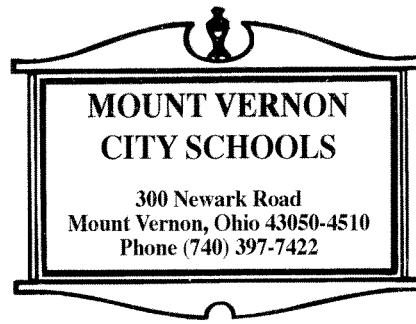


Board of Education
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Mrs. Jody Goetzman, Vice President
Mrs. Paula Barone
Mrs. Sharon Slane Fair
Mr. Steve Thompson



District Leadership
Mr. Stephen Short, Superintendent
Ms. Barbara J. Donohue, Treasurer
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Director of Student Services
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Director of Teaching and Learning

PRESS RELEASE

The Mount Vernon City School District received a Report from the Referee in the John Freshwater termination case on Friday, January 7, 2011 recommending that Mr. Freshwater's employment contract be terminated for "good and just cause." After considering the report and the record in the case, the Board voted to accept the recommendation at its meeting on January 10, 2011 by a vote of 4 – 1.

The Board's primary responsibility is to educate and protect its students. Pursuant to the August 26, 2009 settlement agreement approved by the Board, which resolved the *John Doe, et al. v. Mount Vernon City School District Bd. of Edn., et al.*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 2:08cv575 litigation, the following statement is required:

Throughout this process, the Mount Vernon City School District Board of Education has been concerned about elements in this community who decided to attack the student and the family who reported concerns about John Freshwater. It is critical for our students to be able to come forward with concerns or issues so they can be addressed. The Board applauds Zachary Dennis for the courage he had in coming forward.