

MVU's Board Cuts Spending

New Proposal Less Than Current Budget

SWANTON

The Missisquoi Valley Union Middle/High School Board has offered a budget that is 1.22 percent less than the current year's.

The dollar decrease is \$173,173. The total proposed budget is \$14,068,794.

"We felt we had to put forth something affordable to the community," said board member Earl Fournier.

The budget will go to a vote on March 1, Town Meeting Day, by Australian ballot in Franklin, Highgate and Swanton. Five seats on the nine-member board also will be up for election.

Quote: *St. Albans Messenger*

BUDGET DECREASE

Proposed 2011/2012 Budget

The budget total for 2011-2012 is **\$14,068,794**

The budget total for 2010-2011 was **\$14,241,967**

This represents a decrease of **\$173,173** a 1.22 percent decrease

MVU Budget Comparisons

• 2007/2008		\$12,743,833
• 2008/2009	+7.67%	\$13,721,382
• 2009/2010	+2.73%	\$14,095,451
• 2010/2011	+1.04%	\$14,241,967
• 2011/2012	-1.22%	\$14,068,794

Local H.S. Comparison of Ed Spending Per Equalized Pupil Cost - FY2011

• BFA St. Albans	\$13,051.69	9-12
• BFA Fairfax	\$10,665.23	K-12
• MVU	\$10,550.73	7-12
• Enosburg	\$10,367.38	K-12
• Richford	\$ 9,480.45	K-12

How Does MVU Compare With Other Union High Schools?

• Middlebury UHS	\$14,930.39
• Brattleboro UHS	\$14,424.48
• Lamoille UHS	\$13,437.60
• Essex Ed Ctr.	\$13,191.53
• Mt. Abraham UHS	\$12,480.71
• No. Country UHS	\$11,580.78
• MVU	\$10,550.73

Education Tax Rates:

	MVU	Local	Total
Franklin 2011	\$0.739	\$0.611	\$1.350
- 2012	\$0.725	\$0.640	\$1.365
Highgate 2011	\$0.500	\$0.535	\$1.035
- 2012	\$0.504	\$0.548	\$1.052
Swanton 2011	\$0.528	\$0.558	\$1.086
- 2012	\$0.521	\$0.542	\$1.063

Because of the Common Level of Assessment, the impact of the proposed 2011-2012 budget on the MVU tax rates among the three member towns varies. Franklin and Swanton will see a decrease in their tax rates. Franklin will see a decrease of \$0.014 and Swanton a decrease of \$0.007.

Highgate's tax rate will increase slightly from \$0.500 to \$0.5004. The estimated tax rates are based on the proposed budget of \$14,068,794 plus the \$75,000 Capital Renewal Reserve Fund article.



October 2010 Middle School Students of the Month

Board Budget Planning

- Some fixed costs have increased significantly such as electricity – \$12,000.
- The administration, staff, and Board have worked collaboratively to provide a budget that is fiscally sound and yet supports an educational curriculum to meet student's needs.
- The Board's planning was guided by the impact on the local economy and the residents of the MVU school communities.
- Staffing levels have been maintained or decreased for the third year in a row.

MVU Annual Informational Meeting
February 22nd at 7pm – MVU LIBRARY

School Board Directors Report

To The MVU Community:

This year, our work as a school board has been very challenging yet even more satisfying. It has been another enjoyable year working with the dedicated administrative team, talented staff, and supportive community which makes MVU such a fine school. The administrative team continues to lead improvements in the areas of curriculum and instruction. The result of dedicated leadership and the hard work of the teachers and staff are evident in the consistent increase in standardized test scores.

Not only is improvement in academics a reason to celebrate, but it has also been another great year for extra-curricular activities at MVU. Thanks to much community support our many student-centered events were once again very successful. As a board, we would like to mention how proud the students have made us and the rest of the MVU community as they set such good examples for other students around our state and beyond.

