

**MONT VERNON SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2011
MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Kim Roberge called the board meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present:

ATTENDANCE

Mont Vernon School Board: Tom Driscoll, Trevor Girard, Kim Roberge, John Quinlan, and Bruce Schmidt
Administrative Team: Dr. Mary Jennings, Sue Blair, Betty Shankel, and Renea Sparks
Faculty: Melanie Jones
Public: Bill Archibald
Minutes Recorder: Lyn Jennings

Board members received a copy of the Principals Report dated May 10, 2011, in their board packets.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Blair told board members the student population at the Village School remained the same as last month, 243 students.

Sue said Kindergarten Screening would be held on Friday, May 13, 2011. Sue said to date; they believe they have 29 students attending Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year.

Sue said Mahesh Sharma would spend Friday, May 13th at the Village School. Sue said teachers would be meeting with Mahesh until 4 p.m.

Sue told board members the creators of Pick Up Patrol, Bryan Rose, Rylee Noorda, Anthony Edvalson and Brian Apple entered their project into the Christopher Columbus Awards. This is a National Awards program that encourages science, technology, engineering and math education for middle school students. Sue said they were 1 of 30 schools that were chosen to compete for this phenomenal recognition. Sue said their project was 1 of

8 that were chosen to move on to compete for the national award. Sue said they were 1 of 2 elementary schools. Sue congratulated the children and their coaches.

Sue acknowledged the Student Council and PTA coordinated their efforts to celebrate Earth Day on Friday, April 22nd. All grades participated in planting bulbs purchased by the PTA, as well as, cleaned up the school grounds, which included working in the Bird Garden and Gail's Garden.

Sue provided a list of upcoming field trips at MVVS. Also provided was a list of upcoming events at the school.

Kim asked if there were any comments from the public.

III. PUBLIC TIME

Kim told board members she contacted the Moderator as requested at the last board meeting and she is waiting to hear back from her.

Noah Desrosier told board members he and a few other Boy Scouts were at the meeting to earn a Citizenship in the Community Badge. Board members welcomed the Boy Scouts to the meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda Items IV. B. Treasurer's Report and C. Life, AD&D and LTD Renewal Rates. John Quinlan seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

A motion was made by Bruce Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda Item IV. A. Minutes – April 14, 2011, as amended. Tom Driscoll seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

- A. NECAP/AYP – Sue Blair apologized on Nicole Heimarck’s behalf for not being at tonight’s school board meeting, to assist with this presentation as she had two sick kids at home.

**V.
PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

Sue told board members she would be reflecting on the Village Schools NECAP results for 2010 and provide an analysis for Reading and Mathematics.

A slide was shown detailing the Village Schools 6-year Comparison in Reading from 2005-2010, Teaching Year Data.

In 2005 64% of our students were Proficient in Reading as compared to 2010 when 69% were Proficient in Reading. In 2005 10% were Proficient with Distinction as compared to 2010 when 16% were Proficient with Distinction.

Sue presented a Multi Year Gap Analysis in Reading using a Performance Index for IEP Students and Non-IEP Students. The goal is to get every child to 100 points. In 2006 IEP Students performed at 74% as compared to in 2010 at 82%. In 2006 Non-IEP Students performed at 93% as compared to 95% in 2010. Sue said they are doing their job of closing the gap when you compare the data in 2006 to 2010 in reading.

Next, Sue presented a Multi Year Gap Analysis in Reading for Male versus Female.

In 2005, Males performed at 71% versus 79% in 2010.
In 2005 Females performed at 83% versus 90% in 2010.

Sue highlighted some of the things they have done differently in Reading:

- Focused analysis of data through released items.
- Adopted *Reading Street*.
- Reading Specialist: Implementation of Best Instructional Practices in the classroom.
- Identify area of curricular inconsistencies.

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- Response to intervention for all students.
- Tiered and Differentiated instruction.
- Interpretation of data to inform instructional practices.

Sue told board members NECAP is just one snapshot of a child's performance. This test is given in October and it reflects the previous years teaching.

Sue presented what is next in Reading:

- Comparison of data points – take comparison of data points NWEA compared to NECAP one is computerized and one is pencil and paper.
- Analysis Processes/Programs in place
- Whole school RTI
- Implementing collaborative / reflective teaching models more extensively.
- Explore and implement other instructional strategies, which have proven to improve skill mastery and understanding.

A slide was shown detailing the Village Schools 6-year Comparison in Math from 2005-2010, Teaching Year Data.

Sue told board members Proficiency stayed the same at 50% in 2005 and 50% in 2010. In 2005 18% of students were Proficient with Distinction as compared to 29% in 2010.

Next, Sue presented a Multi Year Gap Analysis in Mathematics using a Performance Index for IEP students and Non IEP Students.

In 2006 IEP Students performed at 72% as compared to 73% in 2010. In 2006 Non-IEP Students performed at 89% as compared to 92% in 2010. Sue said they still have a gap, but have seen some improvement. Sue said this is an area the SINI/DINI group will be looking at this summer.

