

SAU #20 Board Meeting
June 28, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Milan Village School Library

Milan Board: Andrew Mullins, Patricia Shute
Randolph Board: Carol Gagnon
Dummer Board: Julie Glover, Jennifer Miller, Nancy Bisson
Errol Board: Absent
Shelburne Board: Absent
Gorham Board: Absent
Cooperative Board: Jo Carpenter, Donna Goodrich, Greg Corrigan, Angela Brown, Kathleen Kelley, Karen Cloutier, Michele Cormier
Administration: Patrick Low, Superintendent SAU 20; Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator; Becky Hebert-Sweeny, Co-Director SPED
SAU Staff: Maria Delisle, Office Manager
Press: Brooks Payette, Berlin Daily Sun
6 members of the public

I. Call to Order: Patricia Shute, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. when a quorum had been established. She then asked Kathleen Kelley to moderate the meeting in order to make it fairer. Kathleen then established time limits and guidelines for discussion.

II. Review of RSA and other documents pertinent to board activities: Patrick Low distributed a packet of information regarding access to public records, components of minutes, and reasons for non-public sessions.

III. Discussion of Board Activities: Patrick Low then summarized his understanding of the events relating to a non-public session held by the Milan Board on the afternoon May 2, 2006. Andrew Mullins and Patricia Shute each shared a detailed timeline of events relating to said meeting on May 2, 2006. After both had shared their side of the story, Patrick stated the action steps that were agreed to a recent Milan School Board meeting, as suggested by public participation at said meeting:

- All Milan School Board meetings will be posted at the Milan Town Hall; Yesterday's Country store; the Milan post office; the Milan Village School; on the SAU website (www.sau20.org); and in the area newspaper.
- Meetings will be held in the library or principal's conference room only
- The principal and superintendent will be made aware of all board meetings before the meetings take place
- There will be an attorney-Board-superintendent phone call

Kathleen Kelley indicated a balloon chart of SAU20 organization and shared that in order to access staff of the school a board must go through the superintendent. Boards should be policy driven and issues resolved via chain of command.

Several policies from the Milan School Board policy handbook were read and discussed. Specifically, these were BDD-R regarding the ways in which the board and superintendent should work together and BEC, non-public sessions among others.

At this point the public present had no questions.

Donna Goodrich indicated that she had a general question regarding non-public sessions and the right of the person discussed to know the outcome of the discussion and have a chance for rebuttal. It appears that there is not an RSA or other statute governing this, but Kathleen Kelley pointed out that following the chain of command protects the person in the instance of a non-public session.

IV. Non-public session: At 8:55 p.m., Jo Carpenter made a motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(e); Karen Cloutier seconded; roll call vote followed. Donna Goodrich, yes; Patricia Shute, yes; Andrew Mullins, yes; Jo Carpenter, yes; Greg Corrigan, yes; Carol Gagnon, yes; Angela Brown, yes; Kathleen Kelley, yes; Karen Cloutier, yes; Michele Cormier, yes; Julie Glover, yes; Jennifer Miller, yes; Nancy Bisson, yes. Motion passed.

Members of the public and press left the room.

At 9:28 the board returned to public session. Members of the public returned to the room.

V. Other: Patrick Low shared that the letter received by the Milan Board which prompted the May 2nd non-public session needs to be recognized in a public meeting and attached to the minutes of the non-public session.

Kathleen again reiterated the action list generated for the Milan School Board to follow. Additionally, the board will follow its existing policy and the board is to receive training on the role of school board members. Patrick shared a schedule of training from the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA).

Patricia Shute moved that the SAU#20 Board have, prior to the 06/07 school year and after the new superintendent begins, a workshop session by NHSBA on the Right-to-Know Law, the relationship of Board and superintendent, and the roles and responsibilities of school boards. Andrew Mullins seconded; all were in favor, motion passed.

Angela Brown moved that the SAU board censure the Milan Board based on right-to-know violations; seconded by Karen Cloutier; 11 in favor, 2 abstained (Patricia Shute and Andrew Mullins); motion passed.

Patricia Shute moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(a); Andrew Mullins seconded, roll call vote: Donna Goodrich, no; Patricia Shute, yes; Andrew

Mullins, yes; Jo Carpenter, yes; Greg Corrigan, yes; Carol Gagnon, no; Angela Brown, yes; Kathleen Kelley, yes; Karen Cloutier, yes; Michele Cormier, yes; Julie Glover, yes; Jennifer Miller, yes; Nancy Bisson, yes. Motion passed.

Members of the public left the room.

At 10:14 p.m. the board re-entered public session. Members of the public returned.

A suggestion had been made that perhaps Patricia Shute should step down as SAU chairperson. Karen Cloutier said she felt that this incident under discussion did not involve Patricia as SAU chairperson and therefore she does not recommend that Patricia step down as SAU chair. Carol Gagnon, on the other hand, pointed out that perhaps Patricia should step down until she becomes more familiar with the details of board and SAU process and policy and would be more comfortable with the role as SAU chair. The Board, however, made no motion regarding this recommendation and Patricia Shute remains chair of SAU#20.

At 10:20, Angela Brown moved to adjourn; Karen Cloutier seconded; all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown, Secretary SAU#20 Board