

**School Administrative Unit #64
Milton School Board Meeting
Public Session
Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Community Room Nute High School and Library**

Milton School Board:

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

Administration:

Michael Tursi – Superintendent of SAU #64, Nathan Castle – Business Administrator,
Doug Kilmister – Principal of Milton Elementary School,
Aaron Bronson – Principal of Nute Middle/High School, Bob Adams – Facilities Director,
Anne Kebler – Student Services Administrator, Mary Wilson – Curriculum Coordinator

Visitors:

Lue Snyder, Stefanie Berry

Filming by:

Priscilla Colbath

Ann Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. Beth Seldin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

None

Minutes of the previous meetings on October 8 and October 14, 2014:

Minutes of October 8, 2014:

Andy Crone made the motion to approve the public minutes as amended. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The board voted as follows on this motion: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye. Andy Crone made a motion to approve the nonpublic minutes as written. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The board voted to approve as follows: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye.

Minutes of October 14, 2014:

Douglas Shute made a motion to approve the public minutes as amended. Andy Crone seconded this motion. The board voted to approve as follows: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye.

Administration:

Curriculum Coordinators report:

- ❖ SWIFT – assessment of progress

The school leadership score was low (approximately 10%) last year. The year the score was increased to 60%/ Mr. Kilmister will bring more information to the next meeting.

Student Services report:

- ❖ Renew Facilitation – this goes beyond the regular guidance counselor to help students in the life skills program. People within the Renew system are people within the school system who volunteer their time to work with students.
- ❖ Ann Walsh asked if the school board could see a 12 – 18 month overview of the number of students in Special Education.

Principal's report:

Mr. Kilmister:

- ❖ Recent NECAP results/scores have been the best they have been in years.
- ❖ Math-Science partnership grant. *Milton Elementary School is partnering with the NH Education and the Environment Team (NHEET) on a three-year Math/Science Partnership Grant funded through the NH Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to build the capacity of participating schools to transform their teaching practices such that they achieve genuine science literacy for all students through environmental topics and field investigations."*

Mr. Bronson:

- ❖ Red Ribbon Week - Nute will have school-wide activities to show a commitment to being drug free. Red Ribbon week will be held October 27 – 31st.
- ❖ Community Pancake Breakfast – The pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, Oct.25th. The event will be from 9 – 12. The theme is "How can we all make Milton a healthy place for young people to live, learn, work and play?"
- ❖ Student Led Conferences – These will take place during November. "Student led conferences have been a successful method of engaging students and their parents in a conversation about student education and goals."
- ❖ Green House – The roof and doors are installed. The building is coming along well. The students have been picking vegetables from the tiered gardens. These vegetables go to the cafeteria for use.

Superintendent's report:

- ❖ Mr. Tursi recently attended the DOE quarterly meeting. Mr. Tursi was part of the SWIFT quarterly meeting due to Milton Elementary and Paul School participating in the SWIFT program.
- ❖ Milton's data shows a consistent progress since the beginning of this year due to its participation in SWIFT. Other schools that have not participated in SWIFT are not showing this consistent progress.

- ❖ Kidder Law practice gave a presentation at the meeting titled “Breaking up is hard to do”.
- ❖ Some of the topics discussed at the Kidder Law presentation were:
 - ✓ Breakup of SAU
 - ✓ Out-of –district agreements
 - ✓ Districts are trending to work independently instead of combining to larger SAU’s.
 - ✓ Currently there is a pool of retired superintendents that are able to work part-time.

School Board Business:

Polices first reading:

- ❖ **IKAA – Interdisciplinary Credit**
An example of what this policy could do for a student – taking knowledge from several disciplines such as working in the greenhouse to gain Biology credit towards graduation credits.
- ❖ **IKE – Promotion and Retention Policy**
A Formalized plan to help students that are having problems and may be retained the following school year. It was decided by the board this policy needs to be amended.

Fiscal Year 2015 budget:

The discussion of the budget will be tabled until after tonight’s Joint Milton/Wakefield School Board meeting.

Old Business:

Mr. Shute would like to have the Friends of Nute come to the next meeting to discuss the old building. Mr. Tursi informed the board that he was invited to attend the Friends of Nute meeting on October 28th at 6:00pm.

Committee Reports:

- ❖ Rotting wood was discovered on one of the porches.
- ❖ Town of Milton will be reviewing the school budget on November 3rd.

Andy Crone made the motion for the board to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A-3II b at 5:42pm. Paul Steer seconded the motion. The vote of the board was as follows: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer –aye.

While in nonpublic session the board viewed nominations.

Andy Crone made the motion to adjourn from nonpublic session at 5:50pm. Douglas Shute seconded the motion. The board voted as follows: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer –aye.

The public meeting reconvened at 7:38pm.

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget:

- ❖ Unemployment rate was increased to 9%.

- ❖ \$50,000.00 was removed from the high school tuition.
- ❖ Discussion of the Credit Recovery System cost. This program is for students who are off tract for graduation.
- ❖ The board would like to know the case load of the student assistant counselor.
- ❖ Workbenches for the shop at a cost of \$2,200.00 each. Two workbenches were requested. It was discussed if the benches could be built in-house to save money.
- ❖ Community Partnership: This program brings a therapist into the school. Some Milton families cannot get to Rochester where the services are located. Therefore with the Community Partnership the families could come to the Milton schools for services. Part of the cost of this program is paid by the families' health insurance. The SAU will pay for the cost of the consultation.
- ❖ \$3,016.00 is the full year cost of a student taking an AP course at Spaulding High School.
- ❖ \$1,508.00 would be the cost of taking an AP course for one semester at Spaulding High School.
- ❖ The library requires a new computer as the old one cannot run the updated software.

Paul Steer made a motion to remove the cost of AmeriCorp from the budget. Andy Crone seconded this motion. The board voted in favor of this motion: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye.

Paul Steer made the motion to remove the outsourcing on the lawn care at a cost of \$18,000.00. Instead the board would authorize the purchase of a new tractor for \$8,000.00 and the grounds would be cared for by the maintenance department. Thus having a budget savings of \$10,000.00. Andy Crone seconded Mr. Steer's entire motion. The board voted in favor of this motion as follows: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye.

The board decided to remove the cost of one workbench, \$2,200.00 from the budget.

It was decided that \$15,000.00 could be removed from the Special Education Transportation line. (Possibly keeping a \$1.00 in the line for it to remain viable.)

Currently the budget contains three paraprofessional ghost positions. These positions remain unfilled and could possibly be removed from the budget. The board suggested that one ghost position be kept and to remove two of the positions from the budget. These positions have an average salary of \$15,000.00 each plus the cost of benefits. By removing the two positions the board could save close to \$50,000.00.

The school board decided to table voting on the new budget until Brandy Banks could be present to voice her vote. The board will meet briefly after the joint board meeting next week.

Andy Crone made the motion to adjourn this evenings meeting at 8:41pm. Paul Steer seconded this motion. The board voted in favor of this motion as follows: Walsh – aye, Crone – aye, Shute – aye, Steer – aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Seldin
Recording secretary