

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #64
MILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday September 25, 2013

Public Minutes

Members Present: Chair Ann Walsh, Luella Snyder, Douglas Shute, Donna-Marie Currier and Andy Crone.

Also Present: Superintendent Mr. Tursi, Middle/High School Principal; Aaron Bronson, Director of Student Services; Ann Kebler; Elementary School principal; Doug Kilmister, and Randy Myhre.

Call to order/Flag salute: Chair Ann Walsh opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and Aaron Bronson led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment: None at this time

Minutes of Last Meeting: Donna-Marie Currier made the motion to accept the public meeting minutes of September 11, 2013, seconded by Andy Crone – all were in favor. The motion passed. Donna-Marie Currier made the motion to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of September 11, 2013, seconded by Andy Crone – all were in favor. The motion passed.

Administration:

A. Principal Reports: Mr. Kilmister Reported the Following:

Mondays Memo: please see a copy of Monday memo, my weekly staff newsletter, printed on Goldenrod colored paper. The purple page, which I shared with you at our last meeting, goes out with students every Friday afternoon as my principal communication of families. The Monday memo is in all staff mailboxes on Monday morning at 8 o'clock, I asked that all staff members read the purple page and the Monday memo to stay informed about relevant news. The Monday memo helps limit the amount of time we spend on informational items in staff meetings. In the last few years the school leaders at MES have tried to communicate messages to families and staff electronically, and I believe this is the way we should be headed. We plan to improve our email and website communications year. Even when electronic communication in place, a simple page, two-sided newsletter is a good way to ensure we communicate important messages stakeholders. If you read the

Monday memo for this week you will get a good idea of the many things that are happening at our school. Some of them I would have included in this memo. For example, please see the items on Milton pride day and our first early dismissal professional development session.

After school program: I spoke with staff members who worked the after school program at MES last year. I collected some of the program materials and heard from staff about the history of the program. There has been more interest by the staff to participate in the after school program this year. Mr. Kilmister believes that they may be able to run a Title 1 after school intervention program as well. They are looking at starting the program up sometime in November.

Youth Opportunity Fair at Open House: On Tuesday, the 24th, from 6:00 to 7:00pm, was Milton elementary schools annual open house. This is an opportunity for parents to visit classrooms, meet teachers, and get a clearer sense of their child's daily routine at school. This year will also close a "Youth Opportunity Fair" in our multipurpose room, with representatives and materials for several local youth organizations. These include Awana, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Milton Parks and Recreation. Each organization will host a table and have information on membership. Research shows that the more connections a child has with his or her community clubs, churches, service organizations, and neighbors, the more likely he or she is to graduate high school and be successful in life. We seek to strengthen our ties with these local organizations and create Mutual systems of support to benefit youth and families and Milton.

Ann Walsh would like to know where we are at for the Elementary School to be using PowerSchool. Mr. Kilmister replied that it is used for attendance and student demographic records. It is not used for report cards at this time. The technology teacher did attend the training on PowerSchool, but she at this moment has a full schedule that does not allow enough time to be able to use the program to its fullest potential. Over the summer the team looked at using standard based report cards with PowerSchool, but felt they were not ready for this at this point in time.

Mr. Tursi feels that this Program needs a support staff to be able to use this for its full potential and this will be discussed during budget season.

Ann asked if Aaron was going to use the standard based report cards this

year. Aaron responded that there needs to be work done on the curriculum before this takes place. Mr. Tursi feels we need a well thought out plan before we put this into place.

Aaron Bronson Reported the Following:

Data: our high school students will be taking the NWEA test over the course of the next couple of weeks. The high school teachers will use the data from the testing to target instruction for their students. In the middle school, the teachers have already begun testing students using the Aims web test, which is another test used to gather information about students and their instructional leagues.

Ann Walsh asked if the high school has been using NWEA consistently as they should be. Aaron replied that they have been since before he has been here.

Community Event: we are planning to host an event at Nute on 5 December. We are in the beginning stages of planning, but have already coordinated with the Friends of Nute and have shared the date with Milton elementary school. In the past, we have had better turnouts from the community when we have partnered with other groups for community events. Luella had asked Aaron if it was ok to start serving supper at 5:00pm on December 5th. Aaron seemed to think this would be ok.

Middle School: Based on the most recent information that we have received from the Department of Education, in regards to our title I reading position, we will be making some adjustments in our middle school. This may mean that some of our students experience some minor changes to their course schedule, as well as a handful of classes be a move in our middle school master schedule. This is being done to allow our Reading Specialist to have better access to the students, so she can better meet the needs of the Kids.

Pep Rally: The fall pep rally is scheduled for next Thursday, September 26.

NECAP Testing: Our state test is just around the corner, we have started putting together the test schedule and have been doing some test prep activities in their classes to help get the students ready.

Douglas had asked when the NECAP testing was being given. Aaron replied that it is being scheduled and will be sometime from October 1st to the 23rd.

