

**School Administrative Unit #64
Milton School Board Meeting**

Wednesday, May 11th, 2016
Nute High School and Library
Public Session Meeting Minutes

Chairman Shute called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and welcomed everyone.

Members in Attendance: Doug Shute – Chairman, Brandy Banks, Stefanie Berry, Lue Snyder, Paul Steer, Jennifer Clarke – Secretary

Administration: Michael Tursi – Superintendent of SAU #64, Nathan Castle – Financial Manager

Public in Attendance: Bob Carrier, Miranda Myhre, Kim Davis, Jerry Gregoire, Les Elder, Barbara Hughes, Priscilla Colbath, Thomas McDougall, Lynette McDougall

Pledge

Roll Call: Lue Snyder, Paul Steer, Brandy Banks, Stefanie Berry, Chairman Doug Shute, Michael Tursi, Nathan Castle

Announcements:

- 1. **Election of Officers/New Board Member Introductions:** – Chairman Shute introduces new Secretary, Jennifer Clarke.

Public Hearing – Discussions and Possible Actions:

- 1. **Requests for Additional Funds for Capital –**
 - a. M. Tursi – foundation dig discovery of oil tanks, they were unknown, there was contaminated soil. Cost to remove has increased cost an additional \$3278.58. Original cost was \$8478 (approx.) now \$11756.11 total projected cost.
 - b. B. Hughes – Can't EPA fill tanks with sand, why remove tank?
 - c. M. Tursi – Concerns for what was/has been in tank. Contamination was found around the outside of tank. Testing was completed to verify.
 - d. B. Hughes – Was it heating oil?
 - e. M. Tursi – Yes, but also with the unknown, other contaminants could have been dumped into it.
 - f. Chairman Shute – The testing was professionally done by an outside company, and was overseen by the Board.
 - g. B. Hughes – Was it ever an option to fill the tank?
 - h. M. Tursi – Yes, it had been an option as done with a tank on the school property.
 - i. L. Snyder – This particular tank was in the ground longer and everything was questionable including when it started leaking.

Chairman Shute closed the public hearing at 6:07pm.

**Motion for additional funds of \$3278.58 made by P. Steer and second by B. Banks. Motion carried.
Vote yes (5-0-0)**

Public Comments: None

Action on Minutes:

1. April 27th, 2016 Public minutes– Motion to approve 4.27.16 Public meeting minutes as amended, made by P. Steer. Second by B. Banks. Vote yes (5-0-0).
 - a. Amendments:
 - i. S. Berry – Where minutes state “ball field is legal size” - needs to say “in order to make the ball field the legal size, propane tanks need to be moved toward the parking lot 37 feet.”
 - ii. S. Berry – Pg. 2. Where it stated “Sally Reilly said” it needs to state “Miranda Myhre”.
 - iii. S. Berry – Strike line from the minutes where it stated “Stefanie Berry a car is a risk”
 - iv. S. Berry – Where it states “Michael Tursi said the only maintenance cost for the ball field is \$4500 per year” should be “budgeted at \$4500”.
 - v. S. Berry – “Required items for the SAU may include” should state “Optional”
 - vi. S. Berry – Strike the line on pg. 4. “Stefanie Berry stated the buildings are old and need lots of work. Does the town want low taxes or an excellent school system?”
 - vii. S. Berry – “Brandy Banks would like the board to look at other high schools” should be Stefanie Berry.
 - viii. Chairman Shute –Where Lou Snyder asked about the field, it should say the soccer field.
 - ix. Chairman Shute –Where it states “Doug Shute would like to see a crossover” add “from the Milton Elementary School to the Middle School parking lot”.
 - x. B. Hughes – Pg. 4 would like to strike Barbara Hughes comment where she asked for detailed reports.
2. April 27th, 2016 Nonpublic minutes– Motion to approve 4.27.16 Nonpublic meeting minutes as amended, made by B. Banks. Second by L. Snyder. Vote yes (5-0-0).
 - a. Amendments:
 - i. S. Berry – comment, should be more detailed where it states “A letter was presented to the Board by personnel and needs to be looked into.”
 - a. M. Tursi – can’t give detail unless you seal them in nonpublic.
 - b. L. Snyder – they have been out to the public for 72 hours’ now
 - ii. M. Tursi – change “A letter was presented to the Board by personnel and needs to be looked into” to “a letter was presented to the Board by the Milton Education Association and discussed”.
3. Public Comments –
 - a. L. McDougall – A lot of time is spent on minutes, why doesn’t the board go over what they want changed and then give the redlines to the Secretary?
 - i. P. Steer – stated it needs to be done in front of the public

- b. B. Hughes - Mary who was doing the minutes did a great job, but the most recent minutes were not nearly as "flushed out" as previous. Not sure if it is my (B. Hughes) opinion or if there was not enough clarification. Not sure if there is any decision to make the minutes less inclusive.
 - i. Chairman Shute – Not from his perspective
 - ii. S. Berry – Let us look forward; there is now a new Secretary taking minutes. We will just ask that the Secretary be as clear and accurate as possible. The people of the community are reading these and are seeking information about what goes on in the meeting.
 - iii. J. Clarke – reassures the board and attendees that minutes will be as accurate as possible and electronic devices will be used to assist in that.

