

MINUTES
MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2010
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Kim Roberge called the board meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

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

Administrative Team: Sue Blair, Nancy Maguire, Dr. Mary Jennings, Betty Shankel, and Renea Sparks

Staff: Karen Alger, Meghan Libby, Jan Mattie, Kim Tighe

Public: Bonnie Angulas, Lindsay Curtis, Pody Hansbrough, Laurie Hayes, Sarah Lawrence, Nicole Martin, Linda Narducca, Leslie McCann, Caroline Morrisette, Matt Morrisette, Ann Richard, Sue Ries, Heather Stine, and Jessica Weisberg

Budget Committee: Bill Archibald, Paul Liscord, and Marilyn Savage

Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

- A. Principal's Report – Board members received a copy of the Principals Report in their board packets dated October 14, 2010.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Blair told board members as of October 14, 2010, they had a total of 236 students at the Village School.

Sue Blair told board members NECAP Testing began on October 5, 2010. The exams will be picked up on Monday, October 25, 2010. NECAP is given to students in grades 3-6. Sue told board members the last day for students in grades 3-4 & 6 is on Friday, October 15th. Sue said 5th graders will be taking the writing portion of the test on Monday and Tuesday October 18th & 19th and make-ups will be administered for any students absent during the exams.

Sue told board members they had Grandparents Day last

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Friday, October 8, 2010. She said they broke the program into two parts since the MPR has a limit of 500 people. She said Alma Garcia added a Spanish program into the program this year.

Sue told board members they have a contractual obligation to have 10 Late Start Days so they are adding one in May, May 24, 2011. She said they would like a decision on this later tonight.

Sue told board members Tom Wally came to the school this past Friday morning to present a new science program. He came to the school for free and tried out the new program on students in grades 3-6.

Kim Roberge asked if there were any comments from the public and Laurie Hayes asked to speak.

III. PUBLIC TIME

Laurie asked why there was a staff reduction from the current budget.

Kim Roberge said she was not at the last board meeting and did not know what the conversation was with regards to the potential reduction in Special Education Aids.

Dr. Jennings told board members as well as public attendees often times they review the need for aids as needed.

Dr. Jennings said once the school year got under way, they reviewed every IEP and they determined one aid is no longer needed.

Bruce Schmidt questioned why action was taken prior to this board meeting as it was briefly mentioned at the board meeting last month and he didn't realize action was going to be taken prior to this meeting. Bruce said if he knew this, he would have had more conversation with regards to this topic at the last meeting.

Dr. Jennings said they are not required to let the board know that the administration took action with regards to the

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reduction of a non-certified staff member. Dr. Jennings said they followed the appropriate guidelines for the proper number of staff to handle the number of Special Education Students at the Village School.

Bruce said he is concerned about the way the reduction in staff took place as he was expecting to get more information at this meeting tonight prior to the staff reduction and he felt he had been misled.

Bruce said in the future, he would like to understand what the situation is prior to action being taken.

Dr. Jennings said the school board does not appoint support staff.

Sue Ries asked why the reduction in staff now and not at the beginning of the year.

Renea Sparks said they had discussions at the beginning of the year with regards to the number of aids needed, they recently completed the review of the IEP's and felt the time was appropriate to reduce the number of aids. Renea said all the schedules had been set and the required services for the students were finalized.

Laurie Hayes asked what the process was to determine who goes. Dr. Jennings said there is no specific process used, the aids do not have a collective bargaining agreement.

Laurie Hayes asked about the new Adequacy Grant which means we may be loosing between \$260,000 – \$298,000. Laurie asked what Mont Vernon planned on doing to change the process. Laurie asked if we were doing anything to reach out to our Legislators.

Betty Shankel said they have not passed anything yet and won't know anything until November.

Trevor said they have taken action as they have helped fund a lawsuit against the state, which caused the districts to increase their contributions to the teachers Pension.

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Kim Roberge said the NHSBA works on the districts behalf.

Heather Stine said she would like to advocate not cutting the Spanish program any further this year and if at all possible she would like to see it increased.