Douglas asked if there was any testing coming up after this one. Aaron

replied that they will continue to monitor the children's progress with Aimsweb bench mark testing.

Mr. Tursi responded that all 3 school need to take a benchmark test in the fall, and then the NECAP state assessment, which happens directly after that. The Aimsweb test is also given in the winter and spring time to all students which is our local bench mark testing. There are some students that are being progress monitored throughout the school year using Aimsweb.

Douglas asked when the NECAP testing was going away. Mr. Tursi responded that the plan is this fall will be the last NECAP test, and in the spring of 2015 the Smarter Balance will be given in replace of NECAP testing. There has been some talk of given the NECAP test once more before the Smarter Balance takes its place.

Douglas asked if Smarter Balance was based off of the Common Core Standards. Mr. Tursi replied that yes it was based off of the Common Core Standards.

Anne Kelber Reported the Following: The Special Education Department has had a busy month since my date of hire, August 21, 2013. Fortunately, there were not too many student problems to be resolved when I arrived. This is largely due to the work of the Central Office Support Staff, most specifically Kathy Bourdeau, as well as Paul School's Special Education Coordinator, Monica Greenleaf. Thanks to the both of them for keeping things well organized, so that problems could be resolved easily.

Catastrophic aid was submitted in a timely fashion, and the IDEA grant has been submitted as well. Milton school district will be going through in IEP compliance review this fall, and training will be held for all case managers on Wednesday, September 25. This compliance review will be conducted by the New Hampshire Department of Special Education. It will be helpful in identifying areas of focus for us as we move through the year, both for students programming and fiscal. .

The last few weeks have been busy, with many court hearings to attend, coordinating meetings to introduce myself and get a better understanding of procedures in place at the Nute High School / Middle School and Milton Elementary School and assuring IEP compliance of our out of district students. My intention is to have a large presence in the school, and I have encouraged the special education staff to not only call me over when problems arise, but to also make sure I am aware and can observe the good things that happen as well.

I am very excited to be a part of SAU 64, and look forward to a successful school year for all our students.

Douglas had asked if we have adopted the Common Core Standards. Ann Walsh replied that we have not officially adopted the Common Core Standards at this point in time. Douglas stated that he is getting conflicting information in regards to Common Core, and asked if we do not adopt the Common Core Standards are we as a district going to lose IDEA funding? Mr. Tursi responded that we will only lose funding if the district does not partake in the Smarter Balance assessment test, which has been adopted as the state standard assessment test. If the district decides not to adopt the Common Core standards they will still have to take the Smarter Balance assessment test. Mr. Tursi feels that it would be unfortunate if the district does not adopt Common Core due to the students will be tested on the Smarter Balanced standards, which the Common Core standards are based on the Smarter Balance assessment test. Douglas Shute still has his concerns about the common core standards and need more information. Mr. Tursi stated that because the administration has been focused on the curriculum aligning with the Common Core standards he needs clarification on what the board decides to do. Mr. Tursi recommends the board should adopt the Common Core for the fact that the students will be assessed based with the Smarter Balance assessment test and that he puts his trust into the state board of education. Mr. Tursi stated the concept of the Common Core is a national recognized standard that allows for more in-depth instruction that happens in the classroom. You can talk about the pros and cons of the standards, but you are going to do that with any standard. Mr. Tursi stated that he puts his trust in our State Board of Education and the Commissioner that have adopted these standards. Mr. Turis feels that the board needs to figure out soon whether or not they are going to adopt these standards, due to our children are already 3 years behind on being ready for the assessment test. Luella asked if this was just a starting point and that the standards could be raised up above that also. Mr. Tursi stated that this was a wonderful point raised and that you could raise the standards to what you would like. Ann Walsh asked the board members to do some research on the Common Core and if they have any questions bring them to the next meeting

Curriculum Coordinator's Report: This summer was very busy with teams attending 3 of the NH Network offerings for professional development. Quality Performance Assessments allowed the team to explore how to create performance assessments that will address the rigor required by the NH College and Career Readiness Standards. The workshop gave the team information and experience on Depth of Knowledge, creating appropriate rubrics, and looking at student work.

The Keene State Summer Summit gave an opportunity for a team to work on the priorities for professional development this year. Meetings are continuing to address these needs and put the plans in place for the team to decide to implement regarding mentoring.

The Responsive Classroom team learned how the routines of morning meetings build a positive culture and climate. This augments the PBIS initiative started at the Milton Elementary School.

The state was chosen for the SWIFT project and SAU 64 was lucky enough to be chosen for the inclusion. We will be receiving expert help throughout the next four years in order to make sure all students receive an equitable excellent education.

Professional development for math and focus happening during the teacher workshop day in the beginning of the school year. Plans are in place for continuing professional development in this new program. This year the focus for professional development will be on aligning the curriculum and assessments to the New Hampshire College and career readiness standards.

