

Milan School Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
February 5, 2008
Milan Village School Library

Present:

Milan School Board – Chairman Patricia Shute, Kevin Evans, Sandy Pouliot
Administration – Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, Co-Director of
Special Services Steve Gordon, Milan Village School Principal David Backler
Public: Jackie Quintal

I. Call to Order: Shute called the meeting to order at 8:46 PM

II. Minutes of January 8, 2008

Pouliot inserted in Section 4 regarding the Berlin minutes to include “did not **contain** much information”

Pouliot moved to accept minutes of January 8, 2008 as amended. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0.

III. Public comments – none

IV. Written communications for Board to review

- A. Berlin school board minutes
- B. WAIT program letter Bousquet wrote for Milan School Board
- C. Verizon/FairPoint notification and what to do in the interim
- D. Local Government Center (LGC) Request for donation to legal fund

Bousquet explained that they are asking if Milan would be willing to contribute a portion of \$500,000. anticipated legal fees by donating \$100.21. Bousquet explained that employers cannot support additional costs for continuing to pay a medical subsidy, which was previously paid from an investment fund now nearing depletion. Plourde stated the employer would not only be liable for retirement portion but also kicking in an additional amount for a health insurance benefit. Evans asked if there is an implication to our employees, since we did promise them a retirement. He stated he didn't want to support something and then have our employees come back on us saying we had promised this. Shute stated we are not agreeing to pay the medical health insurance. Plourde explained that this started in 1990s and they did not increase the employers' rates quick enough. It is an RSA that employees portion will only be 5%. Jackie Quintal explained the medical subsidy and that there should not have been any money set aside for medical costs.

Motion made by Evans to make the donation of \$100.21 to the LGC legal fund. Motion seconded by Pouliot. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

E. Shute mentioned a letter she had received from State Senate Joseph Kenney from district 3 regarding ongoing legislation for state funding. He wants to restore control and focus at the local level and is presenting an amendment to the state's constitution.

V. Sped Director's Report

Gordon stated that the Board had copies of their report from February. He will have more information in their next report on student profiles. He reported that the Commissioner of Education sent Bousquet a complimentary letter. Bousquet reported that the schools in SAU are in compliance across the board for our special education program.

Gordon reported that they have hired Faith Kimball to do our vocational assessments for us. She is thorough, her reports are comprehensive, and she attends IEP meetings.

Gordon reported that a lot of our kids are really struggling right now. Recently he has been at the junior high school and is plugging in more one on one aides. He added that, unlike Milan who can meet the needs of all of our kids, Berlin's program does not offer a continuum of services so the only way is to have 1 on 1s to support our kids. We are going to continue to encourage Berlin to beef up their services for these kids. Pouliot asked if the students are on different teams, which would require 1 on 1s, instead of grouping them so they could receive 1 on 3. Gordon reported that Berlin is trying to set up a mini student support center. They need to continue to offer more in-depth services because without it, some of our kids are really struggling.

Shute asked about a new potential student that may require services. Gordon stated that he has contacted Backler and the student has not enrolled in Milan yet.

VI. Principal's report

Backler distributed a one page NECAP synopsis, and explained that the Milan made some good steps this year. He stated he would sit down with the Board to go over the information and our 6.5% increase. Bousquet stated that it counts in the state when you have made progress. He explained that schools get credit for students in 4 and 3, and also for students in 2 and 1, but not the same amount. Bousquet stated that schools need to move the students from 2 to 3, and to make every kid successful.

Backler explained how the staff is analyzing the data and how the curriculum is set up and that every teacher is teaching to the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).

Evans asked if the science curriculum would be starting in the fall. Backler stated it will not be a single program, but will be a multitude of different approaches and looking at programs that will meet some of the needs.

VII. Superintendents Report

A. Policy NHSBA 2007 Update 2nd Reading, Adoption

Motion made by Evans to accept the policies IHCA, ILD, ILD-R, JG, JIHD, JFAB, JICA, JICD, JICFA as amended. Motion seconded by Pouliot. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion accepted.

B. Calendar 2008-2009 Draft

Discussion regarding the holiday vacation as proposed. Backler explained that he had asked the staff for their input and they were concerned with having only 2 days before Christmas would be challenging to be

truly academic, by putting the two days in, then we would get 4 full extra days to cool the building down which would save some money on heating. Discussion on matching Berlin as well as bussing issues for the half days, and starting after Labor Day, but differing over the holiday vacation. Evans stated that if our students aren't going to be attending academically, then let's do what is best for the students. Pouliot requested that Plourde talk with transportation to see what it will cost us and what they are willing to work out with us. Shute if we wanted to reach some sort of compromise so the last days of school would match up with Berlin. Bousquet stated that he made sure the start days and the half days match up for families. Bousquet will email next draft to board members after looking at financial piece as well.

C. Other

Bousquet commented on how well Plourde has done on all of the budgets and how fortunate they are to have her.

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

A. 2008-2009 School District Warrants – Budget

Plourde stated that the Board could change the warrants and budget based on the discussions tonight at the Budget Hearing. Plourde stated the warrant articles and budget would be ready on Monday. Discussion on transportation portion of the budget.

Evans asked if the transportation bid is the only one received. Plourde responded yes, and we are paying for our own fuel. Plourde explained the contract and the changes that have been agreed on, including requiring the RFP to be part of the contract. Bousquet explained that Dummer approved the contract for 5 years contingent on Milan accepting the contract.

Motion made by Evans to accept the transportation contract for the bus carrier for a period of 5 years. Motion seconded by Pouliot. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Motion made by Pouliot to accept the 2008-2009 Budget and Warrants as presented this evening at the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

B. Plourde distributed vouchers for Board to sign.

C. Plourde reviewed the current Financial Report ending January 31, 2008

IX. Nonpublic Session

Motion made by Evans to enter nonpublic session at 10:08 PM, under RSA 91-A:311c.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Hockmeyer
Recorder for the Board