The A. Minutes 1. May 19, 2010, were pulled and tabled from the Consent Agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The A. Minutes 2. September 9, 2010, were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda A. Minutes 2. September 9, 2010. John Quinlan seconded the motion. Four board members voted in favor of the motion with one abstention, Kim Roberge. The motion passed. (4-0-1)

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda Items B. Treasurer's Report 1. July 2010, C. Manifest, D. Budget Transfer as presented. John Quinlan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

- A. FY12 Budget Assumptions – Dr. Jennings told board members this would be the first of three presentations with regards to the budget.

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

Dr. Jennings said at the end of the presentation she would be asking the board for their input so that at the next meeting, they would see Draft 1 of the Budget.

Dr. Jennings presented the following for Revenues:

- Grants – Title I remains flat, IDEA – ARRA stimulus funds end December 2011.
- State Aid – ARRA Funding Cliff, Assume FY11 Amount - \$957,902 – Betty said currently, the DOE gives the advice they do not know what it will be, assume until November it will be the somewhere

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- close to the same.
- Catastrophic /Medicare Aid (Special Education) –
The projection will be based on current year expenditures.
Cat Aid will be paid out at reduced rate 62% this year.
- Unreserved Fund Balance – Estimate at 1%.

Dr. Jennings explained Enrollments are tied to supplies, materials, educational initiatives and staffing. Dr. Jennings said they worked with the building principals and the NESDEC projections to come up with these projections.

Dr. Jennings said in FY11 it was projected (through NESDEC) they would have 247 students at the MVVS, they budgeted for 217 students and they actually had 235 students.

Dr. Jennings said in FY11 it was projected (NESDEC) they would have 68 students at AMS, they budgeted for 74 and they actually had 69 students.

Dr. Jennings said in FY12 it is projected (NESDEC) they will have 246 students at MVVS and 79 at AMS. They are budgeting for 239 students at MVVS and 79 at AMS.

A slide was shown detailing the MVVS Enrollments by Grade. The total number of students projected is 246, the number budgeted is 239. The staffing includes 13 teachers. The average class size is 18.

Dr. Jennings presented the Staffing as follows:

- Administration – Staff and student supervision
- Special Education – Case Loads
- Custodial – Facility Square Footage
- Support Staff – Staff Support and special education Individualized Education Plans
- Teachers – Class size, teacher loads and special programs

Dr. Jennings said the MVEA is in the 3rd year of a 3-year
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contract. Non-union staff raises are to be determined by the school board.

Dr. Jennings presented the Staffing Benefits:

- Health Care - Assuming a 10% increase for FY12, rate increase from FY07-FY12 up 60% in last 4 yr. Period, a \$ increase of \$117,860 (53% increase)
- NH Retirement for Certified Staff – FY12 going from 8.02% to 9.07% (an increase of 13.1%)
- NH Retirement for Non Certified Staff – FY12 going from 9.16% to 11.09% (an increase of 21.1%)

Dr. Jennings said the New Tuition Agreement will be effective July 1, 2011 (FY12)

The rate is based on FY12 AMS Budget rather than AMS FY11 Expenditures.

There are 79 students expected to be tuitioned into AMS in FY12 up from 74.

Overall, the AMS enrollment is declining.

Dr. Jennings said once they know what the AMS budget is, they will be able to predict for Mont Vernon what the tuition cost will be for Mont Vernon.

Dr. Jennings presented the following for Operations:

- Electricity – expected to remain flat.
- Maintenance and repairs – Exterior MPR Door Replacement as well as other Replacement needs that are done on a rotational basis. They will talk about these items in Draft 1 of the budget.
- Transportation – In the 3rd year of a 5-year contract.
- Food Service – continue to be self-supporting except for cost of capital equipment. (Equipment Lease Paid Out)

Dr. Jennings summarized the Technology Highlights:

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- Technology Integration – Support for RTI and Differentiating Instruction, Integration of technology into core curriculum (student technology skills and integration of current technique into classroom practice), Teacher professional development, Focus on Technology Rich Classrooms (TRC) for integration of 21st century skills at each grade level.
- Infrastructure – Replace 100 mb unroutable switch to 1 gb routable switch, eliminate Point to Point T1 internet connection in favor of less costly Business Class Cable Connection.

