

## **MONT VERNON BUDGET SHORT FOR 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

School officials announced to the Mont Vernon School Board this past week, that 2008-09 looks like a difficult budget year for the district. At the end of the first quarter reporting, Mont Vernon is projected to have over expenditures of approximately \$100,000.

Several factors account for this shortfall, the major of which is the final amount of tuition due to the Amherst School District for the education of Mont Vernon 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Not only did three more Mont Vernon students attend Amherst Middle School than was projected, but the amount of tuition per pupil increased once the final AMS FY08 per pupil expenditure was determined. These factors accounted for a variation of \$88,000 from the tuition amount projected in fall, 2007.

Other factors accounting for the budget shortfall lie in federally mandated programs. Additional special education services required through individual educational plans had to be added at the beginning of the school year, plus program costs for English Language Learners. The budget line for this program was cut by voice vote on the floor of Mont Vernon Town Meeting last March 14th.

At the next MVSB meeting, December 11th, school administrators will be recommending reductions in the FY09 budget. If necessary cuts cannot be made this fiscal year, the District

must come to the District Meeting, March 13th, to request a Deficit Appropriation to cover these unanticipated expenditures.