Next, a slide was shown detailing the Multi Year Gap Analysis in Math comparing Males and Females.

In 2005 males performed at 76% as compared to 81% in 2010. In 2005 females performed at 65% as compared to 81% in 2010. Sue said the girls took over in 2009 however; the gap was closed in 2010 as the males and females both performed at 81%. Sue asked if the gap was truly closed or was it just this year's performance.

Sue provided what they have done differently in Math:

- Focused analysis of data through released items.
- Adopted "Sharma" non-negotiables – what is it our kids need to know and be able to do.
- Developed an understanding that Everyday Math is a program not a curriculum.
- Math Consultant – Alignment of Curriculum
- Identify area of curricular inconsistencies.
- Response to intervention for all students.
- Tiered and Differentiated instruction.
- Interpretation of data to inform instructional practices.
- Focused instruction on building understanding and fluency in number sense and math fact knowledge.

Sue explained what is Next in Math:

- Comparison of data points.
- Continue work with math consultant in developing consistent "best practices" in math teaching and learning.
- Develop a math program that supports and enhances math knowledge and understanding for all.
- Implement reflective teaching models more extensively.
- Explore and possibly implement other instructional strategies, which have proved to improve all skill mastery and understanding.
- Build Math Club and other math related

programs, which will increase interest and improve skill knowledge and understanding.
(application)

Sue told board members what they are doing with this data:

Reflection of NECAP Data for 2nd and 3rd grade.

Deficient in Numbers and Operations- more than memorization of facts.

- Mastery of number sense
- Daily math fact drills are given at each student's instructional level.
- Implementation of school-wide math fact assessment.

Improvement has occurred for all students in reviewing the language arts NECAP results from Fall 2010.

- Many below proficient in Word ID and Vocabulary – Phonics and Vocabulary Skills.
- Outcome: Implementation of Words their Way – based on kids readiness skills.

Word Study: Instruct each student at his/her own level. It is essential that we decipher the reason for the lack of Word ID and Vocabulary skills as it impacts the other areas of language arts.

Sue provided the Reflection of NECAP Data for 6th Grade:

Sue provided their observations from the Fall 2010 NECAP Data:

- Answering open-response questions was the greatest weakness. (Writing)
- No students achieved "Level 4" in Reading (Comprehension Skills). Based on what we had heard about this class coming into 6th grade, we

were surprised by this.

- The scores were consistent for students in the “Strategic Intervention” group. Their test scores were a good reflection of what we had been seeing in their class work.

Sue explained how the reflection of the NECAP Data lead to the Adaptation of Instruction –

For several weeks out of each marking period for more focused attention on Writing and Comprehension Skills, Mr. Denio and Mrs. Jones split the class into smaller groups.

Examples were shown on the Impact on Parent Communication and Progress Reports.

Sue provided the Trends at Mont Vernon Village School:

- Increase in students’ ability to articulate their own skill knowledge and understanding.
- Increase in staff’s understanding and interpretation of assessment data.
- Increase in staff knowledge regarding appropriate mathematical instructional strategies.
- Application of such strategies.
- Enhanced understanding of what differentiated instructional strategies involve and how such strategies meet and support the instructional needs and level of all students.

Melanie Jones told board members Fay Deysher and Scott Prescott have been great going through test score data.

Sue provided the Trends in Data:

- An increase in the number of students who are proficient and proficient with distinction in both mathematics and reading.
- A lessening of the gap between our special education students and our regular education

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- students. More to do!
- Overall performance improvement through grade levels.

Sue provided some Good News –

- Improved scores, which are a reflection of instructional strategies that meet the diverse needs of our student learners.
- All staff actively engaged in collaboration conversations, which include common vocabulary and strategies/programming, which strengthen student confidence, skills acquisition and knowledge.
- A commitment to continue to build all learners' skills and understanding as a collaborative community of learners!

Trevor commented he believed NECAP was going to be phased out. Sue said yes, it was and she believed it would be phased out in 2014. Sue said they are moving towards a national assessment.

Trevor said he thought the report card narratives were good and asked if they were happening in all grades. Sue said they are only happening in 5th grade now.

Tom Driscoll asked what is next in Math, as we are fairly inconsistent in advanced math, will they be more consistent going forward?

Sue said a few parents voiced their concern at last night's meeting. Sue said the inconsistencies are part of the discussion that is occurring at the program level.

Sue said this is not a Mont Vernon Village School decision, but it will be a part of the Program Review Committee's work.

Kim said she is concerned about bridging the gap between the Non-IEP and IEP students. Sue said they

look at all the students and determine which students are struggling.

A motion was made by Kim Roberge to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA A:3 (5) to discuss a legal opinion. John Quinlan seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Roberge – yes; Driscoll – yes; Quinlan – yes; Girard – yes; Schmidt – yes. The board voted unanimously to go into Non-Public Session at 7:15 p.m. (5-0-0)

The board discussed a legal opinion they received from the Board's legal representation.

