

Milan School District  
2010-2011 Public Hearing  
**Minutes of Hearing**  
Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
Milan Village School Library

Present:

School Board Members: Patricia Shute, Sandy Pouliot, Kevin Evans

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

Public: Randy Fortin, George Pozzuto. Dave Woodward, Norm and Paulette Frechette, Michael Miller

1. Call to Order: Shute called the hearing to order at 6:48 PM.
2. Review of 2010-2011 Budget and Warrants

Plourde presented a power point presentation. She started with the district's investments – having met the needs of children. She explained the Response to Intervention program, how socio-economically disadvantaged students are grouped by the state in test results, and the benefits of NWEA testing (which starts in Kindergarten). She presented information that demonstrated improvement in math and reading compared to the state's average in NECAP scores. She explained that MVS economically disadvantaged students group continues to improve on the NECAP. Plourde gave the credit to Principal Backler and the MVS staff. Backler added that in addition to the benefit of the student support center, there has been significant growth over the past couple of years due to the staff taking the GLEs and implementing them in their curriculum.

Pozzuto stated that school seems to be focusing on group that is economically disadvantaged and why would they be academically challenged. Backler responded that the federal government creates small groups, and this is one of the groups they have identified and has the possibility for success. Backler stated that the interventions have been applied to the entire school population.

Pozzuto asked if the improvements mean a reduction in funding? Backler, yes, a reduction of \$20,000.

Pozzuto stated there are rural development grants and he is curious to see population after this year's census.

Plourde displayed pie graphs of 2009 NECAP results. She explained there have been significant gains because of the investment in education.

Pozzuto asked with an average population, would it be 50/50 proficient/non proficient? Backler stated that the goal of NCLB in 2014 is 100% proficient.

Plourde discussed the proposed budget of \$3,065,372. She stated that 29% is salaries and benefits and 42% is tuition and contracts. Salaries increase by 6.2%. This includes hiring a High School Special Education Teacher to remove a child from a residential program and return to the area. She stated the average teacher salary increases by 2.86%, and the average support salary increases by 3%. She added there is an increase of 3.5% for Administration. She added that Backler has done an excellent job, and it is a small token.

P Freschette asked if the return from a residential program doesn't work, is there something in the contract that says we won't need the HS Special Ed Teacher anymore? Gordon stated this individual works with 5 students, some from Dummer as well as the GRS Co-op. Plourde stated that typically we word our contracts based on need. If other districts need them, they pay their share.

Plourde explained that benefits have increase by 21.7%. Our guaranteed max capped at 15.3%. Retirement increased by 15.2%, and staff retirement is .8%

Plourde explained the Contracted Services. There is decrease in need of paraprofessional support; extended school year is increasing by \$19,200.; Psychology, Speech, and OT are decreasing by \$22, 575.; and SAU services, specifically an IT Director increases by \$9,729.

Repairs increase by 12.2%

Jr. & Sr. High Tuition is down due to a decrease in population.

Woodward asked about the Charter School Tuition. Bousquet stated that it buys us a slot at the Charter School, for children who are in danger of dropping out of school; this will keep them in the school. The Charter School fills in the gap for students who otherwise would drop out. The Charter School requires academics, and students have to interview. There are only 54 slots. We have a slot, if we don't, then it would cost more.

Woodward stated that his understanding of a Charter School focuses on one thing. Bousquet stated that the purpose of the Charter School is it focuses on kids who do not fit in the high school mold. They have success stories on former students who are now attending BU, pursuing nursing, etc. If it were not for this place, they would have dropped out.

Plourde explained that supplies are down \$32,086. She stated that heating and electricity has gone out to bid and heating is locked in at \$2.36 for next year. She explained additional decreases in the budget. Some Capital reserve funds have reached their goal.

She broke down the budget to costs per student at the different schools due to tuition and transportation costs.

Fortin asked why Junior High costs more than high school. Plourde explained there are a number of reasons, including fewer students at the junior high, so the cost per pupil increases.

Plourde explained the projected revenues for 2010-2011 are \$478,316.

Plourde stated that she is projecting Fund Balance to reduce taxes of \$175,000. She added that it could be less or more, due to a lot of student movement among the towns.

Tax impact for the 2010-2011 budget is a reduction of \$0.25

Plourde explained the Articles and Warrants.

Article 8 – Recreation Department Management - \$7000.

This article is to provide a seamless operation of the sports program, the recreation director position, to develop budget and payment of costs, and to assess the needs of town. It would operate the same as if it was in the town side. The Town is going to continue to maintain buildings and grounds, and to pay the Milan School District for the Program Costs.

The Recreation Department budget breakdown:

Awards and banquets	\$ 1250.
Referees	\$ 1,000.
Equipment /uniforms	\$ 1,510.
Stipend	\$ 3,240.

Pozzuto stated the town would still appropriate it in the Town budget, and then transfer it quarterly, etc. He added the town is having a difficult time hiring a Rec director, and it is all for the kids at MVS.

Plourde presented information on the Capital Reserve and Trust Funds

3. Public Input

Fortin asked if water is still being drawn from across the street. Backler stated currently tests are fine.

4. Public Hearing Adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hockmeyer  
Recorder for the Board