

Milan School District
2009 – 2010 Public Hearing Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Board Members Present: Sandy Pouliot, Patricia Shute and Kevin Evans

Administration: Superintendent Paul Bousquet, Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, MVS Principal Dave Backler, Special Ed Co-Director Steve Gordon

Public: Many Milan citizens attended the hearing.

1. **Call to Order:** Patricia Shute called the meeting to order at 7:48 pm.
2. **Review of 2009-2010 Budget and Warrants:** She then turned the meeting over to Pauline Plourde who provided a Power Point Presentation. It was stated that no new initiatives are proposed in the budget. The operating budget is slated to increase by 3%. A slide on how the budget is divided up by level: elementary, middle and high school was discussed. Currently the Milan Village school makes up 33% of the budget with 48.5% of the student population at a per student cost of \$5,745. The middle school makes up 12% of the budget with 14.4% student population and a per pupil cost of \$10,148; while the high school makes up 32% of the budget with 37.1% of the student population at a per student cost of \$9,221.

Two new warrants were discussed. 1) Creation of an Energy Expendable Trust Fund in order to minimize the impact in the operating budget while protecting the district in the event of huge fluctuation in the cost of heating. 2) Change of purpose to the Roof Capital Reserve Fund to the Building & Grounds Capital Reserve Fund to offer greater flexibility in its use. A building update of the project that began in 2003 was reviewed with an anticipated balance of \$129,000 of which \$75,000 will be asked to be placed in this fund. Those in attendance were reminded that the well was never addressed.

3. Questions and/or comments were as follows:
 - Coverage under the Honeywell Contract – currently preventive maintenance at a cost of \$12,900. The boiler is directly connected to a main office that is notified in the event of flame failure. When work is needed that is not considered routine, the district is charged.
 - The huge increase of \$64,000 + in transportation was questioned by a member of the public. Pauline explained that there are 4 or 5 students involved with individual education plans of day placement requiring transportation to and from the different programs. Transportation is for SPED students, afterschool needs as well as summer school.

- A resident wanted to know how the budget figures were put together. Paul Bousquet and Dave Backler explained that even though the budget was cut by \$98,000 last year, Mr. Backler, with Board approval, moved funds around in order to give the children what he felt was necessary and the increased test scores have proven that his decisions were good ones.
- Would some of the funding would be taken away once we were no longer “in need” since the NECAP scores had significantly increased. Pauline explained that once we meet adequate yearly progress for two years in a row, our “District In Need of Improvement” would go away as would the funds. The State is serious about having all students succeed and has gone in some instances, to take over management of the schools. Paul Bousquet explained how the needs are being met for all students and Mr. Backler gave the positive numbers on students who achieved proficient with distinction.
- J. Quintal had a problem with how the preschool was funded this year. She didn’t think that payment should have been made through town money while waiting to get the grant. Pauline made it clear that she fully understood that District funds would not be used to support the preschool program and it has not been used for those purposes. In the future, parents will be billed in the event grant monies are not fully in place and reimbursed at a later date.
- It was reported that we expected 12 kindergarten students next year; and 10 were projected for first grade.

4. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:10