

DUMMER
Minutes of School Board Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2006 at 4:00 pm
Dummer Town Hall, Dummer, NH 03588

Dummer Members present:

Julie Glover School Board Chairperson
Nancy Bisson School Board Member

Others present:

Patrick Low Superintendent, SAU-20
Pauline Plourde Business Administrator, SAU-20
Dave Backler Milan School Principal
Gail Scott Berlin Daily Sun Newspaper

Guests: Julie Hallee, Jennifer Miller, Karen Parker, Paula LaBrecque, Mariann Letarte

Item No./Subject

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

II. Dummer School Board Organization

a. Nominations for Chairperson

Nancy Bisson nominated Julie Glover as Chairperson. Julie accepted and motion was passed.

b. Nominations for Vice-Chairperson

Julie Glover nominated Nancy Bisson as Vice-Chairperson. Nancy accepted and motion was passed.

c. Filling of Vacant Board member Seat

Superintendent Low explained that to fill the open seat on the school board there were different options that could be looked at if there were no volunteers. Jennifer Miller volunteered for the position, a vote was taken and she was accepted to fill the open seat. She will need to be sworn in by Louise and then the Superintendent's office will provide a package of information and let her know when there are seminars available to attend as additional resources.

d. Orientation / Training

Julie and Superintendent Low discussed some of the options / seminars that are available. Julie and Nancy have both attended one and recommended that Jennifer also attend.

III. Approval Minutes

Motion by Nancy Bisson, seconded by Julie Glover

Motion: To accept the minutes of January 10, 2006 and February 8, 2006 as submitted.

Vote: All in favor, motion passed.

IV. Public Comments

Mariann Letarte expressed her thanks to Superintendent Low for his hard work and dedication as he will no longer be the superintendent as of the end of June. (moving to SAU #35)

Julie Glover also gave her thanks and appreciation.

V. Communications/Written

NONE

VI. Berlin / Dummer AREA Study

Superintendent Low explained that a committee needs to be formed to look into the area schools for the town. An area agreement has been passed with the Milan School for children K – 6. This committee will look at the options for children in grades 7 – 12 who currently are sent to Berlin.

The committee should consist of:

- 2 School Board members from each school district - Dummer and Berlin.
- 2 Town Selectmen (if they choose not to sit they can appoint another individual in their place.)
- The Superintendent will sit as a non-voting member
- 1-6 volunteers from the community would be welcomed though not mandated by State Statute.

Superintendent Low did state that this process should begin as soon as possible and be discussed with the new Superintendent once he starts.

Paula LeBrecque did ask if the Board currently meets with the Berlin School Board. She stated that when she was on the Dummer School Board they started meeting once a year with Berlin and that they found it very helpful in understanding what was happening in their schools. Superintendent Low mentioned that at the very least the board should ask to receive minutes from both Milan and Berlin board meetings. Julie Glover confirmed that she does receive those already. Julie and Nancy both agreed to look into meeting annually with Berlin. They already attend the Milan meetings as needed.

Superintendent Low also mentioned that all test results and other stats are available to the Board if interested. Julie mentioned that she already had a lot of the information which will be needed for the Choice Study.

VII. Discussion – Milan School Board Illegal Activities (Conduct and Procedures)

Superintendent Low was asked about the Milan School Board meeting that was held on 6/6/06. Why he was not in attendance and if he could walk through the events that have led to the concern of Illegal Activities.

Superintendent Low explained that he did believe that at least one member of the Milan School Board was aware in advance that he would not be in attendance of the 6/6/06 meeting as he was out of town at a family wedding.

Superintendent Low then reviewed the following regarding the Illegal Activities. (He did make it clear that out of courtesy to the Milan School Board anything he shared at this meeting will also be shared at the Milan School Board meeting on June 20th as there was no member of the Milan School Board in attendance at this meeting.)

