

**Milan and Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative
Joint School Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2009, 6:30 pm
Minutes of Meeting**

Gorham Middle High School Library

Milan Board Members Present: Kevin Evans, Sandy Pouliot, and Patricia Shute

GRS Board Members Present: Jo Carpenter, Greg Corrigan, Anne Hill, Steven Michaud, Carol Miller, Ron Ouellette, Paul Parteno, and Julie St. Germaine

Absent: Debra Ackerman, Angela Brown, and Mike Waddell

Administration: Paul Bousquet, Superintendent and Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator

Public: Ben Mayerson (Minute Taker)

Press: None

I. Call To Order

The joint meeting of the Milan and GRS Cooperative School Boards was called to order at 6:40pm, by GRS Cooperative School Board Chairperson, Jo Carpenter.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Regionalization/Coop Discussion-Next Steps

The Milan Board is interested in tightening up the efficiency, of the districts in the valley, and exploring more efficient utilization of resources in the valleys including potential regionalization/cooperation.

Milan passed a warrant article to pursue cooperation between school districts in the valley. It was stressed that the voters of Milan have not approved the formation of a study committee to join the cooperative.

A discussion about efficiency may some day lead to a cooperative study.

An example of cooperation is building utilization in Milan, Berlin, and Gorham. Building capacity regarding student populations should be studied.

Dummer has expressed interest in cooperation. Although Errol is interested in the outcome of preliminary discussions, they would not be officially involved at this time.

Superintendent Bousquet talked about the cost of education for each district. He felt it was unacceptable to continue proposing a yearly increase in the tax rate, without considering a discussion to better analyze and utilize the assets of the valley. All board members agreed.

It was suggested that the boards should look at the areas that the SAU office supports the districts, and look toward streamlining support services to provide uniform services to each District.

An example of efficiencies would be the development and maintenance of policies; they could be written and adopted on a SAU wide format.

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There first needs to be cost and logistical analysis to see if it is even worth putting a question on the warrant, asking for a study committee to be formed.

It was stressed that any town that wishes cooperation must actively participate in the process.

There was discussion as to whether the school board in Berlin would be able to participate, in light of the city council's ultimate control of the school. It was suggested that a member(s) of the Berlin City Council be invited to any meetings pertaining to cooperation and fiscal issues.

General Cooperative issues were discussed; IE local identity, control, and taxation.

There was a brief discussion pertaining to the history of Milan's (school) relationship with Berlin.

Milan is currently in year three of a five year AREA agreement with Berlin. Milan board members felt this was the time to research and consider their options. They are open to any and all ideas.

There was discussion about what the increase in student population will be when the Federal prison comes online in 2010.

It was suggested that Berlin be asked if they are interested in participating in this process, at the October 6th meeting of the Berlin, Dummer, and Milan boards.

A cooperative study will have a minimal cost. The last study had a budget of approximately \$4500.00.

i. RSA 195-18

The law governing the formation and expansion of a cooperative was reviewed and discussed. The RSA stipulates that a city could participate in a cooperative study. The council could approve the study. The city would have to change its charter changing from having a dependent school district to an independent district should it decide to form/join a cooperative. Any change to the charter would be put before the voters for approval.

ii. Legal Opinion

The attorney advised that RSA 195:18 would govern the process.

iii. Financial Report

Pauline Plourde reported that there were too many variables, at this point to be able to compile a meaningful analysis.

IV. Non Public Session

None required

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V. Public Comments

None

VI. Other

By consensus, the boards agreed to reschedule the SAU meeting to October 1st.

Greg Corrigan made a motion to approve \$9700 for the study of the air handling unit controls, by Yeaton Associates. It was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Carol Miller to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

bwm