Bruce Schmidt requested they see a presentation by Bruce Chakrin at the next board meeting with regards to his Technology requests for the FY12 budget.

Dr. Jennings presented the Initiatives Affecting the Budget:

- Year Five – Strategic Plan – Use of data to inform student progress in reading across the curriculum.
- Program Review – Purchase additional leveled readers to support core reading, 2012 marks year 1 of Math Program Review action plan implementation. Resources may be purchased to support Grade 6 mathematics programming.
- RTI – Tier II learners and supports.

Dr. Jennings told board members they currently have the following Expendable Trusts:

- Property Maintenance - \$21,226
- Land/Capital Reserve - \$0
- Unfunded Liabilities for Retirees - \$31,347
- Special Education – n/a
- Tuition – n/a

Bruce Schmidt said in the MVEA Agreement teachers need to notify us by certain dates of their desire to retire. Bruce asked that a reminder go out with regards to these dates.

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Dr. Jennings presented the Mont Vernon Budget Timeline:

- Oct/Nov – Administration creates Draft 1 using current assumptions.
- November 10 – Draft 1 of the Budget
- November 11 – December 2 – Budget Committee Review & Recommendations
- December 9 – Draft 2 of the Budget
- January 13 – Public Hearing
- February 7 – Deliberative Session
- March 8 – Ballot Voting

Dr. Jennings asked board members if they had any other assumptions they wanted to include in Draft 1 of the Budget.

Trevor Girard asked how the administration came up with the number of students going to the Middle School in 2012 and if they had a buffer built into the number.

Betty Shankel said they did not have a buffer included in the number they used.

Dr. Jennings said they came up with the number of students through discussions with the building school principals.

It was decided the administration would poll the 6th grade student's parents to see if they planned to go to Amherst Middle School next year or they were going elsewhere.

Trevor asked if they planned on using the 1.2% increase in operations across the board and Betty said no that was not the plan.

Kim Roberge suggested the administration come back to the board with a recommendation at the next meeting with regards to staffing/Spanish as this still is a hot topic amongst the public/parents.

- A. Report – Quarterly Report – FY11 – Board members received a copy of the Mont Vernon School District Quarterly Financial Report for FINAL Minutes of October 14, 2010, Mont Vernon School Board Meeting

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 dated July 1, 2010 –
September 30, 2010 in their board packets.

Betty Shankel told board members Catastrophic Aid is expected to be less than originally projected.

Betty said the AMS Tuition is anticipated to be less. The final tuition rate was lower as was the number of students. (74 budgeted versus 69 actual)

- A. Dedication of Music Room – Sue Blair told board members she contacted Wilma Finley’s daughter, Erica and she was delighted to hear from her and said her mother would be honored to have the music room named after her.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to name the Art/Music room the Wilma Finley Music/Art Room. Janet Gramatges seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Kim Tighe told board members the teachers are creating a plaque for the Music/Art Room.

- B. Committee Appointments – Kim Roberge appointed Trevor Girard as the School Budget Committee Liaison. Kim Roberge appointed herself to be the Town Budget Committee Liaison.
- A. NWEA/NECAP - Board members received a handout entitled Fall 2010 NECAP Projections Based on Spring 2010 NWEA scores for the Mont Vernon Village School.

VII. DISCUSSION

Sue Blair told board members at the previous board meeting she presented the NWEA results with regard to the targeted growth.

Sue said the board asked her to look at the NWEA Scores with regards to achievement.

Sue presented this data in Reading and Math for the current
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7th graders (last years 6th graders), current 6th graders, current 5th graders, current 4th graders and current third graders.

- B. Before/After School Transportation- Kim Roberge told board members First Student provides a complimentary service to MVVS students where they bus them to Amherst to the after school care program. Kim said there are about 12 students that go down there. Also, Hampshire Hills has a bus that comes to the Village School to pick up MVVS students to go to their after school program.

Kim asked board members if they would be interested in sending out a survey to parents to see if there is enough interest for an after school program be brought to Mont Vernon. Board members agreed it couldn't hurt to do a survey to see if there is a need in Mont Vernon for after school care.

- C. Staff Reduction - This topic was discussed under public time.

A motion was made by John Quinlan to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. (5-0-0)

VIII. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN