

**School Administration Unit #64  
Milton School Board Meeting  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
Nute High School and Library  
Public Session**

**Milton School Members:** Douglas Shute – Chairman, Brandy Banks, Tim Long, Paul Steer, Ann Walsh.

**Administration:** Michael Tursi \_ Superintendent of SAU #64, Nathan Castle – Financial Manager, Scott Currier – Nute Middle/High School Principal.

**Visitors:** Larry Brown, Rob Gourlay, Mark Leveque

■ **Douglas Shute called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**

° Paul Steer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Visitors/Public Comments:**

◆ Mark Leveque addressed the board concerning the *Nute High School & Library/Nute Middle School Student-Parent Handbook 2015-2016*. Mark Leveque handed the board members the *Student-Parent Handbook* with certain paragraphs highlighted and/or starred for reference. He spoke of the date when the school board last approved the *Student Code of Conduct* which was listed as September 10, 2014. On page 35 of the Student Handbook Mr. Leveque circled *Tobacco Use* and underlined *First Offense*. He added that *Vaping* is not mentioned in *RSA 155:66* and does not include extracurricular activities being affected. Mr. Leveque also mentioned that under inappropriate action there is no mention of document **JICG**. Document *JICG* was revised in the *Student-Parent Handbook* on December 9, 2015. The policy addresses tobacco products including *E-Cigarettes* and *Vaping devices*. Mr. Leveque stated that the document is not on the school website and was not distributed to students and/or parents, nor is it noted in the *handbook* or in the *Code of Conduct*. Mr. Leveque is concerned for the rights of students, stating the rules vary on documents and are not clearly communicated to students and parents. Mr. Leveque would like the school board members to review the Milton School District policies and update the information so the policies are clearly stated and the rules of discipline are more defined. Mr. Leveque would like any changes made to the policies be communicated clearly to students and parents. Mr. Leveque would like to make an appeal to the school board about a decision made by Michael Tursi – Superintendent of SAU #64, concerning an incident that happened on the school bus.

- Ann Walsh stated she had not heard of the incident.
- Douglas Shute informed Mr. Leveque that the school board members were not informed of the incident and would have to look at all the information.
- Mark Leveque would like to make an appeal at the next school board meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2016 at 5:00pm.
- Michael Tursi replied he acknowledges that the school administration did not do enough to communicate the change to the tobacco use policy. Michael Tursi stands by his decision concerning the incident and informed Mark Leveque to draft a letter about the incident that will be discussed at the appeal hearing.

#### **Minutes 1-27-16:**

- Ann Walsh made the motion to accept the minutes of January 27, 2016. Tim Long seconded this motion. The board voted as follow: Shute - yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)
- Ann Walsh made the motion to accept the nonpublic minutes of January 27, 2016 as amended. Tim Long seconded this motion. The board voted as follows: Shute-yes, Banks – yes, Long –yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

##### *2016-2017 draft calendar – update:*

- ◆ Michael Tursi stated that he did not receive the information for the calendar update in time for the school board members to review.
- Douglas Shute asked if the late information was coming from the teachers' union.
- Ann Walsh asked if the Milton schools can start earlier than last year so they can start the same time as Rochester School District. Does Milton have five teacher workshop days?
- Brandy Banks asked why there were so many scheduled half days and if they would add days to the school year.
- Tim Long stated that half days can be a burden for working parents.
- Michael Tursi answered that Milton will start the school year the same time as the Rochester schools. The reason for the half days is for scheduled teacher workshops and the half days count as full days. There will be six scheduled teacher workshop days during the 2016-2017 school year. Even though half days may be a burden to working parents, they have enough time to make arrangements for their children.

##### *High School Dropout Rate:*

- ◆ Michael Tursi stated that the last school year was the first year that the Milton High School dropout rate was 0%. This is quite an accomplishment. Michael Tursi

is very proud of all the teachers and their work with the students to accommodate their individual learning needs.

- Douglas Shute stated a big Thank you to the staff for a great job.
- Tim Long asked at what age were students allowed to drop out of school.
- Michael Tursi answered that the age of students able to drop out of school is eighteen.

◆ Douglas Shute stated that the town of Milton would like the school board members to put together an explanation for each of the school warrant articles to be put in a voter's guide for the town. The explanations are as follows:

### **Warrant Article 2**

The operating budget will increase \$209,522.00 compared to the 2015-2016 budget, which will be raised by taxation. We will also receive \$441,704.00 from federal grants for a total of \$9,844,249.00. Federal grants are not raise by local taxation. Major increases include health insurance and Special Education. The Special Education increase alone was \$219,000.00.

