

**School Administrative Unit #64  
Milton School Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 14, 2014  
Community Room Nute High School and Library**

**Milton School Board:**

Ann Walsh – Chairperson, Brandy Banks, Andy Crone, Douglas Shute, Paul Steer

**Administration:**

Michael Tursi – Superintendent, Andrew D’Agostino – Business Administrator, Aaron Bronson – Principal Nute High School, Caroline Roberge – Assistant Principal Nute High School

**Visitors:**

Chip Gehres, Kerry Buchanan, Dave Buchanan, Lisa Alexander, Madyson Alexander, Lue Snyder, Chrissie Henner, Chayse Steffiare, Penny Baker, Jessica Parker, Jason Parker, Bonny Young, Amanda Dooda, DonnaMarie Currier, Miranda Myhre, Rebecca Bosch, Annalissa Flaherty, Brandon Lewis, Chris Coombs, Michelle Wachowiak, Mark Wachowiak, TinaMarie Shilling, Jeff Berry, Rodney Dow, Austin Dow, Lynda Dow, Patty Williamson  
I apologize if I missed anyone.

**Ann Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Douglas Shute led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Brandy Banks made a motion for the board to enter a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A-311 a,b,j. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The board voted as follows to approve this motion for a nonpublic session: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

**Nonpublic Session:**

While in nonpublic session the board accepted nominations, resignations and retirement requests. A request for leave was denied. A discussion was held on the teacher negotiations.

Brandy Banks made a motion to exit the nonpublic session. The motion was seconded by Andy Crone. The board voted as follows to exit nonpublic session: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

**The public session resumed at 6:53pm with Ann Walsh calling the meeting to order.**

**Public comment:**

A discussion regarding Nute High School is the topic of discussion. Public questions and comments are as follows:

- There was a warrant on the ballot several years ago to look into the options of sending students to other schools. Voters had agreed with warrant.

- Somersworth and Farmington have room for Milton high school students.
- Board is looking into other school districts as well.
- Building needs a lot of renovations.
- Middle school which is a newer building could take a second floor, cost needs to be looked into.
- School Board is looking at academic standings of other districts as well as the cost of sending students to other schools.
- Why are Middleton students leaving Farmington? Why are Rollinsford students leaving Somersworth?
- Bus situation – adding additional bus routes, drivers and buses?
- By sending high school students to another district, the school population would be cut in half so what would happen to teachers who work in the middle and high school? Some teachers teach multiple grades.
- Will Milton students be accepted by other schools and what would happen with sports?
- Nute School is part of Milton's identity.
- High school children in the same family, will/could they end up going the different high schools?
- Currently at Nute, one must walk through some classrooms in order to gain access to another classroom.
- Building is not handicap accessible.
- Nute does not have an elevator.
- School building is not up to all building codes and could potentially be closed by the state.
- School Board is looking in ALL options; not just Farmington and Somersworth.
- Voters in town, not the school board, will decide what to do with Milton schools.
- Our superintendent is working to obtain all information on all options.
- Parents expressed their desire not to have students transferred out of Nute in their senior year.
- A working parent who has children of various ages asked if the change of school would have an impact on her older children watching their younger siblings?
- How would the traveling effect the maintenance of current buses?
- Could Wakefield be approached to build a high school?

Mr. Tursi made the following comments:

- He has been approached by both Farmington and Somersworth.
- Both districts would like to have Milton students join their academic institutions.
- At a previous meeting the public asked for Gov. Wentworth and Noble school to be viewed.
- An architectural firm needs to come to Nute to inform all of what is needed to bring building up to code.
- Analysis should include cost of each item that needs to be brought to code.
- This is a seismic area and those codes need to be followed as well.

- Options: Area Agreement, Joint Maintenance Agreement, Tuition Agreement, Co-op district for high school, or Status Quo.
- An area agreement could be in effect for 5 to 15 years.
- Preliminary Information: Superintendent of Gov. Wentworth High stated that they do have space but do not wish to take all the Nute H.S. students. As this would increase their school population by 40%.
- Preliminary Information: Superintendent of MASD 60 – Noble H.S. does have space; but the school board has not given the superintendent any direction.
- Somersworth does have space for Milton’s students. They are both willing to present their proposal and work with Milton.
- Farmington also has space. Farmington is willing to hold conversations with Milton.
- If Farmington does take our students, they will be over their capacity. This could mean that Nute will still have to be used.
- Farmington may have to build an addition. Milton will be financially responsible for the Farmington addition.
- Nothing could occur before the school year 2014/2014. Preliminary operating budget for the high school for that year would be \$2,471,967.24 Therefore we would have to negotiate a tuition cost between \$12,500. to \$13,000.00 per student per school year.
- Current cost is \$15,522.00 per pupil.
- The cost per pupil would be a negotiation point in the agreement for a school to take Nute students.
- WE are not looking into adding busses.
- Transportation to Farmington: Kindergarten through grade 8 would be on the same afternoon bus as high school students. Currently student average travel time is 45 minutes. Traveling to Farmington would add an additional 10 minutes to the travel time.
- Average travel time for our high school (only H.S.) students to Somersworth – 1 hour and 45 minutes. Somersworth could take all of our high school students.
- Travel time to Noble High would average 1 hour and 33 minutes. Noble could take all of our high school students.
- By not having athletics Milton would see a savings of \$30,000 in transportation cost and in Vocational Tech.
- Mr. Tursi information as given is current as of today, May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- In the fall, Mr. Tursi will conduct a community forum to give voters information.

