

Milan School Board
Minutes of Meeting
December 1, 2010
Milan Village School Library

Present: School Board – Sandy Pouliot, Patricia Shute, Kevin Evans
Administration: Paul Bousquet, Pauline Plourde, Steve Gordon
Public: Stephanie Price and the Milan Selectmen: Randy Fortin, Micky Miller, George Pozzuto

I. Call to Order

Shute called the meeting to order at 6:27 PM.

II. Public Comment

Stephanie Price addressed the board to state her support for MVS to extend to grade 8, as well as having the choice to send students to the school of parents' choice.

III. Discussion with Milan Selectmen

Pozzuto stated that the town greatly appreciated the April and May payments in the new school payment schedule. Bousquet asked how taxes are coming in. Pozzuto stated that the taxes are coming in ahead of normal. Bousquet explained that the money from the state for adequacy amounts will be decreasing for next year.

Pozzuto suggested possible cost saving is the selectmen and Board combine on a project. He stated there are costs to deferred maintenance and gave the example of Stearns Brook Bridge. Pozzuto stated that the Road Agent has asked contractors for quotes for paving a section of road, and the school board could contact to get a cost for paving the parking lot. Plourde stated to consider the underground storage tanks before deciding to repave the parking lot.

Pozzuto explained use of the elementary school for an emergency shelter. He stated there may be a chance to use the cost of constructing the cafeteria and the gym to match the grant for the cost of the generator. Pozzuto stated that they are getting specs from Ray's Electric for a generator. Plourde asked if it would be put out to bid, which it will. Pouliot asked if there was anything the school board could do to help.

Plourde asked if the buildings & grounds capital reserve fund could pay for the paving. Plourde asked who is developing the specs. Fortin stated the road agent. Bousquet stated that if the school's paving project is piggybacking on the town's paving, would it bring down the cost for the town. Shute stated that she doesn't want a band-aid job. Plourde expressed concern with the underground storage tank. Bousquet stated that we can check on keeping the underground storage tank, and the costs for paving.

Motion made by Pouliot to request Bousquet to investigate the costs for paving the parking lot. Motion was seconded by Evans. No additional discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

Pozzuto discussed the unemployment costs from the recreation department for the town. Plourde stated that rec department employees are independent contractors unless they are currently employed by the district.

Plourde asked if the selectmen would like to hold the public hearing together. Public budget hearing will be on Tuesday, February 1st. The Milan School District Meeting will be on March 7th.

Pozzuto stated that he has heard from people about the bullying law and that they are concerned. Shute explained the bullying law. Pozzuto stated his concern energy will be taken away from education and make the school assume the role of parents. Pozzuto stated that people need to be civil. Shute stated that the goal of the legislation is a wake-up call for everyone on the impact of bullying. Pozzuto expressed his concern that the primary objection of the school is to provide education to the pupils. Bousquet explained the bullying legislation and it is to protect kids if the bullying impacts the

victim's education. Bousquet stated the common thread of all school shootings were done by victims of bullying. He added that all staff will be trained and there will be a parent training, too.

Shute thanked the selectmen for their visit, and the Milan Selectmen departed at 7:20 PM.

IV. Approval of November 2, 2010 minutes

Motion made by Pouliot to accept the minutes of November 2, 2010 as presented. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

V. Written communications

- Berlin school board minutes
- US DOE Program

VI. SPED Director's Report

Gordon explained that his co-director is in Las Vegas to run a marathon with a goal of running a marathon in every state.

Gordon reported on several positive changes at the program at the college.

- 2 students are now attending from the co-op
- decrease of one student from Dummer who moved to Berlin
- David Fresche, an autism consultant, will be investigating a specific program to see if it would make educational sense for one of Milan's students to attend
- a special education staff meeting will be held on 12/14/10

Gordon departed at 7:28 PM.

VII. Principal's Report

Shute explained that David Backler is not present because he is presenting at the Christa McAuliffe Conference.

Pouliot commented about the positive NPR report.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- Second Reading Adoption Policy JICK.

He stated the policy will be located on the web, in the principal's office, and in the Milan School District Policy Book.

Motion made by Pouliot to accept the second reading and adoption of the policy JICK as amended. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

- Cooperation with Berlin - Input from community members

Bousquet asked the Board if information gathered from the community would be used to write a warrant article or would it be used to begin the study of withdrawing from the AREA. Board members discussed the positives and negatives for social and educational benefits for the students, as well as budgetary concerns. Plourde explained that if Milan becomes a member of the co-op it would be owners. Board members discussed a variety of options and generated more questions. Does initial study only gather data or do you pursue amending the AREA? Plourde asked if board wanted to pursue the co-op option. Evans asked if this would all start with the AREA agreement. Evans stated that there are things that occur all the time that pull us in different directions. Evans added is that we want to give us options and watch out for our students. Plourde explained that in the co-op, Randolph wanted choice, and one family was grandfathered to continue in

WMRHS and now all attend the co-op. Pouliot stated that there are concerns for students who are already in the high school. Discussion on the practice of grandfathering for students already enrolled in a high school and then phasing out gradually. Hockmeyer asked would Milan lose our own school board if Milan joined the co-op. Plourde responded that there would be 1 member from Milan on the board and then there is 1 member at large. Evans stated there are 10 pros and 10 cons. Pouliot stated that by moving our children from Berlin to a different school would make a major impact. Bousquet explained about the current venture of hockey with the co-op and Berlin and the girls' hockey team. He discussed options for skiing as well as the impact to the state class size.

Board agreed the first step is to look at withdrawing from the AREA agreement. Shute requested Bousquet inform the Berlin School Board that Milan will be looking at options for the students by withdrawing from the AREA agreement. Evans requested a presentation that will teach the public when the warrant article is presented

- Warrant School District Meeting – Initial Discussion

Bousquet suggested to the Board that Plourde put the warrant articles together and email to the Board members before the January meeting.

- Holiday Gifts for staff

Bousquet explained that the co-op is doing a basket for each school. Discussion on possible gift options. Evans will contact the culinary department at the college.

Motion made by Evans to authorize Bousquet to pursue the culinary department at the WMCC for a fruit presentation for the staff and to spend up to \$200. Motion seconded by Pouliot. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

- Other

Bousquet added that he will be attending a meeting investigating the possibility of reducing health insurance costs by combining with other districts.

IX. Business Administrator's Report

- 2010-2011 Financial Report

Plourde reported that Milan will only be receiving \$30,000, which will be added as revenue. This is coming from the state from federal money.

Plourde added that Backler has requested \$3500, for purchasing additional equipment for the computer lab.

Motion made by Pouliot to allow Plourde to reallocate \$3500, within the budget for purchasing equipment for the computer lab. Motion seconded by Evans. No discussion. Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

- 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

Plourde explained there is a reduction in state education grant.

Discussion on health insurance costs. Board discussed the costs for providing health insurance for part-timers. If it is removed, there is a sizeable reduction in the budget.

Plourde stated that the taxpayers have developed trust in our board.

X. Nonpublic

Motion made by Pouliot to enter Non public per RSA 91-A:3II a, c. Motion seconded by Evans. Pouliot – yes, Evans- yes, Shute –yes. Motion approved. Board entered nonpublic session at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Hockmeyer
Recorder for the Board