Administration Comments:

- 1. M. Tursi –
 - a. Update about superintendent services, spoke with superintendent of Somersworth Monday night; will be meeting with joint board. Not heard back yet.
 - b. Update on elementary principal, committee met Monday, reopening the search. Position will be posted with short turn around, may call special meeting of the board to fast track the process. Asked the board to be prepared for short notice meeting on applications.
- 2. Board Comments –
 - a. L. Snyder – Barrington superintendent is 80%, their health insurance is 80% and they have a full-time office. L. Snyder got a copy of their budget and thought it could be used as a heads up. Feels the superintendent for Milton should be a part time. She will be researching more.
 - i. S. Berry – How many kids in Barrington?
 - ii. M. Tursi – stated Barrington is a much larger district. Suggested looking at Pittsfield school district.
- 3. Public Comments –

**Motion to reopen search for elementary school principal made by P. Steer and second by L. Snyder.
Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)**

Financial Reports:

- 1. Chairman Shute – There was a large amount of money spent. Spoke with N. Castle about every line compared to last month. Pg. 1 showed a big increase in insurance because of new hires.
 - a. N. Castle – Increase of \$9000 on pg. 3 due to special education support salaries.
- 2. M. Tursi - Pg. 20 of the expense report, bottom line remaining is \$109876.65 on pg. 26, this time last year it was over \$200,000. Would like to recommend a freeze on budget for controllable cost such as supplies.
 - a. Chairman Shute – What was spent this month compared to last month?
 - b. N. Castle – not sure at the time.
 - c. S. Berry - \$15000 for middle school on pg. 1 that was spent, does that mean that there is a new teacher?
 - d. N. Castle – That stays negative. No new teacher.

3. Public Comments –

- a. L. Elders – Can the expenditure reports be put out for public review on the SAU website?
 - a. S. Berry – asked if there should be a discussion of pros and cons
 - b. L. Snyder – stated it is tax payer money should be online. Mentioned that copies of the all reports are also at the High School Library.
 - c. P. Steer – stated that it would be a good way for everyone to see where the money is going.
 - d. Chairman Shute – asked which reports exactly
 - e. M. Tursi – stated that they are looking for expense reports
- b. B. Hughes – asked M. Tursi about the \$200,000 that was left last year compared to the \$109,000 left this year and why.
 - a. M. Tursi – unexpected expenditures and special education were the two highest expenses

Motion to freeze budget for controllable cost for the remainder of the year made by P. Steer and second by L. Snyder. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)

Motion to post copies of the expenditure report on the SAU website for public review made by L. Snyder and second by P. Steer. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)

Monthly Revenues: No questions

Grant Overview: No questions

Treasurer Report:

1. P. Steer – Administrative comment: can the Treasurer Report be condensed as to not take up so much paper?
 - a. N. Castle – will take care of for next meeting

Motion to accept Treasurer Report made by P. Steer. Second by B. Banks. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)

Café Services: No questions

SAU Planning:

1. Other District Research –
 - a. L. Snyder – Talked to Administrative Assistant at Barrington; Barrington superintendent is 80%, their health insurance is 80% and they have a full-time office. L. Snyder got a copy of their budget and thought it could be used as a heads up. Feels the superintendent for Milton should be a part time. She will be researching more.
 - i. S. Berry – How many kids in Barrington?
 - ii. L. Snyder – Did not ask for student number, but thought it was compatible
 - iii. M. Tursi – stated Barrington is a much larger district. Suggested looking at Pittsfield school district.

2. Advisory article -
 - a. M. Tursi - last meeting 2009 advisory warrant article, something the board may want to put together for March 2017 to get a feel for what the residents want. It is on the SAU website under Community Information.
 - i. S. Berry – stated that she cannot find the information that came from the last inquiry on the website. Does not feel that enough information was put out to the public.
 - ii. P. Steer – stated that it was put out several times and no one came to listen.
 - iii. M. Tursi – stated info was provided two years ago and may not be accurate so it could be used as an outline.
 - iv. Chairman Shute – stated that in order for students to find another school they will need to pay tuition and other fees.
 - v. M. Tursi – recommended an advisory article to allow the community to decide what they want to do, then act on it. Then take steps to provide all information to the voters
3. Release of Raise Information to the Public –
 - a. Chairman Shute – Stated he feels that the public should be notified about the raises
 - b. M. Tursi – Where to release the information?
 - c. L. Elders – Suggested to put on website. Board agreed.