### **Warrant Article 3**

The SAU budget will increase \$28,680.00 compared to the 2015-2016 budget, which will be raised by taxation. Majority of the increase is due to health insurance. If this article passes, the net cost to Milton is \$414,078.00.

### **Warrant Article 4**

These funds (\$50,000.00) will be used to repair the roof soffit brick and mortar at the Elementary School. This repair was recommended by the facilities analysis that was provided by the Harriman Group and was prioritized as a safety issue.

### **Warrant Article 5**

This article is to raise money for year one of a three year lease for computer upgrades at Milton Elementary School, Nute Middle School, and High school and Library. The total cost of the three-year lease is \$162,484.97 with the first- year's lease of \$42,935.18. This is a three-year plan to access, improve, and update grade appropriate computer/technology applications. The first year focuses on Milton Elementary School by replacing outdated equipment, some dating back ten years.

### **Warrant Article 6**

These funds (\$32,782.00) will be used to re-shingle the south side of the Milton Elementary School roof. This is for phase one of a three-phase project to be completed over the next three years.

### **Warrant Article 7**

This article is to raise \$5,000.00 to purchase library books and media for Nute Library.

### **Warrant Article 8**

Should there be a surplus as of June 30, 2016; \$25,000.00 will be placed in the Milton School District Building Maintenance Repair, Renovation and Capital Reserve Fund. The current balance of this fund is \$46,679.63 as of December 31, 2015. These funds can be accessed by the School Board to address major repairs or renovations not included in the operating budget.

### **Warrant Article 9**

Should there be a surplus as of June 30, 2016; \$25,000.00 will be placed in the Expendable Trust Fund for the Education of Educationally Disabled Children. The current balance of this fund is \$127,259.13 as of December 31, 2015. These funds can be accessed by the School Board to protect the district from costly unanticipated expenditures. We anticipate drawing down a good portion of this fund this current year.

- ◆ The board members made the following suggestions to explain the warrant articles.
  - Douglas Shute stated in the future put the handicap warrant first in order of the articles.
  - Paul Steer asked if the three-phase projects were approved as a total cost.
  - Paul Steer stated that the explanation should include the age of computers and which schools will receive the updates.
  - Larry Brown, visitor, stated how the budget committee understands the technology article. Mr. Brown wanted a better explanation and description of the computer equipment and software.
  - Brandy Banks suggested putting in the cost breakdown for the following years of the three-phase projects.
  - Ann Walsh stated the safety concerns for roof repair, and the increases should include the health insurance cost.
  - Scott Currier stated that Milton Elementary School has not received any technology upgrades for at least two years.
  - Michael Tursi wants the board to feel comfortable putting in the article the balance as of date. Explanations contain the necessary information.

*High School Program of Studies:*

◆ Sabrina Kirwin, math teacher, and Samantha Ratacik, guidance counselor, explained to the school board the changes that have been made to the *Nute High School & Library Program of Studies*.

• Samantha explained the SAT test that grade 11 will be taking. The essay part of the SAT cost is \$11.50 but it is an optional part of the test.

◦ Ann Walsh asked for a cost of the essay part of the test and if the students have an option to take the test again.

◦ Douglas Shute asked how many credits are required to graduate and what is the cost to take the SAT's.

◦ Tim Long asked if the students were informed of the cost for the SAT.

◆ Samantha Ratacik answered that the cost of the SAT for students who would like to take the test again would be \$90.00. Students are informed of the cost. Each student needs twenty-four credits to graduate. There is a four year plan students can follow to make sure they have enough credits per year.

◆ Sabrina Kirwin explained to the board some of the new math programs available to students. Sabrina Kirwin is working with Great Bay Community College to offer students double credit to include high school and college. Sabrina had to become qualified by GBCC in order to teach the classes to the high school students.

◦ Ann Walsh asked if the credits will follow students to an out of state college and how Sabrina chose the classes to be taught at Nute High School.

◆ Samantha answered that each course had to have at least three students sign up for the class. All students may take the class for free but will not receive the college credits. The cost is \$150.00 for three college credits which will follow you to an out of state college. Financial aid is available to students who qualify.

◦ Paul Steer asked if there was a reason the middle school does not have a chorus.

◦ Tim Long asked if there was a golf team.

