

Dummer School Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 5, 2009

Present: Board Members Julie Glover and Jennifer Miller

Administration: Superintendent Paul Bousquet and Business Administrator Pauline Plourde

Public: Milan Selectmen Dave Dubey and Chris Holt, Mariann Letarte

I. Call to Order

Miller called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

II. Approval of December 1, 2008 Minutes

**MOTION made by Glover to accept the minutes of December 1, 2008 as presented. Motion seconded by Miller with the option to continue discussion on the minutes later in the meeting. No additional discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.**

III. Public Comments

Selectman Dubey discussed the possibility of a news release on the budget. Bousquet stated that he has developed a newsletter and received mailing labels to send to all taxpayers. Dubey stated that he supported the school board in their dealings with the Berlin School Board. Dubey also stated that the community of Dummer is too small to not have selectmen and school board support each other.

Plourde discussed the public hearing that is scheduled for February 2, 2009. School Board will start at 6 PM, followed by the town hearing.

**MOTION made by Glover to change order of agenda and discuss AREA agreement. Motion seconded by Miller. No discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.**

Miller stated that it is important for the Board to remain factual on the discussion and the agreement. Glover asked if administrators had been forewarned prior to the Berlin newspaper article. Miller stated that three times Berlin had agreed and moved forward with a tuition agreement with Dummer. Miller would like to write a letter stating the facts and bring it to the Berlin Board. Bousquet has sent an email to Superintendent Moulis regarding the Berlin Sun article, but has not received a correspondence yet. Bousquet present his attempts of corresponding with Berlin in chronological order:

12/3/08 letter to Berlin re: tuition agreement.

12/19/08 email re: Berlin Sun article and amended tuition agreement

12/22/08 email re: amended agreement, next board meeting, and selection of students

Selectman Holt asked about the criteria Berlin would use to pick and choose students. Bousquet read a quote from the minutes of 12/17<sup>th</sup> where the Berlin Board voted to amend the tuition agreement. Glover stated that the Dummer School Board has had a good relationship with the Berlin SB and it was underhanded and unprofessional to change the wording without discussing with the Dummer School Board first. Miller discussed her plan to address the Berlin Board on January 21, 2009 with the facts of what has been discussed on a tuition agreement, approved on the agreement, and ask what has changed. Miller stated that she would be going to the Berlin SAU office at Hillside Elementary School to listen to the minutes of the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Miller requested copies of the drafts of the tuition agreement that were submitted to Berlin on December 3, 2008. Bousquet stated the difference between the first draft

and 12/3/08 draft was wording that clarified special education costs for additional services would be billed to the Dummer school district as well as wording that states if a child starts in Berlin, they would remain until graduation even if Dummer district joins regional or co-op. Miller requested Bousquet to contact Berlin to have Dummer School Board be added to Berlin Board agenda for January 21, 2009 meeting. Glover suggested that common courtesy would have been for Berlin Board to contact Dummer with questions or concerns they may have had before voting to amend the agreement and publicize it.

6:25 PM Selectmen left the meeting.

Board discussed the minutes of 12/1/08: Miller asked about the status of roof. Bousquet stated that it is almost correct. They have located additional spots to insulate and to keep it cold. Miller asked about Alert NOW. Bousquet reported that Alert NOW would be ready to use. Miller asked about the cost of pupil raise. Plourde explained how tuition is established based on DOE report costs divided by the number of students. Miller asked about the ability to have early graduation. Bousquet stated that it is discussion mode only as there isn't even a test developed yet.

#### IV. Written Communications

- Berlin School Board Minutes – no additional discussion
- Milan School Board Minutes – Miller asked about the 33 students that are targeted and why are only 17 were being reassessed? Bousquet will get additional information.
- Audit Letter

#### V. Superintendent's Report

- Berlin AREA Agreement Update – addressed earlier

##### - School Board Policy

Miller stated that there needs to be a policy that clearly spells out contacting Board to sign up for tuition agreements and setting up deadlines for signing up. Discussion on possible exceptions and extenuating circumstances families may face. Plourde suggested placing in Appendix. Miller stated that Board understands what the intentions of the agreement are, but it needs to be covered in a policy for future boards. Bousquet stated the need to notify the intent by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion on crafting the policy. Bousquet will draft a policy for board to review.

- Home School Students – list of home schooled students in Dummer distributed to board members.

- Parent Request – Student attending MVS Grade Four

Discussion on a student situation.

**MOTION made by Glover to allow the parent's request for the child to remain in the Milan Village School for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year, and with the understanding that the parent will need to reside in Dummer or have legal custody awarded to the grandparents for the child to remain for the 2009-2010 school year. Motion seconded by Miller. No discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.**

- NHSBA Policies

**MOTION made by Glover to accept the NHSBA policy updates of 9/2008 second reading and adoption for AC, ACE, BEA, BEB, BEDC, BHE, EEA, EEAE, EEAAEEH, EHAA, EIB, JCA, JEC, JFAA, JIA, JICDD. Motion seconded by Miller. No discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.**

VII. Business Administrator's Report

Second Draft Dummer budget 2009-2010

Discussion. Plourde stated that there is no way to predict actual number of students - they move in and out, special ed tuitions, etc. Plourde explained board has put measures in place, such as tuition expendable trust to avoid having a deficit budget, due to student movement.

Bousquet filed a copy of the Dummer/Berlin AREA Withdrawal Study Committee Report with the Dummer School District Clerk.

Board reviewed and discussed the proposed budget. Plourde suggested adjusting budget after hearing.

Plourde reviewed the warrant articles with the Board. Board amended the budget to include an additional student at MVS and the order of the warrant articles.

**MOTION made by Glover to accept the budget and the warrants as amended. Motion seconded by Miller. No additional discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.**

VIII. Principal's Report

Miller requested Dummer board meetings be placed on the MVS monthly calendars.

IX. Special Education Director's Report

Miller requested information on the Life skills Program. Bousquet explained the program.

X. Non-Public Session – none needed

XI. Next Regular Meeting

2/2/09 Budget Hearing with regular meeting immediately following.

XII. Other

Bousquet requested the Board review the draft of the letter for taxpayers prior to mailing. Miller requested the letter be mailed by January 12th.

XIII. Adjourn.

**MOTION made by Glover to adjourn. Motion seconded by Miller. No discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hockmeyer  
Recorder for the Board