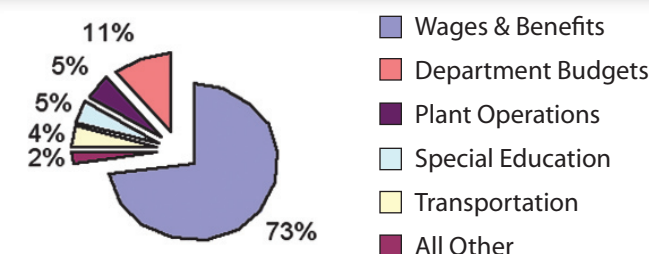
Our largest building maintenance project this year was the resurfacing of the school's roof. The project went very well and the roof looks great! It will now be good for another ten years. Thanks to the taxpayers and their agreement to put money into the roof maintenance stabilization fund for the past ten years, this was paid for in full. We now have approximately \$25,000 left over in that fund. Our Director of Buildings and Grounds was able to secure a "Clean Energy Development Fund" grant for \$50,000 to upgrade the lighting in our parking lot. By changing the 40 year old lights we have become much more energy efficient. These new lights will use only one-eighth of the electricity expended by the old ones. The project went very smoothly, resulting in a much brighter parking area.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to experience the many rewards and challenges of being part of the MVU board. As we continue to serve the MVU community please know that your thoughts, questions, and concerns are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

The MVU School Board

Corrine Bonnette - 782 – 8154 Denis Boucher- 868 – 4828 Kathy Boumil - 868 – 4095
Earl Fournier - 868 – 7494 Gerald Gates - 285 – 6878 Gregg Gervais- 868 – 9120
Robert Irish 285 – 2288 Cindy Metayer - 285 – 2164 Tracie Pilbin - 868 – 4400

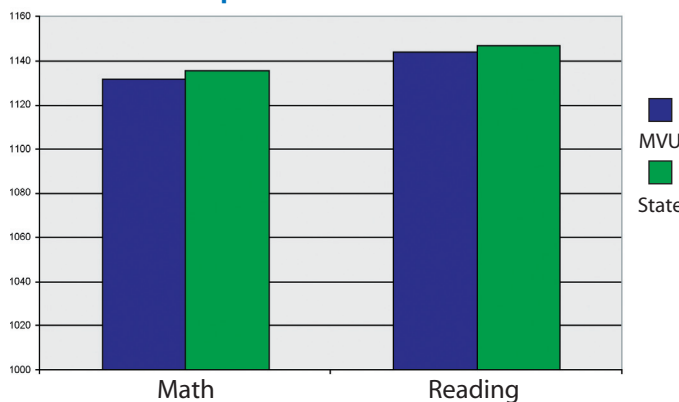


MVU Proposed Budget for FY2011/12 – \$14,068,794

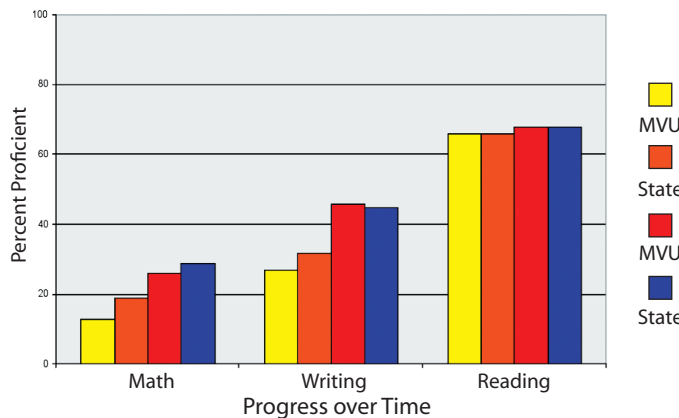
• Staff Costs	\$10,232,414	72.7%
• Program Costs	\$ 278,162	1.9%
• Special Education	\$ 673,464	4.7%
• Plant Operation	\$ 617,112	4.3%
• Transportation	\$ 713,178	5.0%
• All Other Costs	\$ 1,554,464	11.0%