◦ Douglas Shute asked if the online program courses change to fit the student and what is the cost for the programs.

• Samantha replied that there are different programs to fit the needs of the students who work at their own pace.

• Ann Walsh replied, the cost to the district was \$3,000.00 for the Virtual High School (VHS)

• Scott Currier stated Nute High School was looking into other programs and the number of students taking online classes is decreasing.

• Douglas Shute thanked the teachers for their work on the programs.

■ Michael Tursi answered that there was no reason the middle school does not offer chorus. The music department is looking into expanding band. There is

currently no golf team. Mr. Tursi commended Samantha Ratacik and Sabrina Kirwin for all their work and how great it is to show what Nute has to offer.

- Brandy Banks made the motion to accept the Nute High School Program of Studies 2016-2017. Tim Long seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Shute –yes, Banks – yes, Long –yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

*Financial Report:*

- ◆ The Milton School District finances were discussed.
- Ann Walsh noted that the special education line was over.
- Brandy Banks asked if the school was tapping into the reserve but noted that the tech and voch lines had money left in their budget line.
- Nathan Castle explained the money in the special education line is for employees.
- ◆ Michael Tursi replied that the money left over will go into the trust fund line. There is \$12,000.00 for students taking college credit classes. The budget lines are in a transition because of the new budget process.
- Ann Walsh asked what the monies in the high school sports line are used for.
- Scott Currier replied the money includes spring sports.
- Douglas Shute asked if the monies for the teacher workshops were used last year.
- Michael Tursi replied that the money was used last year.
- Ann Walsh asked about the amount of the principal's money line, and the care of grounds line,
- Michael Tursi replied the money will be used to order paper. The care of grounds line still has money for snow removal.
- Douglas Shute asked about the monthly expense report and if the monies are encumbered.
- Michael Tursi answered that all the monies for the expense report are never encumbered.
- Douglas Shute asked if the food service numbers were calculated by the number of students.
- Nathan Castle replied he will have to check and get back to the board.
- ◆ Nathan Castle discussed the Grant Overview for fiscal year-2016. Grants are compared to grants that were used last year.
- Douglas Shute asked if Nathan Castle can give the board new Grant Overview forms since it is difficult to understand.

- ◆ Ann Walsh made the motion to accept the *Milton School District Cash Reconciliation* statement. Tim Long seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Shute – yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

*Food Service Contract:*

- ◆ Michael Tursi informed the board that the food service contract was up for renewal.
- Tim Long asked if the board had to put it out to bid.
- Ann Walsh also asked if the board had to put the food service contract out to bid, stating that Café Services was doing a good job.
- Douglas Shute asked if the contract is for 1, 2, or 3 years.
- Michael Tursi replied that in the best interest of the district, the board does not have to put a food service contract out to bid. The school is showing a savings, why go through the motion and cost of the bidding process if all are happy with Café Services.

◆ Brandy Banks made the motion to stay with Café Services and renew their contract with the Milton School District. Ann Walsh seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Shute – yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh yes (5-0-0)

**School Board Business:**

*Student letter:*

The Milton School Board received a letter of thanks from the Milton School Board Scholarship recipient, Mathew Nason. Mathew Nason will be attending Plymouth State University where he will pursue a teaching degree.

**Old Business:**

*SAU withdrawal-potential office location:*

- ◆ Ann Walsh would like the board to really consider the Damon House as a possible SAU office, the school already owns the building and the SAU business will not interfere with special education services.
- Douglas Shute suggested going to visit the building. He mentioned going before the new members join the board, then suggested making two visits.
- Scott Currier stated there are currently 9 students using the Damon House. They have different schedules so attend at different times.
- Michael Tursi stated that the Damon House is fully networked. Mr. Tursi also suggested making Damon House a Hybrid office to accommodate both.

◆ Tim long made the motion to enter a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A-311 a,b,c,d at 8:37pm. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Shute – yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

◆ Brandy Banks made the motion to re-enter the public session of the Milton School board meeting at 9:07pm Tim Long seconded the motion. The board vote as follows: Shute – yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

• Ann Walsh made the motion to change the Milton School Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00pm to Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 5:00 due to school vacation. Brandy Banks seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Shute – yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

Brandy Banks made the motion to adjourn the public session of the Milton School Board meeting at 9:09pm. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Shute – yes, Banks – yes, Long – yes, Steer – yes, Walsh – yes (5-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Collins  
Milton School Board Secretary