Discussion continued with parents.

- The note on Nute school will be paid off on August 15, 2020.
- Future growth of Milton will depend upon its school system.
- All information is vetted through the school board. Mr. Tursi receives direction from the school board as to what should be presented to the community. For example: The type of information given should make sense and be educationally sound for our students.
- A parent suggested that part of the information presented to the community should include what is NOT feasible and why.

- Some parents would be interesting in learning about what Rochester has to offer.
- What make one think that Farmington will treat Milton any better than it has treated Middleton, which has not been good?
- It is not the building that teaches our children, it is our staff.

DonnaMarie Currier wanted everyone to know that on May 22, 2014 at 6pm she will be giving a brief presentation. Then Ms. Currier will introduce Kathi (Meyer) Sullivan to give a "Youth to Youth" presentation on binge drinking.

**Minutes of last meeting on April 9, 2014:**

Doug Shute made the motion to accept the public minutes as amended.

This was seconded by Andy Crone. The entire board voted as follows to accept the motion:

Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

Brandy Banks made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup>.

This was seconded by Any Crone. The entire board voted as follows to accept the motion:

Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

**Administration:**

Monthly Financial Report

- All workers compensation has been paid so we will not see a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter bill.
- Special Education – if overspending does occur then it could be covered from the Capital Reserve Fund. Overspending is due to having out of district enrollments that were not anticipated.
- Transportation is currently showing a deficit of \$25,769.11. Mr. D’Agostino will give the board a line item report. This report will show the expenditure of monies.
- By June all encumbrances should be cleared.
- Food Services is expected to have a deficit of \$80,000.00 This is due to not taking in enough money to cover their costs.

Revenue Report:

No comments at this time on this report.

Grant Overview FY 2014:

No comments at this time on this report.

Treasurers Report:

Paul Steer made a motion to accept the March Treasurers Report.

Andy Crone seconded the motion. The entire board voted as follows to accept Paul’s motion:

Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Mr. Tursi informed the board that he received a letter from the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Virginia Barry, with regard to the SAU withdrawal committee recommendation; The state board approved the recommendation.

**Old Business:**

The signs that were placed on the gymnasium doors have made a big difference in cleaning up the gym. The custodian would like to have similar signs placed on the computer room doors.

**Committee/Board Member Reports:**

## Facilities Meeting:

- Office and gymnasium roofs are a priority.
- New roofs will have a 10 year guarantee.
- A. W. Therrien Company, Inc. bid is \$86,935.00.
- B. R. Jones Roofing Co. bid is \$81,830.00.
- Recommendation is to use B. R. Jones Roofing Co. They have previously done work both here at Nute School and at the Paul School.
- Money for roofs would come from the building maintenance fund.
- Warrant Article: \$30,000 was to go for security, \$25,000 was designated for students with disabilities, and \$50,000 was designated for building maintenance.
- Facilities analysis will be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund.
- There should be enough money in the fund to replace both roofs.
- How much of the fund the board decides to spend will depend on how much money should be held for emergencies.
- Both roofs should be done at the same time as the new roofing system is seamless.
- Currently it is projected to have \$50,000.00 remaining in current budget that could be placed in the Capital Fund.
- Facilities analysis should cost approximately \$30,000.00.

Decision to approve the bid from B. R. Jones Roofing Company is to be tabled until the June board meeting.

Regarding the Facilities analysis, it was recommended that the board accept the bid from Harriman Company. Harriman placed more detail in their bid than other companies. They will also do more than the other bidding companies.

Brandy Banks made a motion to accept the Harriman bid; with funding coming from the Capital Reserve and Maintenance Fund. The bid was in the amount of \$29,000.00.

Andy Crone seconded the motion. The board voted as follows to accept the motion:

Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

**School Board Business:**

## High School Options:

No comments at this time.

## Board secretary correspondence:

Andy Crone made the motion to accept Beth Seldin as the new School Board Secretary.

Brandy Banks seconded Mr. Crone's motion. The entire board voted as follows in favor of the motion: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

Paul Steer made the motion to return to nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A-311 a,b,j. The motion was seconded by Andy Crone. Entire board voted as follows in favor of returning to nonpublic session at 9:10pm: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

Andy Crone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44pm. Ann Walsh seconded the motion. The entire board voted as follows in favor of accepting the motion:

Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. Vote 5 – 0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Seldin

Recording secretary