

Milton Board Meeting
7-6-16 Public Minutes
Approved

In attendance:

Milton Board: Doug Shute, Luella Snyder, Stefanie Berry and Paul Steer

Audience: Barbara Hughes, Peg Hurd, Larry Brown, Thomas McDougall

Mr. Shute called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Interviews were conducted to fill the vacancy on the school board.

Applicant #1 introduction: I am Peg Hurd. I have a Master's degree in Business Administration and secondary degree in Biology and Elementary certification.

Questions by Board Member Lue Snyder were as follows:

This year is going to be a very tough year coming and it's not going to be all bobble headed yes, yes, yes we have teacher negotiations coming up we are going to have to make changes to insurances and they are not going to like the things to come. I want to know if you will be up for that?

Answer: I have no problem saying NO to something I feel very strong on and backing it up with my research.

Do you have a lot of time to devote to the board, these budgets take a lot of time?

Answer: Yes, I have taken an education budget class.

Comment by Board Member Doug Shute:

Do you realize we are under a default budget and have to adhere to the bottom line? We are also under the municipal budget act with restraints and restrictions we have to stay under that bottom line or face going to court or be removed from the board. You might want to study on that if you haven't studied it.

Comment by Board Member Paul Steer:

Some school boards, for instance Wakefield, every time something is brought up they have a couple of board members that always reply "as a representative taxpayer we don't want higher taxes" some of the board members are out of touch with big picture and it's strictly based on tax bases. We need someone that is open minded about the entire picture and can see the whole picture.

Answer: I really have to go back to if it's extravagance then we will research it I am good with the big picture.

Comment by Board Member Paul Steer:

We have many committees.

Answer: I would love to be on the negotiating committee. I want to learn.

Closing statement by Peg Hurd:

I reviewed the technology warrant article that failed but would need to look into the reasons it did not pass. I have contacts in industry that could assist with software such as weather stations and simulation programs for student education.

Applicant #2 introduction: Reflected in his letter and obligation to the community for the good of the children what you get in me is a known quantity and I play nicely with others.

Question by Board Member Lue Snyder:

I know you don't like to cut budgets but this will be a rough time with teacher negotiations how do you feel about that?

Answer: Not a question that I can answer. The question is you will be deciding what if you should go with a 3/5 or 4/8 superintendent, clear sense of what the salaries are, special needs personal, so until you have those facts you can't figure the budget. Everything is open for negotiations. The budget that came to school last year was a prudent budget. Figure how we can live with that budget of \$5,000,000.

Question by Board Member Paul Steer:

You have explained what we already know. How are you going to show a difference? What can you personally bring to the board to make a difference?

Answer: Will I spend money, will be a consensus? What is the most reasonable, is not going to be carrying on a private war. I was at the principal interviews and a teacher raised saying we are collecting data, the thing is not to be overwhelmed by that data they had my vote. My vote is to continue support to Wakefield for good will and hope for their educational needs. On the last budget meeting my role was to utine is what do you think, what do you think, what do you think?

Question by Board Member Stefanie Berry:

Have you ever challenged an expert?

Answer: Yes he gave an example. I like the prospects of pooling information. Where the expenses are with you taxes and that you cannot escape from the costs and on the table with negotiations using the processes. We don't know if we are a hot spot for student enrollment and it's dropping.

Comment by Board Member Doug Shute:

You already know the budget.

Questions by Board Member Stefanie Berry:

Are you the chair of the budget committee? Is that a conflict of interest?

Answer: Yes, I would resign from the budget committee.

Closing statement by Larry Brown:

Read my enclosed letter.

Audience member Barbara Hughes asked if Larry Brown would step down from the budget committee. The response was yes.

The board conducted a private individual written vote. Chairman Shute objected to using a written ballot. The vote needs to be public. On a motion by Doug Shute and a second by Stefanie Berry the board nominated Margaret Hurd as the new school board member. The vote was as follows: Shute, yes; Berry, yes; Snyder, yes; Steer, yes (4-0-0).

On a motion by Paul Steer, second by Lue Snyder the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Shute, yes; Berry, yes; Snyder, yes; Steer, yes (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette McDougall
Secretary Pro tem