Motion to release information about the raise to be posted on the SAU website made by B. Banks. Second by S. Berry. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)

Old Business:

1. Bus Bid –
 - a. M. Tursi – There were 3 bids to purchase the van
2. Softball Field –
 - a. Chairman Shute – Irving came to look at moving the tanks, no estimate yet
 - b. L. Snyder – No one contacted the Water District about how much the softball field may use in water. The district wants to know how much is estimated for water consumption so that the Water District can determine if it will be available. This field looks to be smaller than the one at the town beach; town beach pays \$1400 per year. Estimated guess at this time is \$1000-\$1300 for water for softball field.
 - i. M. Tursi – this information will be passed onto Bob. (last name not given)
 - c. L. Elders – does the town give a special rate for the school’s sprinklers?
 - i. L. Snyder – That would need to be discussed with the commissioner.
 - d. S. Berry – What is the \$4500 estimated budget for?
 - i. M. Tursi – maintenance of field, fertilization, grating, etc. Number came from Pat Smith and Fred Cameron

Motion to sell the van to highest bid of \$1075 to Jessica Eldridge made by L. Snyder. Second by B. Banks. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)

Motion to recess made by B. Banks. Second by L. Snyder. Motion carried at 6:59 PM Vote yes (5-0-0)

Motion to go back into public meeting made by P. Steer. Second by B. Banks. Motion carried at 8:00 PM Vote yes (5-0-0)

2. Softball Field Continued –

- a. B. Hughes (asked by L. Elders) – looked at the facilities minutes and no mention of the ball field, also looked at the school board meeting minutes and the same thing. How can this just “plop out into conversation”?
 - a. M. Tursi - it started early fall, during the budget time, it would have been in October or earlier of 2015. There was not a lot of detail. It was based on volunteer work discussion with Fred Cameron and Pat Smith, just coming to light with the clearing of elementary field within the last few weeks. It was in budget talks when determining the budget.
 - b. B. Banks – it was before fall, after the ball field at the beach was redone.
 - c. L. Elders – The meetings were not public or recorded?
 - d. M. Tursi – All of the Board conversations were public except for the discussion with Pat and Fred.
 - e. P. Steer – it was also public at the Town Budget meeting at two separate meetings
 - f. M. Tursi – asked the Board if they wanted to move forward and got approval
 - g. L. Snyder – Who brought this forward first?
 - h. M. Tursi – Smith and Cameron
 - i. P. Steer – Cameron and Smith brought it forward because the boys play on a beautiful field and the girls play on the “dump” and they wanted something the girls could be proud of
 - j. L. Elder – Both Departments are under a default budget, no tax dollars will be spent on this or labor from employees?
 - k. Chairman Shute – Except for the \$4500 and the water, everything else is proposed to be voluntary.
 - l. L. Elders – the \$4500 for?
 - m. Chairman Shute – for the yearly maintenance of the field
 - n. S. Berry – The goal of the board has been to reach out to nonprofits to help with fundraising to take care of what is not in the budget
 - o. L. Elders – Was the \$4500 added as a new line item or was it an existing line item?
 - p. M. Tursi – It was an added line item, but the Board has the authority to move the bottom line of the pre-existing budget.
 - q. P. Steer – Who maintains the beach ball field?
 - r. L. Snyder – The Town of Milton
 - s. P. Steer – Would like to know why the Town can’t transfer responsibility from the Lockhart to the new softball field
- b. Questions from the School Board to take to the Town:
 - a. If Lockhart is going to be closed, why can’t the Town take care of the new field
 - i. L. Elders - It appears the town wants to get rid of the responsibility and give it to the school.

- ii. S. Berry – Maybe the Rec Department can assist (?)
- b. Who can do the netting and poles
- c. Water
- d. The parking lot being too close; needs to be moved, was it taken into account
- e. Ask opinion on what else we may need and how we may get funding or volunteers
- f. L. Elders list of questions will be brought to the Board of Selectmen to look for answers
- c. S. Berry – mentioned the respect and gratefulness to all of those who volunteer and donate. The figures are into the tens of thousands and they should be given appreciation and respect.
- d. S. Berry – Mentioned that she has heard students are being paid to manage teams as did L. Snyder. Student should not be paid for this; it is a resume item or community volunteer situation. The purpose of bringing this up is that present funds need to be looked at to see how much of the \$4500 fees could be paid for with the existing budget.
 - a. M. Tursi was not aware of this.
- 3. Chairman Shute has the code and the key for the Town Hall for future meeting location. People are being trained to run machines. L. McDougall volunteered to train for the equipment. Schedule is TBD for the space.

Facility Comments: None

Other Board Comments: None

Other Public Comments:

- 1. L. McDougall – How come things aren't planned out for the ball field, nothing is defined, everything is adhoc?
 - a. P. Steer – Things come up unplanned; when things are offered for free you take them when they give them. Praise to all of the volunteers for all they have done.

B. Banks motioned to go into nonpublic session at 8:32 PM under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), (b), (c) and (d). Second by P. Steer. Motion carried. Vote (5-0-0).

Motion to come out of nonpublic under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), (b), (c) and (d) at 8:55 PM made by P. Steer. Second by B. Banks. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0)

Next Meeting: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday May 25th, 2016

Adjournment:

B. Banks made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Chairman Shute seconded. Motion carried. Vote yes (5-0-0).

Note: Minutes here do not represent verbatim conversation. Direct quotes will be appropriately marked with the (“) symbol.

Respectfully Submitted by: Jennifer Clarke – Recording Secretary

These are **DRAFT** minutes until approved by the School Board: _____