, Renea Sparks, and Nicole Heimarck, commenting it was a complete team effort and

we appreciate how they stepped up as well.

Sue Blair told board members she needed to take the school address change to the board in order for it to be official.

The address is Mont Vernon Village School, 1 Kittredge Road, Mont Vernon, NH 03057.

Sue said this change should be effective upon the order from the School Board.

A motion was made by Jayson Darula to accept the change of address and to have Jay Wilson notify 911. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. Four board members voted in favor of the motion, one board member was opposed, Bruce Schmidt. (4-1-0)

B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jennings thanked Sue and the faculty for their support in dealing with the tragedy in Mont Vernon.

Dr. Jennings commented on how the districts recently completed the Crisis Response Meetings one took place in Mont Vernon and one in Amherst.

Dr. Jennings explained the next step is to come up with a response plan for all the stakeholders.

Dr. Jennings said the SAU staff is writing some grants and the Commissioner of Education may also have some grant money available to us.

Dr. Jennings told the board they would be talking about this again in the months to come and have some professional help along the way.

Leo White asked how the Scott Foresman reading

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

implementation was going.

Sue Blair said the implementation is going very well.

Leo White asked if anyone from the Public had any comments.

III. PUBLIC TIME

Karen Erickson said she had an issue with regards to asbestos at the Mont Vernon Village School.

Karen said she asked for a copy of the report and was given it. Karen questioned why the school wasn't re-inspected every six months as required.

Jim Miner said RPF is the company, which does the asbestos testing at the MVVS and it is not required every six months but every three years.

Jim said he and the facility manager are required to complete a checklist of items every six months.

Jim Miner agreed to meet with Karen Erickson to discuss this issue with her.

- A. Later Start Proposal – Dr. Jennings told board members two Public Hearings were held with regard to starting schools later in Amherst and Mont Vernon.

Attendance at each of these Public Hearings was between 10-20 people.

Dr. Jennings told members of the public as well as board members they would be voting on whether to continue or not with this process at the SAU Board meeting on October 29, 2009.

Dr. Jennings said each district would need to have the

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

teacher union's vote on whether or not to accept the change in start time.

Lori Hayes asked why they were proposing to change the start times.

Leo White provided Lori with information as to why the Later Start times were being proposed and he also told Lori to look at the SAU 39 website where she could review the detailed PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Later Start Proposal.

Sue Blair, Principal at the Mont Vernon Village School is against the Later Start Proposal. Sue expressed concern over the quality use of time for the younger students. Sue said starting school later negatively impacts the younger students especially in grades K-2.

Kelly Merryfield said starting school later causes problems for parents that work. Also, it will be hard to get kids to after school activities.

Howard Brown said the Later Start proposal is not driven by after school activities, but is driven by educational aspects. Howard said academics come first.

Leo White told meeting attendees Howard Brown served on the Later Start Committee as the Community Representative to the Board. Leo thanked Howard for serving on the committee and being at the meeting.

Caroline Morrissette said she agreed with all of Kelly Merryfield's comments and said she really didn't think starting school a half an hour later would make a difference for students.

Howard Brown said research shows every 15 minutes of extra sleep is beneficial to students. Howard said the

majority of the people he has spoken to are against starting school later for personal reasons.

Howard said he really doesn't care either way, his son is in high school and he doesn't want school to start later so for him, this will weigh in his decision.

Howard said high school students were surveyed and 87% said they are sleep deprived, 53% said they drive drowsy. Howard said when he drives his bus; he needs to watch out for the students who are driving drowsy. Howard said when he makes his final vote; this will also have to be used to weigh in on his decision.

Trevor Girard said he attended one of the Hearings. Trevor said the research is pretty conclusive showing the benefits for increased sleep for students.

Maria Edvalson said her kids get up very early to get to school and a half hour makes a huge difference.

Chase Gallien said she believes they are disrupting a whole lot more students than what they are helping by changing the start time by a half hour.

Lori Hayes said she had a couple of issues, the first is that the bus schedule is very erratic, it comes between 8:25 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. and her kids arrived home on the first day of school at 4:15 p.m. The other issue she has is that routines are established for every person, they wake up, go to school, and then come home. How can you be sure students are driving drowsy, and how are you going to be sure its going to change.

It was agreed Betty Shankel would address the bus issue which is a separate issue from the Late Start Proposal with Lori Hayes.

A survey was done by the AEA and ASSA. The AEA rejected the Late Start Proposal. The MVEA used a survey and the late start proposal was unanimously rejected.

The board agreed Trevor Girard and Kim Roberge would impact bargain.

A motion was made by Jayson Darula to approve Consent Agenda Item B. Treasurer's Report and C. Manifest. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda Items A. Minutes 1. September 10, 2009, as amended and D. Transfer #'s 201003 and 201004 Jayson Darula seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

- A. FY10 School Goal Plan – Board members received a handout entitled Annual School Goals, 2009-2010, dated October 21, 2009. Sue explained these are the SINI/DINI Plan Goals.

V. PRESENTATIONS

The Instructional Leadership Team Members included Tom Campbell, Melanie Jones, Jan Mattie, Kim Tighe, Charline Brown, Sue Blair, and Renea Sparks.

Sue Blair explained these goals are still in process. Sue said the Instructional Leadership Team met in the afternoon to discuss these goals and there is a meeting with the staff on November 4, 2009.