While Controlling Costs School Indicators Continue to Improve

2010 MVU and State of Vermont NECAP Comparison of Mean Scores



MVU High School NECAP Yearly Progress 2007-2008-2009-2010



100 Best Communities Celebration



VOTING DATE AND TIMES on Tuesday, March 1, 2011

- Franklin - 10am to 7pm
- Highgate - 10am to 7pm
- Swanton - 7am to 7pm

Articles

- \$75,000 - Capital Renewal Reserve Fund

In addition to the budget, the board is asking for \$75,000 for the capital renewal reserve fund. The money placed in the fund is used for maintenance of existing infrastructure. The school roof will need replacing in 10 years, paving and resurfacing will need to be done on the parking lot, and sidewalks will need replacing, as well as maintenance on the heating and cooling system, explained Fournier.

Several members of the MVU board are also up for re-election, including both Boucher and Fournier, who are on the ballot for three-year terms representing Highgate and Swanton respectively.

Robert Irish, another long-term board member, will be a write-in candidate in Franklin.

Tracie Pilbin and Gregg Gervais were appointed to partially completed terms and will be on the ballot for the remainder of their terms in Highgate and Swanton respectively.

'It was an effort on everybody's part.'

Board chairman Denis Boucher attributed the decrease to several factors, including reductions in special education costs and a reduction in the size of an energy cost hike through efficiency measures.

Special education costs are down \$87,000, primarily because of reduced tuition and transportation. MVU's special education director "continues to find

ways to meet the needs of students in-house," said Boucher, reducing tuition for programs elsewhere.

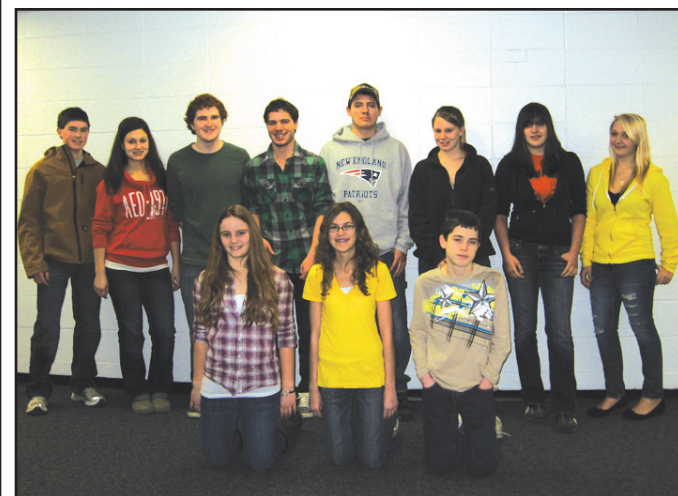
The wood chip boiler continues to save the school money on heating, said Fournier, and a grant to install energy efficient lighting in the parking lot is expected to save on electricity costs, said Boucher. However, the school has seen an increase overall in electrical costs because of the recent rate increase from Swanton Village Light and Water.

The school is working on attaching the hot water system to the wood chip boiler, a project with a payback of three years, said Fournier.

Quote: *St. Albans Messenger*

School Indicators 2009 – 2010

- Prestigious America's Promise "100 Best Communities" Award
- Continued growth on State NECAP test (see graph)
- Increased # of students going on to higher education (see table)
- Moved from NEASC warning status to full accreditation
- Increased # of students on honor roll (54% middle school & 44% high school)
- Dropout rate down to 2.38%
- State champions or runner up in boys' soccer, boys' hockey, girls' field hockey, cross-country and boys' basketball
- Three top FFA competition awards in diesel tractor and agricultural mechanics
- Six individual champions in State track & field
- Runner up for VT Teacher of the Year
- UVM design science competition awards (1 first place finalist and 2 third place finalists)



December 2010 High School Students of the Month

Class of 2010

Outcome	# of Students	% of Students
2 Yr College	21	11.4%
4 Yr College	52	27%
Apprenticeship Program	1	0.5%
Career Education	4	2.2%
Dropped-out	2	1.1%
Employed	21	37.7%
Military	6	3.3%

The Board Encourages Your Participation. Please Vote on March 1, 2011