

Milan and Dummer Joint School Board Meeting
Monday, October 4, 2010
Milan Village School Library

Present:

Milan: Kevin Evans, Sandy Pouliot, Patricia Shute

Dummer: Julie Glover, Diane Holt,

Administration: Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, MVS
Principal David Backler

Public: Heather Canning, WMCC student

I. Call to Order

Shute called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

Shute welcomed the Dummer Board.

II. Discussion and questions

Board members discussed the possibilities of increased population and changes. Evans asked about the demographics of the impact of the federal prison. Bousquet stated that of the 2 families he has spoken with, there were a total of 5 students. Bousquet stated one family drove up from Virginia just to look at the schools. He stated that fiscal decisions cannot be made until students are enrolled. Evans commented on the movement within the towns when there are students, especially special education needs students. Board members discussed the number of students who are not in the custody of their parents.

Bousquet asked where Milan Village School is going or any other ideas. Glover stated that Dummer has choice. She added that the junior high in Berlin is crowded, and there are no other buildings to open in Berlin.

The board members discussed the conversation that was held with the Berlin board this evening. Shute stated the goal of the Milan Board is to provide the best education for their students. Glover stated that 2 parents have come to their board with concerns their children have had in Berlin, and they have options now.

Bousquet asked if he should put this on the SAU agenda to put this valley together and then meet with the commissioner to change the schools so it would benefit the students. The board members discussed the need to change for the best interest of the students. The ability to use distance learning is also an option that is used. Bousquet stated more options, the better.

III. Principal's Report

Backler discussed the new website. He stated that each teacher is updating their sites weekly. He discussed the new paradigm of education with the shift in using computers as tools. Backler walked them through the site. Plourde added that the students are really excited. Backler stated the site is interactive. Bousquet stated that Backler has presented to other districts, and that the Commissioner of Ed discussed the MVS at the superintendents' meeting. Bousquet stated that instruction is based on data, and when a student wants to look at a school's website, it adds to their pride. Backler wants to know the growth model of each student, and this helps us do this.

Backler asked for questions. Plourde asked if kids can sign in from home. Backler stated that they are working towards access with the Google apps.

IV. Superintendent's Report

- Bousquet discussed the letter he has drafted to send to Berlin.

Shute stated it is important to leave the option of staying in the AREA agreement. Bousquet stated that the agreement can also be amended.

- Bousquet stated that Backler will be presenting at the North Country Professional Development Day.

- Shute presented the idea of nominating David Backler for Principal of the Year. She stated that the first step is write four letters. The letters must be comprehensive and one page. Bousquet stated that if Backler was chosen, he must remain in Milan through the 2011-2012 school year. Shute stated that in 5 years, Backler has turned this school around from a SINI school, DINI school, and an armed camp. Glover added that she is proud she was on the interviewing committee. Backler stated that he is flattered and very honored. He added that he feels the support from the boards and the administration. Backler will decide by tomorrow morning.

V. Special Education Directors' Report

Board reviewed the memo from Gordon and Hebert-Sweeny.

Evans asked for percentages in addition to the numbers of special ed and 504 students.

VII. Adjournment

Milan and Dummer Joint Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Hockmeyer
Recorder for the Boards