Sue said the Literacy Goal would be presented at the next board meeting.

- B. FY10 1st Quarter Report – Board members received

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

a handout entitled Mont Vernon School District Quarterly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, dated 7/1/2009-9/30/2009 in their board packets.

Betty Shankel said we are on track for our Fund 10 Revenue for 2009-2010.

Betty told board members Tuition to the Middle School is less than anticipated based on FY09 actual expenses and decrease in anticipated enrollment.

There is also additional savings due to new hire rates.

Betty said right now they are estimating a surplus of \$135,000.

- A. Math Coaching Position – Board members received a copy of the Mathematics Coach job description in their board packets.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

The School-Wide Mathematics Coach will report to the Building Principal. The Mathematics Coach is a .25 position, working one morning per week and one afternoon per week.

Dr. Jennings asked if Sue could explain where the funding for this position comes from and Sue said the funding is from Title Funds.

Bruce Schmidt asked how long they anticipate using a coach.

Sue Blair said she couldn't answer that question since she had only been at the Village School for ten weeks.

Nicole Heimarck said she believes a coach will be needed for at least two years and it could go beyond that. Nicole

said she believes the position will be funded through Title funds next year as well.

Nicole said they hired Scott Prescott, and he will help the administration focus on GLE's as well as support the staff on utilizing the Everyday Math program.

- B. Wellness Policy (2nd Reading) – Board members received a copy of Policy JLCF – Wellness Policy in their board packets.

Dr. Jennings reminded board members the Souhegan Board adopted this policy at the end of last year.

Dr. Jennings reminded board members of the changes made to the policy, the USDA reference, portion sizes and beverages.

Bruce Schmidt told board members he was opposed to the policy because of the reference to recommending breakfast.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to remove the paragraph referencing the breakfast program. Jayson Darula seconded the motion. Four board members voted in favor of the motion and one board member was opposed. The motion passed. (4-1-0)

A motion was made by Jayson Darula to approve Policy JLCF – the Wellness Policy as written and with the reference to the breakfast program removed. Trevor Girard seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

- C. Representative to SAU Advisory Committee – Dr. Jennings told board members they need a representative from Mont Vernon for the SAU Advisory Committee to review the SAU Budget.

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

Dr. Jennings said the representative should be available to attend the meeting tomorrow night.

The board asked if Charlotte Jameson could send out an announcement to parents via e-mail tomorrow asking for a Mont Vernon representative to serve on the SAU Advisory Committee.

D. Library Automation Proposal - Leo White turned the meeting over to Kim Roberge.

Kim asked Amy White for an update on the funding for automating the library.

Amy said the Friends of the Library have donated \$250, the PTA donated \$750, and an anonymous donor donated \$5,000.

Amy said the Walker Fund application is due November 1, 2009.

Amy said the Walker Fund would not entertain our application if the school district didn't donate toward the Library Automation Project.

Dr. Jennings told the board they have not heard from the Milford Rotary Club yet. Dr. Jennings said the board has not met yet to consider their request for a donation. Amy told board members the Library Automation is conditional upon the remainder of the funding through outside sources.

A motion was made by Jayson Darula to set aside \$5,000 towards the Library Automation project, contingent on funding from outside sources. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. Four board members voted in favor of the motion and one board member

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

abstained, Leo White. The motion passed. (4-0-1)

The Mont Vernon School Board Secretary will write a letter in support of the Library Automation project and approval to seek grant funding.

Kim Roberge turned the meeting back over to Leo White.

- A. Water Treatment - Board members received a copy of the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services letter addressed to Jim Miner, Director of Buildings and Grounds regarding the Mont Vernon Village School and the Mineral Radioactivity in Drinking Water dated February 25, 2009.

VII. DISCUSSION

Jim explained the letter from the state was advising the district of the test results from the well dating back to 1990.

The state offered three options:

- Retest your well.
- Evaluate treatment or other remedies that would reduce risk.
- Consider public notice and/or bottled water until treatment can be installed.

Jim told board members there is no mandate that action be taken.

Jim told board members they performed another well test in March 2009. The results were relatively the same as the test results in 1990.

Bruce Schmidt asked what the cost would be to correct the issue. Jim said it would cost \$6,000.

Leo White suggested this issue could be addressed in the

Final Minutes of October 28, 2009, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

2010-2011 budget.

Board members agreed they would include this issue as a discussion item for the upcoming budget.

Melanie Jones said she has addressed this issue as she had these results with her water and was told she would need to consume quite a bit of water for it to be an issue.

B. Policies (1st Reading)

1. IHBAA – Student Evaluations Specific Learning Disability – Renea Sparks told board members this policy would be used to identify specific learning disabilities.

Board members had no comments regarding this policy.

A motion was made by Jayson Darua to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II. (a). Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Schmidt-yes; Roberge-yes; Darula-yes; White-yes; Girard-yes, the board entered into Non-Public session at 8:45 p.m.

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

The board discussed the Paraprofessional proposal to offer a more extensive menu of insurance options.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to come out of Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II. (a). Jayson Darula seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Schmidt-yes; Roberge-yes; Darula-yes; White-yes; Girard-yes, the board came out of Non-Public session at 9:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Jayson Darula to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0) The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

IX. ADJOURN