

## Milford Board of Education

### Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2016

**Board members present:**

Claire Casey  
Michael DeGrego  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Jennifer Federico, arrived 7:05 p.m.  
Susan Glennon, Chair  
Dr. Jess Gregory by phone  
Walter Hagedorn  
Tom Jagodzinski  
Susan Krushinsky  
Earl Whiskeyman

**Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Jeffrey Burt  
Jim Richetelli  
Sue Kelleher  
Wendy Kopazna

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room, asking that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced that Dr. Gregory is attending by telephone due to a family emergency.

#### **II. REPLACEMENT OF 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER**

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board of Education approves Mr. Walter Hagedorn to fill the recent vacancy in the 1<sup>st</sup> district, and serve the remainder of the term. Mr. Jagodzinski seconded. By a roll call vote, 8-0 (Federico absent). The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hagedorn was sworn in by City Clerk Mrs. Joanne Rohrig. He was then seated with the Board.

#### **III. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

The first recognition went to Andrew Thompson, a fifth grade student at Calf Pen Meadow. During the United Way campaign drive, Andrew donated more than \$122 of his personal money towards the fund after hearing an announcement on the morning messages at the school.

Gary Johnson was recognized as the Chief Executive Officer of the United Way, which contributes to many organizations in the community. Some of those organizations are Bridges, Boys and Girls Club, Beth-El Center and the Milford Literacy Center. He was

congratulated on his efforts to support Milford and its community and was presented with a check in the amount of \$39,046.80 from the school district United Way campaign drive.

Mr. Johnson thanked Dr. Feser and the school district for its continued support.

#### **IV. STUDENT REPORTS**

Due to other commitments, David Patrick and Emily Carroll were not able to be in attendance. Therefore, James Mercaldo and Ian Hugo presented the student report for Jonathan Law. Lindsey Carlson and Joe Bartone presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran.

Ms. Glennon thanked the students for the update. She then read the Public Comment statement.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Glennon referenced conversation from the last Board meeting on Pre-K. In checking her notes from the workshop that was held in May 2014 there were some follow up items to be looked at three to five years out. Therefore, a subsequent workshop would be scheduled.

There were also questions on standards based learning and the standards based report card. She suggested that topic also be placed on the Committee of the Whole calendar unless Board members object. There were no objections stated.

She indicated leadership is planning a Board retreat for early March and will probably be held on a Saturday. More details to follow.

The Board of Finance Public Hearing on the budget will be held on February 3 at City Hall. This is an opportunity for the public to speak to the Board of Finance about the budget. The Board of Education will present its budget to Board of Finance on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room B at Parsons.

Ms. Glennon called for liaison reports.

Mrs. Krushinsky reported on the recent meeting of the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee (PSFBC) attended by herself and Mrs. Federico. A discussion took place on the commissioning for the HVAC at East Shore Middle School. The dehumidification is the only outstanding item, and nothing can be done until the temperatures get warmer. The committee is anticipating the project will be 100%

complete soon, with the one exception, in approximately six weeks. West Shore renovations were also discussed. The contractor, Antinozzi and Associates provided the committee a report on roof replacements for four elementary schools and Harborside.

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Superintendent's Proposed 2016-17 Budget – Dr. Feser**

Dr. Feser delivered a PowerPoint focusing on the main requests in her proposed budget for 2016-17, totaling \$91,786,950 and reflecting a 0.835% increase over the 2015-16 budget, and the savings administration was able to capture within existing line items to hold down costs. The presentation is on file.

During the presentation Mr. Jagodzinski raised concerns about items which were included. Ms. Glennon reminded the Board that the three workshops are dedicated for the Board to have a thorough discussion on the budget.

Once Dr. Feser concluded her presentation Ms. Glennon reminded the board that administration has been collecting specific questions on the budget that will be discussed during the workshops. She asked if the Board had any questions on the presentation itself.

Mrs. Federico commended the administration on looking carefully at the instructional supports and making reductions where they could, rather than just rolling over the numbers. She asked administration to provide the schedule of the middle school SRO's, and how The Academy would be covered.

Mr. Jagodzinski praised Dr. Feser for the budget put forth, which continues to be fiscally responsible. His concerns are more centered on the college and career pathway and the social and emotional curriculum components of the budget. While they do not have any impact on the budget, they are major changes and he feels the Board should receive more information before the budget process has begun. He is also concerned about the lack of Board involvement with curriculum issues, as the Board operates as a Committee of the Whole.

Dr. Feser reminded the Board the college and career pathways were a directive of the Board during the long range planning process. She will provide the Board more information at the next workshop. Administration feels comfortable that the course offerings can begin in the 2016-17 school year and will be built on from there.

