

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

Present:

Berlin School Board: Mitch Couture, Linda Piven, Nicole Plourde, Superintendent Corrine Cascadden

Dummer School Board: Julie Glover, Diane Holt, Elizabeth Reudiger

Milan School Board: Sandy Pouliot, Kevin Evans, Patricia Shute (6:37 PM)

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

Public: Heather Canning, WMCC student

I. Call to Order

Pouliot called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

The board members introduced themselves. Shute welcomed the Boards to Milan.

II. Discussion and Questions

a. Cooperation and Joint Efforts

Bousquet explained the cooperation that has occurred to date. There has been discussion between Berlin and Gorham on transportation issues and sports – specifically girls' ice hockey. There has been concern on the economy and student enrollment numbers declining. He added that there has been discussion on space in the high school, in the junior high, but not in the elementary school in Berlin, and Milan has room.

Cascadden stated that there has been slow progress. She explained the discussions they have had on transportation logistics. She gave the specific areas they are looking at for sports.

Glover asked about transportation for sports as well. Cascadden stated yes, for sports as well. Bousquet stated the drivers have to be on the rosters. Bousquet explained that there were other ways people are getting together. He mentioned Pauline had gone to SAU 3 office to research their accounting software.

Cascadden distributed a packet to the Board members. The packet contained the Berlin School Board's goals and action plans for the future, to address Dummer's concerns. She also included a yearly report for 2009-2010, as well as the new Attendance Guidelines. She stated the goals and action plan would be presented to the city council next week.

Cascadden explained that Berlin is a School In Need of Improvement (SINI) and a District In Need of Improvement (DINI). She reported that there are areas students have improved in, but there is always room for improvement.

Bousquet asked how they are changing schedules for NECAPS. Cascadden stated that the juniors are getting breakfast and coming in early, so the testing groups are smaller. She added that the junior high is getting a pep talk to do their best and try. Piven stated the PTO is getting gifts for a raffle.

Cascadden added one major coordination effort has been setting up a mutual calendar between the districts.

Shute explained that Milan is very concerned with the issues at the junior high school. Shute explained that parents are asking to look at MVS becoming a K-8 school. Shute stated that at the school district meeting in March, they will be asking for input on what alternatives should the board be looking at to the AREA agreement. Bousquet stated that there have been inquiries from several parents. He added the board has asked him to draft a letter and submit to the paper to see what the community wants. Bousquet stated that with the last AREA agreement the community stated they only wanted a 5-year agreement instead of 10 years.

Holt gave her experience as being a grade 8 graduate from Milan and how difficult it was to adjust to being a freshman in Berlin. Julie Glover stated that she had been a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Brown school because there was no room in Milan. All board members discussed the benefits of going to a different school in grade 7. Pouliot stated the community is concerned with a reduction in Berlin's budget. Mitch Couture stated that they lost an additional 20 students, and in the near future there will only be 100 students graduating. Board members discussed the impact of the federal prison. Bousquet stated 16 families have been meeting with him and Cascadden who will be starting work at the prison in October.

Bousquet stated Milan's student population is dropping, but there is an increase with 23 kindergarteners. Cascadden stated that Berlin lost 14 kindergarteners, and downsized from 6 sessions to 5. Bousquet stated that there is downsizing everywhere, not only in this area.

Cascadden addressed Shute's interest in speaking to the council about the budget. She stated people might speak to the council on behalf of the school budget, even if they are not residents of Berlin. Couture stated that the districts need to find ways to share costs to save money. Pouliot stated that it is wonderful to see the collaboration. Bousquet explained about one teacher that is working with tough kids and these kids will graduate, and may start working with Berlin students, and share his expenses.

Glover commended Cascadden and Bousquet for having open communication and collaboration between the 2 districts.

Shute explained where Milan is going from this point. She stated that they start working on the budget in December, a public hearing in February, and then voting in March. Cascadden explained Berlin's budget process and will send a schedule to Bousquet as soon as it is set.

Bousquet asked about bell schedules – they are similar with the junior high and with Gorham. Board members commented on students being able to attend classes not offered in their districts.

Nicole Plourde asked about the extra room in Milan. Backler stated that all classrooms are being used. Bousquet stated there is one teacher for each grade level.

Bousquet stated that there are changes happening in education – virtual high schools, early graduations.

Shute thanked the Berlin School Board for coming.

III. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Hockmeyer  
Recorder for the Board