Superintendents Report:

A. Middleton School Board Correspondence:

Mr. Tursi had brought to the board a correspondence letter from Middleton school board asking if the district would consider the possibility of accepting students on a tuition basis from Middleton. Ann Walsh stated that the board had already voted against this due to not having available space and classroom size.

Old Business:

A. Farmington-Nute cooperative agreement:

Mr. Tursi presented to the board with a cooperative football agreement. This is the second draft, after reviewing the first draft Mr. Tursi had Farmington add to the agreement stating that Milton School District has no financial responsibilities to pay the user fee and that the fee needs to be paid by the parent or guardian. Mr. Tursi stated that this is a 2 year agreement. Andy Crone made the motion to approve the Superintendent signing the agreement, seconded by Douglas Shute – all were in favor. The motion passed.

Committee/Board Member Reports:

A. SAU Planning Committee:

Ann Walsh made the board aware the SAU committee voted against

withdrawing for SAU64. We will be meeting next week to approve the minutes and send a letter to the state of New Hampshire State that the committee recommends not to withdraw. Ann stated the decision was based off of financial cost.

Luella Snyder had asked if they could start having Facilities meeting. Mr. Tursi stated that they will be meeting the 2nd meeting prior to the board meeting. Ann asked when the SAU budget meeting was. Mr. Tursi replied that it is October 1st @ 6:00pm at the Paul school.

School Board Business:

School Board Evaluation – Please bring materials from previous meeting:

Donna-Marie had presented to the board what she felt that the board needs to work on the following:

#2 – Provide the superintendent with a clear statement of expectations of performance and personal qualities against which he/she will be measured periodically. Donna Marie feels that the board is not always clear on what the expectations of superintendent.

#7 - matters tending to alienate either board members were superintendent discussed immediately rather than being permitted to fester and deteriorate. Donna Marie feels very strongly about this matter until that happens quite a bit and there have been statement made during meetings that can be hostile and/or threatening at times and have left her feeling uncomfortable at times.

#13 - ensures a continuous planned program of public information regarding the schools. Donna Marie feels that there needs to be better communications

#24 - definitive action is withheld until asking if there is a recommendation and what it is. Presentation of information in the past is not always been as detailed as it should have been.

#47 - make provisions for long-range planning for acquisition of sites, additional facilities, and plant maintenance.

Andy Crone has to agree with what Donna-Marie stated above.

Douglas feels that with now not having so many interim administrative staff that the school district is headed in a positive direction. Ann Walsh agrees with Douglas and is pleased with the administrative team we have now, but this evaluation is about how the board operates. Luella Snyder feels that the board has to be respectful that this is a board of 5 when making decisions and be mindful not to over step our bounds. Ann Walsh would also like for the board to look at the following as well.

#34 – Making the staff aware of the esteem in which it is held.

#35 – Provides a written policy protecting the academic freedom of teachers.

#47 – Makes provision for long-range planning for acquisition of sites, additional facilities, and plant maintenance.

The following is a list of goals the board is going to work on:

#2 – Provide the superintendent with a clear statement of expectations of performance and personal qualities against which he/she will be measured periodically.

#7 - matters tending to alienate either board members were superintendent discussed immediately rather than being permitted to fester and deteriorate.

#13 - ensures a continuous planned program of public information regarding the schools.

#24 - definitive action is withheld until asking if there is a recommendation and what it is.

28 – Controversial, complex, or complicated matters are held over or placed on the agenda for discussion only, prior to consideration for adoption. Mr. Tursi had stated that when setting your goals you should keep in mind of student achievement.

Request for information from Board Member Shute:

A. Milton School District Project Summary.

B. Salary Schedules.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Andy Crone moved, second by Donna-Marie Currier, to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b), and (c) at 8:00 PM. The roll call was as follows: Walsh, yes; D. Currier, yes; Snyder, yes, Crone, yes, and Shute, yes;

While in nonpublic session the board approved the following nominations:

Chrissie Henner - Mentoring Dave Perkins

Lisa Phoenix – Mentoring Bonny Young

Sarah Spilios – 8th grade Advisory

Carrie Rioux – para Representative for Professional Development

Karen Petelle – Sub Coordinator

Lisa Bailey – Paraprofessional

Karen Shepard – Paraprofessional

Karina Beadling – Paraprofessional

Misty Riley – Paraprofessional

Nicole Tursi – Reading Specialist

*Marianne Doanne – Test Coordinator
Daniel Doherty III – Paraprofessional*

***The following Resignation was approved:
Stephanie Galarneau as a Bus Driver***

While in nonpublic session the board discussed items for the teacher negotiation process.

Andy Crone made the motion to come out of nonpublic session at 8:44 PM, seconded by Douglas Shute - all were in favor.

Andy Crone made to motion to seal the nonpublic meeting minutes indefinitely, seconded by Douglas Shute – all were in favor. The motion passed.

Andy Crone made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm, seconded by Donna-Marie Currier - all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Banks Secretary
Minutes are a draft until approved.
Approved on: _____