

**School Administrative Unit #64  
Milton School Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 28, 2014  
Community Room Nute High School**

**Milton School Board:**

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

**Administration:**

Michael Tursi – Superintendent SAU #64, Andrew D’Agostino – Business Administrator, Aaron Bronson – Principal Nute High School, Caroline Roberge – Assistant Principal Nute High School, Doug Kilmister – Principal of Milton Elementary School

**Guest:**

Miranda Myhre, Kelly Eaves, Stefanie Berry, Kim Davis

**Ann Walsh Called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Caroline Roberge led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Public Comment/Visitors:**

Stefanie Berry spoke briefly about the group entitled: END 6 DAY OF HUNGER. This is a group who provides food for needy students on weekends and in the summer. The current coordinator will be stepping down by this fall. A new coordinator is needed. Some of the coordinator’s responsibilities include: maintaining a group to help procure food, making lunches, distribution of lunches to pick-up venues, and fundraising. Postings for the coordinators position will be placed in public places, newspapers as well as verbally advertised. Stefanie Berry will send the complete job description to the schools for posting.

**Minutes of last meetings on May 14, 2014:**

The board pointed out some corrections to be made to the public minutes. Brandy Banks made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Andy Crone seconded the motion. The board voted as follows to accept the public minutes as amended: Walsh – yes, Banks – abstain, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes.

The board made a few corrections to the nonpublic minutes. Andy Crone made a motion to accept the nonpublic minutes as amended. Paul Steer seconded Andy’s motion. The board votes as follows to accept the nonpublic minutes as amended: Walsh – yes, Banks – abstain, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes.

**Administration:**

**Curriculum Coordinators Report:**

No comments at this time. (Mary Wilson could not attend this meeting due to illness.)

**Student Services Director Report:**

Mr. Tursi suggested that any questions be tabled until the next meeting as Anne Kebler was not able to attend this meeting due to illness.

- According to the report, there are areas of Child Services that Milton is not currently in compliance.
- Personnel were given advance notice of what the state would be viewing to check for compliance.
- Focus Monitoring was mentioned.

**Principals Report:**

**Milton Elementary School – Mr. Doug Kilmister**

- The PTA Variety Show will be this coming Friday.
- The gentleman from the Geico television commercials will be the Master of Ceremonies.
- Ice cream will be served at 5:30pm.
- The Variety Show will begin at 6:30pm.
- Regarding hiring – applicants are coming to teach a class as part of the interview process.
- Mr. Kilmister also mentioned the staff is using: “The Power of Their Words” approach with the students. This is a three pronged approach:
  - ❖ Reminding Language
  - ❖ Reinforcing Language
  - ❖ Redirecting Language

**Nute Middle and High School – Mr. Aaron Bronson and Ms. Caroline Roberge**

- The board was given charts showing Nute School’s discipline.
- The information was acquired from the student data system.
- All charts are from May 22 of the previous year to May 22 of the next year.
- Major office discipline referrals are declining.
- The numbers of days of in-house school suspensions are also declining.
- Grade 7 is the only group in Nute School that has had an increase in discipline this year.

Mr. Crone asked what is causing the change in discipline as shown in the charts? Mr. Bronson replied that there have been many changes implemented over this past school year. Some of the changes are:

- ❖ Working closer with the SAU, police and parents
- ❖ Personalizing instructions
- ❖ Instructions made more exciting
- ❖ More student counseling
- ❖ Manner in which staff speaks with students. Not verbally pushing students into a corner.

Mrs. Walsh asked what is the biggest issue in the school. Ms. Roberge stated the biggest issues are disrespect and refusal to do work.

Mr. Tursi mentioned that the school board needs to be aware that a lot of work still needs to be done with regard to discipline at Nute School.

June 13, 2014 will be graduation for the senior class.

June 19, 2014 at 6:00pm will be the Grade 8 Recognition Ceremony.

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

Mr. Tursi informed the board of a meeting he attended on May 5<sup>th</sup> regarding "Accountability 3.0".

- Mr. Tursi also mentioned that New Hampshire will be requesting a second waiver for the No Child Left Behind act.
- The current assessment the state is using is Smarter Balance Assessments. At this time it is not possible for district not to use Smarter Balance Assessments. There exist other options to Smarter Balance; but Milton does not fit into the requirements for the options at this time.
- There is a shift in the state to focus their support on districts that are needy of support.
- There is still work to be done on competency based performance assessments.
- Performance based assessments applies to all grades while the SAT/PSAT/ACT testing is only for high school students.
- Mr. Tursi recommends that Milton wait to see if a waiver is granted and to see how the cohort groups perform.
- Smarter Balance Assessments will still be given in one grade in elementary, middle and high schools.
- New Hampshire has been the leader in competency based testing.
- Nute Middle School is no longer listed as a Priority School (it is no longer in the bottom 5%). This information came from the Commissioner of the State Board of Education.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **High School Options Updates:**

- Mr. Tursi met with Supt. Mosca of Somersworth.
- Rollinsford is leaving Somersworth and sending their student to Maine.
- Superintendent Mosca is willing to come to the Milton School Board with her staff to do a presentation.
- Somersworth is most promising due to school size and open communications.
- Mr. Tursi would like direction from the school board as to how to proceed with regard to Farmington, Somersworth and Noble schools.
- It was suggested to ask Tim (a school bus driver) to time a run during rush hour with all student stops to be included to see what the length of bus time will be for Milton students to go to Somersworth.
- Discussion is needed by the board as to Tuition Agreements (these have a shorter contract time and students may go to different schools) or Area Agreement (these are longer term

agreements and all students must attend the particular school). It is needed to discuss what should go into negotiations.