A motion was made by John Quinlan to come out of Non-Public Session per RSA A:3 (5). Bruce Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Roberge – yes; Driscoll – yes; Quinlan – yes; Girard – yes; Schmidt – yes. The board voted unanimously to come out of Non-Public Session at 7:28 p.m. (5-0-0)

B. Budget Reports

1. Legislative/legal update – Dr. Jennings provided the board with an update regarding the pension costs being pushed down to the districts. Dr. Jennings said the amount that will be pushed down to the districts is still unknown, it can be 10% of the cost or \$18,500 additional or the complete cost of 35% or \$64,500.

Dr. Jennings said the decision as to how much the districts will be required to pay is more distant than they had hoped.

Dr. Jennings said there is a proposal for the teachers to pick up a 2% increase with regards to their pensions. Dr. Jennings said they should receive some proposals from the representatives in May and it may encourage more people to retire since they won't want to pay a 2% increase.

Dr. Jennings said the districts may not know how much additional monies they will be required to pay with regards to the pensions until November or December next year. Therefore, the NHSAA/NHSBA won't have a number crunched until January next year and the districts possibly won't know how much their pension costs will be until January of next year for the 2011-2012 budget year.

Dr. Jennings told board members Betty Shankel had a legal update for the board with regards to using surplus funds.

Betty Shankel read from a Legal Opinion provided from Attorney Gordon B. Graham of the Law Firm Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Loughman, P.L.L.C.

Betty quoted the following:

“There is nothing in the law to prevent the district from expending surplus in this year's budget in a particular line so long as the District's purchase of equipment, supplies, goods or services beyond what was budget in a particular line so long as the District's bottom line is not exceeded. If making those expenditures in the current year allows the district to purchase fewer goods, supplies or services in the next fiscal year then the money budgeted for those expenditures in the next year could in turn be used to cover a needed over-expenditure in other lines of the budget.”

Betty told board members items directly related to next year, such as software licenses, and copier supplies may not want to be purchased using surplus funds.

Betty said the attorney approved the list that was sent to him.

Bill Archibald said he contacted the DOR and he was told it is not legal to spend monies from the surplus on items for next year.

Bill asked what court cases were referenced in the letter the attorney sent the administration that would allow them to spend surplus funds. Bill asked if the administration had spoken to the DOR.

Trevor Girard said the attorney should have provided a proper memo quoting his statutes / sources. Trevor said the issue is if the item will be used this year.

Bruce Schmidt asked if there were specific expense items the board could look at for next year.

2. Requested budget considerations

a. Use of FY11 surplus - \$72,000 –

Board members received a handout in their board packets entitled Mont Vernon School District, FY11 Budget Surplus Requests, May 10, 2011.

Board members reviewed the list during a lengthy discussion and came to a consensus on whether the funds should be expended per item on the list.

Textbooks – \$1,381

Replacement Equipment – Technology - \$12,995

Replacement of Equipment Instruction - \$1,345

Audio Visual Supplies - \$500

General Supplies – Guidance – Backpacks Only - \$250

General Supplies – First Aid/Nursing Supplies - \$1,097

Grounds Maintenance - \$1,065

Repairs and Maintenance – Exterior Trim Replacement, Cafeteria Table Parts, Pest Treatment - \$1,425

The board requested the administration check on the price of fuel for the June meeting.

b. Unfunded items due to default budget – Board members received a handout in their board packets entitled Suggested Purchases that are Necessary,

Default Budget 2012.

Sue Blair told board members the items on this handout had to be removed from the budget due to the approval of the Default Budget.

Dr. Jennings told board members there was a Health Savings of \$4,600 in the 2011-2012 budget.

The board authorized the administration to purchase the Writing Skills Supports for Grades 4-6 for \$150 and the Handwriting Program for Grades K-4 for \$1,600 in July.

The board agreed to think about the Math Manipulatives for all grades for \$1,600.

A handout was provided in the board packets entitled Mont Vernon School District, Support Staff Wages, Impact of Proposed COLA.

The board discussed the possibility of giving raises to the support staff this year.

The board agreed they could not give raises this year to the support staff. The board agreed they have to put programs over the raises this year. However, their decision could possibly be reconsidered in the future.

A. Possible use of surplus funds –

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by John Quinlan to move forward on the following items using surplus funds:

Textbooks – \$1,381

Replacement Equipment – Technology - \$12,995

Replacement of Equipment Instruction - \$1,345

Audio Visual Supplies - \$500

General Supplies – Guidance – Backpacks Only - \$250

General Supplies – First Aid/Nursing Supplies - \$1,097

Grounds Maintenance - \$1,065

Repairs and Maintenance – Exterior Trim

Replacement, Cafeteria Table Parts, Pest Treatment - \$1,425

Tom Driscoll seconded the motion. All board members in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

- A. Policy JJE – Fundraising Activities – The board completed their first reading on Policy JJE – Fundraising Activities.**

VII. DISCUSSION

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 9:20 p.m. (5-0-0)

IX. REVIEW OF MEETING/ADJOURN