

Milan School Board  
January 6, 2009  
Milan Village School

Present: Board Members Sandy Pouliot, Patricia Shute, and Kevin Evans (7:08 PM)  
Administration – Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, Special Ed Co-Director Steve Gordon, MVS Principal Dave Backler  
Public – Selectman Randy Fortin

I. Call to Order

Shute called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

II. Approval of December 2, 2008 Minutes

**MOTION made by Pouliot to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Shute. No discussion. Vote: 2-0. Motion approved.**

III. Milan Budget Discussion with Selectmen

Shute welcomed Selectman Fortin and asked about the town budget. Fortin stated the selectmen are presenting warrant articles to start a building reserve fund for building a salt shed and/or maintenance and one to repair/replace a boiler.

Plourde discussed the budget. Plourde reported that the building project is coming to a close. The district will have a warrant to see if voters will change the roof capital reserve fund to a building & grounds fund, and any money left over from the building project, will be placed in the fund to handle any future costs for water concerns, etc. Plourde discussed the student support center that was voted down last year, how it was funded and the need for the student support center to help students.

Bousquet asked about any increases in the town's budget. Fortin reported that the budget is flat with the warrant articles. Plourde asked about any raises, and Fortin responded no increase, but a raise was given last year and an additional day off. Plourde stated that administrators will not be receiving a raise. Bousquet stated that it is being mindful of the economy. Staff will be receiving 3% increase to get staff competitive in the area. Support staff receiving an average increase of 3.66%. Plourde and Backler stated the need for the staff wages to be competitive in the area. Fortin asked if there is any increase in the insurance costs to be absorbed by staff. Plourde explained that staff will continue to be responsible for 20% costs, and noted that co-pays have been increased to \$10. Bousquet explained that there is only a 7.5% increase in cost for insurance, since they will be attending a training sponsored by the insurance company.

Fortin commented on the Student Support Center and its past reputation as a daycare, but hasn't heard any negative comments this year. Shute explained that the Student Support Center is providing support for students to make adequate improvement. Plourde explained that some of the money came from DINI money and grants. Fortin commented that they are discussing if the athletic department could be through the school. Plourde commented that a rec department is a town function and has always been an expense on the town side. She stated that if it was brought into the school side, then it becomes a school expense. Fortin stated the town would like the school district to be open to discussing in the future. Pouliot expressed her concern that the focus is on education. Fortin stated that the budget is \$7,000. Backler stated that he would like to have the discussion next year after seeing how this year goes.

*Evans arrived at 7:08 PM.*

Plourde discussed a capital reserve fund for an energy expendable trust fund to cushion future increase in costs. Plourde encouraged selectmen to call with any questions. Plourde stated that the \$43,000 increase in the budget is in tuition to Berlin. Backler stated there are no new things the school is adding, just the costs to sustain. Plourde explained to Fortin that the Student Support Center column for 2008-2009 is \$0, although the money was moved from other areas to cover the costs. Plourde also explained that money was moved to add an additional day in the library, not an increase in salary.

Fortin reported that there are 20% outstanding in tax receipts. Fortin discussed the work going on to help the town in paying county taxes from 100% to 60% / 40%.

Shute stated the town budget hearing would be at 6:30 PM, with the school budget hearing following. Shute thanked Selectman Fortin.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Written Communications

- Berlin Board Minutes

Discussion on the 12/17/08 agenda and the suggested ways for savings for schools i.e. 4-day schools, etc. Shute stated that to save money, there needs to be regionalization of services. Bousquet stated the district would need to follow the RSA.

Shute stated that she would like to bring the idea regionalizing services at the March meeting to see how the town feels about it. Backler asked about the possibility of Berlin bringing students to Milan, since Milan has room. Shute stated it was thinking outside the box, exchanging Berlin tuition for Milan junior/senior high tuition. Discussion on the improved climate at Milan school took place. Backler stated new students adjust to the Milan culture. Evans stated the concern for how to present regionalization to the voters to avoid a reactionary decision. Evans discussed that it makes sense with numbers continuing to decrease. Bousquet stated that it makes sense due to economics. Bousquet explained that there has to be the discussion but the RSAs must still be followed. Plourde asked if it should be on the warrant. Shute stated that she wants it on the warrant so townspeople can think about it and come for discussion.