Ms. Glennon reminded Board members that the Board functions as a Committee of the Whole. The Board delegates the authority of the day to day operation of the school system to the Superintendent, however, if the majority of board want more input on curriculum that would be done as a Committee of the Whole. That might be a discussion for a retreat.

## Approved

Mr. Whiskeyman said he appreciates the budget put forth. Despite the fact that you have savings, we still need to pay everybody according to their contract going forward. He was told he was correct.

Dr. Gregory thanked the administration for the presentation of the budget. She is looking forward to discussing the questions at the workshops.

### **West Shore Middle School Project Update – Mr. Richetelli and Silver/Petrucelli & Associates**

Mr. Richetelli reviewed the procedures that occur in the Capital Improvement Plan, a 5 year projection of the needs of the district over that timeframe. He emphasized it is just a plan. There are no dollars committed to the plan, but rather estimates put in place for projects. The Board of Education votes on their Capital Improvement Plan, sends it to the Mayor for inclusion in his plan, and, once the project moves up to the top of the list, the Board of Education has to approve the educational specifications as part of the reimbursement process, which is on this agenda.

The Permanent School Facility Buildings Committee sees building projects through from beginning to end. It is a city committee.

Mr. Richetelli introduced Mr. Silver of Silver/Petrucelli & Associates to give an update on the West Shore Middle School project.

Mr. Silver narrated a PowerPoint that showed the design work involved with the West Shore Middle School renovation project to date, after numerous meetings with administration and educators at the school. Budget is \$16.5 million or less total cost including contingencies. The renovations will make the school more energy efficient and more comparable to the other two middle schools while gaining approximately 10,000 square feet. The construction documents should be completed by June or July, at which time they will be brought to the Board for approval.

Following the presentation and questions, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the Expansion, Alterations, Roof Replacement and Hazardous Materials Abatement Project at West Shore Middle School and authorizes the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services – Office of School Construction Grants (SCG). Mrs. Federico seconded. By a roll call vote 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Instructional Division Highlight: Changes to the SAT - Mr. Burt**

Mr. Burt reported on the State Department of Education decision that current 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the SAT instead of the SBA. He reviewed the concerns with 11<sup>th</sup> graders taking SBA, and noted how the SAT became the state's preferred exam. The duration of the exams is very different; SBA-approximately 8.5 hours while the SAT is only three hours and the writing component has been eliminated. Much of the content of the SAT reflects classroom instruction and is focused on core knowledge content for college and career.

## Approved

The test the Juniors will take on March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first time the new iteration of the SAT is being given. While the district does not offer SAT prep courses, Khan Academy offers a SAT prep course at no cost. Some questions remain and are being addressed at the state level.

Board members offered comments and asked questions. Dr. Feser shared concerns over the elimination of the writing component and a concern regarding inequity over the ability of some students to afford SAT prep classes. Some will be more prepared for the SAT's than others. She said the question has been raised with the Commissioner as to whether the state will fund SAT prep courses.

Mr. Burt said it is a shift to more in-depth thinking and it's about good core instruction over time.

CAPT for science will continue for 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

There was also discussion concerning special needs students taking the test.

### **Quarterly Budget Report – Mr. Richetelli**

Mr. Richetelli gave the quarterly budget report. He drew attention to the natural gas account. There was a 29.4% increase in the account that was not included in the 2015-16 budget in error. A deficit of \$94,000 is expected. At this time, surpluses are projected in the electricity, water and gasoline accounts that should cover the deficit in the natural gas account. He then reported most of the other accounts are projected to be on target and answered questions.

### **Human Resources Report**

Mrs. Kopazna gave the human resources report. Included in the report were various stipends. She noted six teacher retirements have been received to date.

## **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the consent agenda items:

Disbursement Report

Consideration of Minutes: December 14, 2015 Business meeting

Acceptance of Hazardous Material Abatement Phase V project at Joseph A. Foran High School as complete (State Project # 084-0189 CV)

Mrs. Federico seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **X. BOARD COMMENT**

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## Approved

Mr. Jagodzinski reminded the Board of concerns made to him around the Standards Based Report Card, by a parent. He expressed concern that the report card does not use language an average parent can understand.

Dr. Gregory agreed with Mr. Jagodzinski and thinks a more plain language description would be helpful.

Ms. DiBiase thanked Mrs. Griffin for putting together the bus trip for the senior citizens to attend the holiday concert at Foran.

Earl Whiskeyman offered comments about children not being taught how to write their name in script. He would like to see some script taught in school.

Mr. DeGrego told the Board he received thank you notes from the students in Ms. Mannion's class from his visit to her class to teach fingerprinting.

### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Suzanne DiBiase