- The Milton board would like to ask the Somersworth Superintendent, Staff and School Board to come and speak in a community forum.
- Mr. Tursi will check to see if this meeting could be set for June 11, 2014; providing this date is acceptable to Somersworth.
- Farmington school was then discussed.
- Mrs. Walsh's concern is as follows: Farmington can only hold 500 students. If they put on an addition would Milton be financially responsible for the addition.
- Farmington needs academic improvement.
- Academically, Milton is ahead of Farmington.
- It was suggested to ask Middleton School Board why they are leaving Farmington.
- A suggestion was made that Milton should also ask Rollinsford the reason(s) they are leaving Somersworth.
- The next suggestion was for Milton to speak with both the Somersworth and Farmington school boards in order to hear both sides of the matter.
- It was noted that individual board members may make contact with other boards instead of having school board meet in scheduled meetings.
- Milton school board needs to decide on information to be presented to the public.
- The possibility of a parent survey/questionnaire was also mentioned. It was decided that the board needed to gather more information before sending out a questionnaire.
- Mrs. Walsh asked the board members to try before the next meeting on June 11, 2014; to put together questions that the Milton board should be asking other boards.
- Mrs. Walsh would like to have the issue of capacity at Farmington looked into further.
- Mr. Shute suggests that when the board has the parent questionnaire ready, it should be mailed to include all residents.
- Mr. Tursi stated that residents need to have background information prior to being asked to fill out a survey.
- Other issues to be considered are: the cost of renovations to Nute and what would the projected enrollment look like.
- Mr. Tursi suggested the board hire the company of NESDEC for an approximate cost of \$600.00. This company would do a ten year enrollment projection. Money to cover the cost of hiring NESDEC would come from the budgets of the elementary, middle and high schools – Principal dues. NESDEC looks at real estate values, homes for sale and those purchased, plus birth rates in order to do the enrollment projection.

Douglas Shute made a motion to spend \$600.00 for an enrollment projection. Money to cover the cost of hiring NESDEC would come from the budgets of the elementary, middle and high schools.

Andrew Crone seconded the motion. The school board voted as follows: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone – yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes. The motion passed.

Mr. Shute made a request of Mr. Tursi to have the board view the Assistant Principal's and Principal's contracts. Mr. Tursi will bring the contracts to the board.

Mrs. Walsh questioned that if Nute were to be renovated in the future, could Milton invite other districts to send their students to Nute?

Mr. Tursi reminded the board that the Milton Elementary School is in need of renovation as well as Nute.

It was stated as a reminder that Milton parent do appreciate the small community atmosphere at Nute as well as Nute's sports program.

**Committee/Board member reports:**

**Café Services:**

Café Services has submitted their contract for the upcoming year. The state has approved the contract. The members of the board would like to review the contract prior to voting on it. Andrew will scan the contract and e-mail it to each board member.

**Parks and Recreation:**

Douglas Shute informed the board that the past three Park and Rec. meeting were cancelled and Mr. Shute was never informed.

**Professional Growth Committee:**

This committee has a final plan is getting ready to present the plan to the state.

Mr. Shute informed the board that the founder of Facebook made a large donation to New Jersey schools.

**School Board Business:**

**Summer board meeting schedule:**

A summer meeting schedule was discussed. The board will meet once in July and once in August. If needed additional meetings could be called at any time. The dates for the summer meetings are: July 9, 2014 and August 27, 2014.

**Policies:**

**BIF**

The board would like to see the wording changed under section – XI. CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR SELECTING BOARD MEMBERS; subsection "c" should be changed to read:

*No board member will serve as chair for more than two consecutive years unless no other nominations are approved by the board at the start of the third year.*

**EGA**

This is broad. New Hampshire State School Board Association is recommending more specific wording and to separate students and staff.

**GBEF**

Under this policy the statement #12: *Uses a district network for personal, financial, commercial or non-educational purpose.* This is new.

#### **JICL-R**

A line was added stating: *It is the district's intention to prohibit unacceptable use in order to provide an environment that is safe and appropriate for the maturity level and needs of student users.*

#### **School District Technology Plan**

Milton's plan is being worked on. The progress of the elementary school's plan will be looked into. This information of technology needs will be needed by the board for budget considerations.

Re: the policy of EGA; the board may vote to remove this policy. Brandy Banks made a motion to remove this policy. Andy Crone seconded the vote. The entire board voted as follows: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone- yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes.

Brandy Banks placed a motion before the board to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A-3II a,b. at 7:58pm. Mr. Crone seconded the motion. The school board voted on this motion to enter nonpublic session as follows: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone- yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes.

#### **Nonpublic Session:**

During the nonpublic session Cherise Benesse was nominated to be the Speech and Language Pathologist. Support Staff nominations were viewed and decided upon. Resignations from Sonya Sweetman and Lori Bohan were accepted. There was a discussion on the school principals in Milton as well as mention of the teacher negotiations.

Brandy Banks made a motion to end the nonpublic session at 8:23pm. Andy Crone seconded the motion. The entire board voted as follows: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone- yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes.

Andy Crone made a motion to adjourn the public session at 8:24pm. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The entire board voted as follows: Walsh – yes, Banks – yes, Crone- yes, Shute – yes, Steer – yes.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Beth Seldin  
Recording Secretary