**MOTION made by Evans to have the SAU office create a draft for the warrant that asks the voters “Do you want to have the school board to look into increasing cooperation between the school districts of the Androscoggin Valley?” with permission for the SAU staff to perfect wording. Motion seconded by Pouliot. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.**

Discussion on the future of education and the increased use of computers ensued.

VI. SPED Director’s Report

Gordon reported that the preschool screening has been rescheduled for January 16, 2009. He also reported that David Freschi, consultant in the area of Autism, would return to MVS to meet with staff in mid January.

Gordon discussed Response to Intervention and how the Student Support Center supports the RTI.

VII. Principal’s Report

Backler reported on the visit by DOE and the letter from Ed Murdough, NHDOE. Board requested the letter and report placed in the school district report and in the area newspapers.

Backler reported that they received \$5000 from the Roy Foundation Grant for preschool funding.

**MOTION made by Pouliot to accept the \$5000 from the Roy Foundation Grant. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.**

Backler reported on students receiving interventions and test results that show improvements. He stated that they would be MAP testing in February and graph to see how they are progressing, and to see if with their interventions, there is a drastic change. Evans commented that the student support center seems to be the 'golden star' for helping students, and we need to be prepared with the information to present to the townspeople. Evans stated we see the benefit and the result and it makes so much sense.

Backler reported on the curriculum committee. He stated that the program "Everyday Math" is probably the direction to go. Backler stated that the school is currently taking a step back and focusing on science curriculum as well.

Bousquet requested Dummer School Board meetings be placed on the Milan calendar.

#### VIII. Superintendent's Report

- NHSBA Policies 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading September 2008 Update

**MOTION made by Evans to accept the second reading and adoption of the policies: AC, ACE, BEA, BEB, BEDC, BHE, CA, EBBB, EEA, EEAA, EEAE, EEAAE, EH, EHAA, EIB, IF, IHBBA, IHBG, ILD, IMAH, IMBA, IMBD, JCA, JEC, JFAA, JIA, JICDD, KLG. Motion seconded by Pouliot. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.**

- Letter from Ed Murdough NHDOE Visit – Bousquet stated that he would include the letter in the district report and to be a press release in area newspapers.

- 2009-2010 Calendar

**MOTION made by Pouliot to adopt the 2009-2010 Calendar as presented this evening. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.**

- Other

Bousquet explained about an energy savings project through the Obama/Biden team. He submitted an energy grant for a pellet boiler and a windmill for each school.

Bousquet reported that Dummer Chairperson Jennifer Miller went to the Berlin SAU office to listen to the tapes of the 12/17<sup>th</sup> meeting where they amended the tuition agreement.

#### IX. Business Administrator's Report

- Financial Update

Plourde reported on the funds to date.

- 2009-2010 Budget Proposed Budget

Evans asked about what portion of the \$13.13 tax rate is the school addition bond. Plourde responded that the school building bond's portion is \$1.92. The Board discussed the presentation of the budget. They also reviewed the amounts returned to the town over the past few years. Board reviewed the history of fluctuating student enrollment, tuition and changes in fund balance. It was noted that the largest piece of the budget is tuition. Plourde stated the emphasis should be on the percentage increase in the budget 1.35%.

- 2009-2010 Warrant Articles

Board discussed applying \$75,000 from building project towards the building trust, and returning the balance to the town. Plourde presented the tax rates and funds balance returned to the town over the past years.

Plourde asked Board for their decision on returning funds and the amount for building capital reserve fund. Board decided to change warrant article 9 for roof capital reserve fund to \$75,000 and to change the purpose of the fund to Building and Grounds. Balance of money will come from the close out of the building project.

Board requested a graph that showed where money goes – to Milan and to Berlin. Plourde stated that she would create one.

X. Non Public Session

XI. Other

Shute asked about the sale of Girl Scout cookie sales at the school.

**MOTION made by Pouliot to allow Girl Scouts to sell cookies. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 2-0-1. (Shute abstained) Motion approved.**

Evans asked why Foreast school buses could use government plates. Plourde stated government plates can only be used for school transportation.

**MOTION made by Pouliot to adjourn. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0.**  
Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Hockmeyer  
Recorder for the Board