

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #64
Milton School Board Meeting
Nute Middle/High School & Library, Community Conference Room
Saturday, February 8, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

School Board Members in Attendance:

Douglas Shute- Chairperson, Paul Steer, Peg Hurd, Melissa Brown (excused), Emily Meehan (excused), and Tammy Crandall – Secretary

SAU Representatives:

Earl Sussman- Superintendent of SAU #64, Nathan Castle- Business Administrator of SAU #64, Jan Radowicz- Principal Nute Middle High School, John Safina- Principal Milton Elementary School, Robert Qua- Special Education Director, Tim Eldridge- Transportation Director, Bob Adams- Facilities Director, Attorney Gordon Graham,⁵

Public in Attendance: Travis Corriveau, Al Goodwin

Public Hearing:

1. Called to Order/ Flag Salute:
 - a. Doug called to Order at 12:00PM.
 - b. Peg led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Public Comments/Visitors: None.
3. School Board Business:
 - a. Deliberative Session Discussion: Doug- Are we affected by the Tax Cap? Attorney Graham- No. Doug- Say if someone on the floor wants to make a 10% cut, where do they take it from the Net or the Gross? Attorney Graham- A cut can come from anywhere. Doug- Even from the Gross? Attorney Graham- There is no limitation of how much they can cut the budget. At some point in time the district won't be able to operate, and the State will take over and do a mandatory assessment over everybody because you have certain requirements that must be met. Doug- So it is mandated to provide certain things. Attorney Graham- Almost all you do is mandate, there are statutory rules of the ones that are in control. Doug- What is the proper way to seal minutes? Attorney Graham- If the reason for sealing the minutes no longer applies in Public session to review then go into Non-Public and decide whether it is appropriate to unseal them then you can do that at any time. Doug- Do you go back out of Non-Public to reseal them? Attorney Graham- Yes. Peg- Budget committee cut \$177,000.00 from our budget, our current budget is \$126,000 less than the default budget, when we put together the default budget we did not put in what we want we based it on the needs, can we ask to at least bring the Operating Budget to \$1,000.00 less than the default budget. Attorney Graham- Default Budget has nothing to do what you need; it is based on formulas that are calculated based on what your Operating Budget was last year increased or decreased, whatever the case may be, by onetime obligations/expenditures, obligations mandated by law. Amending an Operating Budget is in the discretion of the voters at this deliberation. If it happens,

we would have a proposed default budget. An increase can only be 10% of the appropriation over the proposed Operating Budget. Paul- What if someone cuts the budget by 30% what are the legal ramifications? Attorney Graham- We have financial obligations to educate students and to fulfill our kids going to school if we fail there will be a consequence to the School District and the Town because they were not fulfilling their obligations. Paul- How much is not mandated? Nate- About \$385,000.00 out of a \$10.4-million-dollar budget. Paul- If they cut our budget by 10%, we cannot fulfill our obligations. Attorney Graham- Look at it this way, take the \$177,000.00 and ask yourself what are we going to live with? Earl- We already cut \$27,000.00. Doug- When they did their recommendations they went in and whatever was not encumbered they cut; it was the premise that it was not needed. Attorney Graham- All Special Education will be funded by law, they have to. Any cuts to the Appropriations (i.e., heat, light, maintenance of the building) need to be funded, you need to explain that.

4. Doug- Motioned to Recess at 12:30PM. Seconded by Paul. Vote 3/0/0 passed. Doug- Yes. Paul- Yes, and Peg- Yes.

a. School Board Business (continued):

- Reconvened the meeting at 3:33PM.
- Doug- Motion to Approve the new Operating Budget of \$10,815,719.15. Seconded by Paul. Vote 3/0/0 passed. Paul- Yes. Doug- Yes, and Peg- Yes.
- Attorney Graham- Article 13 is an Advisory article, if it passes in March the School Board can do a feasibility study of seats, transportation costs of neighboring towns. If the School Board puts together a group with the community members who were interested, they are under the subject of the “right to know” law and are required to provide you with information. Doug- If it gets voted down can we drop the issue? Attorney Graham- Yes. Doug- We posted and attended a meeting in Wakefield, are we supposed to take minutes? Attorney Graham- If a quorum, yes. If advising the board what to do, yes, if a subcommittee then yes, they are subject under the “right to know” law. If not empowered to act and just taking notes, then no. Attorney Graham- On the Warrant Article notes it possibly will be problematic and should not be bold. It adds emphasis to the ballot and should be regular print. You can provide information but cannot pay for public documents. Paul- What if we put tax impact and note bolded? Attorney Graham- Consistency is better. Discussion ensued. Attorney Graham- However you set up the voting guide is up to you, but do not bold on the ballot.

5. Doug- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:54PM. Seconded by Peg. Vote 3/0/0 passed. Paul- Yes. Peg- Yes, and Doug- Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Crandall, Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 11, 2020