- On Thursday May 11th he heard a rumor that the Milan School Board had met on May 2nd in the afternoon in addition to the scheduled meeting of that evening. He then called Patricia Shute of the Milan Board at work at 10 am on the 11th and asked about the meeting. Had she been aware of the meeting and had she been in attendance? She stated that she was in attendance and that the other board members had been as well. When questioned why the meeting had not been posted she answered “It was a non-public meeting and said that she didn’t think perhaps it should be posted – but was not.”
- He thanked Patricia for her time and hung up. He then called another supervisor who said he should call the school attorney. He also contacted the SAU20 Board, NH Dept of Education and NH School Administration.

- This incident came after the Milan School Board had been warned in January 2006 about illegal meetings when they were preparing a handout / flyer. This handout / flyer was also a breach of conduct as it was biased and had some non-factual information both of which are against policy. They also used SAU20 postage without permission /following proper process.
- He sent multiple letters to the Milan School Board requesting copies of the Agenda and meeting minutes of the meeting of May 2nd. He did not receive anything until May 15th when the minutes were faxed to the SAU. The agenda stated that the meeting was going to be held in the 6th grade classroom but the minutes stated it was held in the 5th grade classroom.
- Superintendent Low discussed that the rules of a meeting are: 2 or more members together constitutes a meeting. This must be posted in advance and the meeting must be held in a public location which is also supposed to be posted. A general public meeting is always held first and then the board can go into Non-public session if necessary. The principal and superintendent should also be notified of these meetings.
- A question was raised that if the Board was meeting about a personnel issue should the person that is being discussed have the right to be notified of the meeting and be in attendance if they so choose? Superintendent Low said yes.
- Superintendent Low has been told that the meeting was held in the 5th grade classroom with the lights off. He stated he was unsure why this was necessary as since the addition was built onto the school all School Board meetings have been held in the Library or other common area.
- Superintendent Low did share the language on Non-public meetings, minutes and Social Gatherings and how the Milan Board had violated their own policies. He did state that the SAU board would review the situation and if necessary it could go to the courts.
- Superintendent Low discussed that Andrew Mullins has indicated that Patrick had not returned his phone calls. Superintendent Low confirmed that he had received 1 phone call and that he had not returned the call because it was the only way he had at the time to protest what the Milan School Board had done.
- Superintendent Low stated that there was another meeting on May 15th that was held that he again was not made aware of or that was posted. He pointed out that the Milan School Board is made up of seasoned members and that after the warnings and time they have served that they should know how to conduct business.

Jennifer Miller did ask if the new superintendent has been made aware of the situation and Superintendent Low confirmed that he is aware although he has been very busy and has not been able to be more involved but once he comes on he will be fully aware.

The next Milan School Board meeting will be held on June 20th which is a continuation of the June 6th meeting as that was not completed.

VIII. Guest Presenters – Staff and/or Visitors

NONE

IX. Principal's Report

Dave Backler discussed briefly the AYP stats. Superintendent Low said that they will actually be recalculated. Once the State has completed the recalculations, Patrick will inform the Boards.

Dave felt that the year had gone very well and that he would have time this summer to review all the test results and see how to approach next year.

X. Superintendent's Report

- a. Discussed the wellness program that needs to be implemented. Not sure yet if it needs to be done in June or by September but their goal is by the 1st of July.
- b. Discussed the preparation for the Avian Flu.
- c. He stated that Dave has done a good job working with the staff and overall things are going well with the school.
- d. Discussed the standardization of the portfolios for all students and that more colleges are looking for these as well.

XI. Financial Report

- a. Pauline reviewed the budget and stated that it will change some as the final numbers come in after school is out but right now there are no problems and we are in the good by \$44,700.00

XII. Goals for 06/07 School Year

Superintendent Low mentioned that the Board needs to get together and discuss their goals for next year.

XIII. Other

Jennifer Miller expressed her thanks to Mr. Backler and the school for helping make the transition for her children so smooth this past year.

XIV. Non-Public Session

NONE

XV. Next Regular Board Meeting

It was decided that the board will meet in July – July 10th at 6:30 and then will plan to meet monthly on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30.

XVI. Adjournment

On a motion by Nancy Bisson and a second by Julie Glover, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.