

Dummer School Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Minutes of Meeting
Milan Village School Library

Present:

Dummer School Board Members –Nancy Bisson, Julie Glover, Jennifer Miller

Milan School Board Members – Kevin Evans, Sandy Pouliot, Patricia Shute

Berlin School Board – Maryanne Huntley, Martha Laflamme, Nicole Plourde and Superintendent John Moulis

Administration – Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, Co-Director of Special Services Steve Gordon, MVS Principal David Backler

I. Call to Order

Milan Chairman Shute called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

II. Joint discussion with Milan, Dummer, and Berlin Boards

After introductions were made, Shute explained concern with Berlin's direction after reading the newspaper article on consolidating the schools in Berlin. Moulis explained the history of the process and N. Plourde explained the recommendations. N. Plourde explained that nothing is definite but the recommendations are to close the Bartlett school and make it administrative offices; close Brown School except for the newer addition for Kindergarten and possibly a future preschool; Marston and the junior high would house grades 1 through 6; and grades 7-12 would be at the high school.

Moulis explained that currently they are gathering input from staff and administration regarding class size, programs to offer, where expansion would be necessary, etc. He stated that the next phase would include community.

Evans asked for their timeline. Moulis stated potentially with the 2008-2009 school year, but more likely the 2009-2010 school year.

N. Plourde stated that there has been a steady student population decline at the high school, even considering the projected numbers with the new prison construction.

Evans asked if community input included Milan parents. Moulis stated that since Milan is in an AREA agreement, yes they would be considered part of the community input.

Glover requested a study for implications of moving grade 7 & 8 to the high school. Laflamme stated that that is her biggest concern as a Berlin Board member.

Bousquet stated concern with reading about the proposed changes in the newspaper.

Bisson asked about changes in discussing co-operative approach with Gorham for building and program issues. Bousquet reported that the Gorham Co-op Board will be meeting with Berlin in a week.

Moulis stated that many of the buildings in the North Country are old, and even the high school is older, having been built in 1972. He stated that the restructuring model is being looked at, and presented other examples of schools that have grades 7 through 12 in one building. He stated that the Board is concerned with building the best program.

Bousquet asked if there would be a reduction in force. Huntley replied that there would be a few less buildings and the benefit for the itinerant staff schedule would be easier, provide a more enhanced program with more student contact. Bousquet asked if there were positions that were not filled this year. Moulis replied that they did not fill the grade 7&8 Health position, or a grade 5 position, but added a reading specialist for grades 5, 6, 7 & 8. He added that all staff received a pink slip last spring.

Bousquet stated that Milan is a PBIS school. Moulis responded that the high school is in its second year with PBIS and it will be moving to the junior high school next.

Glover reiterated the Board's interest in being involved in the process. Moulis responded that there will be 2 more meetings at 6:30 am before expanding the members after discussing buildings and programs. Then the meetings will expand to evening and include the community. Berlin will contact the SAU office to let the boards know.

Miller thanked the Berlin Board and Superintended Moulis for coming. Joint discussion with Milan, Dummer, and Berlin Boards ended at 6:40 PM.

III. Joint Discussion with Milan and Dummer Boards started at 6:45 PM.

Bousquet reported on the status of Dummer's AREA study to give parents choice on where to send their children. He stated that Requests for Proposals will be issued for transportation, and the SAU will make recommendations to the Boards. Bousquet also discussed MVS not making AYP in reading or in math for certain subgroups. He stated that the staff's response was how they could help. He stated that testing is important but is also important to meet the needs of all students.

Backler presented an outline of steps that have been taken for this year's tests:

- prepare students for test taking
- curriculum aligns with the GLEs
- focus on how to prepare for NECAP as well as jumpstart into learning
- starting the year off getting students ready for academics as soon as school starts
- reviewed released items from 2005 and 2006 tests

Backler added that in reviewing the math test, they discovered the need to accelerate 5th grade math to be ready for 6th grade test. Miller asked if the students would still be ready for grade 7 and Bisson asked if they should use what Berlin uses for a math program. Backler stated that they were taking steps to see that they'd be ready. Pouliot stated that it is Scott Forsman for grade 5, but a different program for grade 6. Glover asked if Milan had ever met with Berlin to see if the students are ready. Bousquet stated that the GLEs are statewide.

Evans asked if Milan should be looking at preparing students for junior high school. Backler explained how they transition to Berlin now and that the guidance counselor comes to the Milan school. Pouliot expressed her belief that teaming has helped at the junior high, since it creates mini schools of 100 students. Shute expressed support of the program based on her daughters' experiences.

Evans asked what the Boards can do regarding NCLB. Bousquet stated to direct correspondence to Senator Judd Gregg. Bousquet discussed the NH Commissioner's Follow the Child initiative and how the Performance Tracker program will provide support to show students' progress.

IV. Principal's Report

Committees

Evans asked Backler to define the data analysis committee. Backler stated that the committee will keep Board informed of their results. He provided examples of the different tasks of each committee.

Pouliot asked about the PBIS target team. Backler stated that the team is looking at any concerns teachers may have – not just behaviors. They are also looking at who did not make AYP.

Backler stated that next year, Woods Day will be a kick off for the science curriculum.

Student Council

Backler explained that Student Council meets every Friday. The Executive Committee met with Mike Fortier regarding bus issues. The Council is very involved with the Universal Team. Miller asked if the members had ability to share with their classes, and Backler stated yes. Miller asked about Wilson Training Program. Backler stated that K-2 staff members attended.

V. Special Education Director's Report

Gordon discussed the public hearing for NH disabilities. He stated that he received a 170 page document. He will keep staff apprised with developments and share the document.

VI. Other

Glover asked Milan their opinion of Berlin's presentation. Board members expressed concerns, from small legs on staircases at the junior high building to grades 7 and 8 being moved to the high school.

VII. Joint discussion with Milan and Dummer Boards ended at 7:30 with the departure of the Dummer Board and Superintendent Paul Bousquet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Hockmeyer
For the Dummer School Board