

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2014

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Michael DeGrego
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fucci
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Susan Glennon, Chair
Anthony Piselli
Christopher Saley
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
James Richetelli
Susan Kelleher
Wendy Kopazna

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Business Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized the fourth and fifth grade students who placed in the Fire Prevention Poster contest. Approximately 30,000 students across the state participate in the contest. The county selects the top four and forwards the posters to the state for submission. The end result is a state calendar with the fire poster winners. Milford's winners are:

3 rd Place	Lauren Davis, 4 th grade Meadowside
2 nd Place	Georgia Malesky, 4 th grade Orchard Hills
1 st Place	Marissa Turner, 4 th grade Pumpkin Delight

3 rd Place	Emily Brenes, 5 th grade Meadowside
2 nd Place	Alexis Neider 5 th grade Meadowside
1 st Place	Mckenzie Broderick 5 th grade Meadowside

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated the students.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Erin Dunn reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Joseph Foran Law High School. Michelle Novak and Gabe Salles presented for Jonathan Law High School. Both reports are on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni referenced the Executive Summary document. The enrollment is projected to decline. However, she told the Board to ask about the special education enrollment numbers. There are a lot of paraprofessionals being eliminated that will affect the special education students.

Diane Vergara – 55 Centennial Drive – Ms. Vergara has two children on the spectrum. She supports the new reading program. However, there are dedicated staff and they need our support. She told the Board the special education staff is stretched to their limits. The budget being put forth reduces more paraprofessionals. Now, there will be more kids with less staff. She has no idea how the system will be able to manage.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon began by going over housekeeping items for the new Board members. She then asked if there were any Liaison Reports.

Mrs. Casey offered brief remarks regarding a December 19th Milford Education Foundation Mini Grant Review Committee meeting that she had attended. There were 29 applications submitted with \$5,000 to disburse. Nine grants were approved. She refrained from giving more details because the Milford Education Foundation was on the agenda to speak.

Mr. Whiskeyman reported on the ACEs Board of Governor's Meeting that he attended. ACES serves 25 districts and has three magnet schools and five special education schools.

Mr. Saley reported on the Building Committee meeting. The contractor for the East Shore Middle School project feels strongly the project will be done in June.

Ms. Glennon then announced there will be a Long Range Planning Committee Public Forum on January 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Jonathan Law High School. It will be a Committee meeting. Board members are welcome to attend, and will be seated in the audience.

Ms. Glennon then noted the upcoming Committee of the Whole meetings and what the topics for discussion will be. The January 27th meeting will be dedicated to a workshop on SBAC.

Governance Policy 12 Revisions

Ms. Glennon then explained there had been discussion regarding electronic voting by Board members. Ms. Glennon contacted CAGE for language to allow electronic voting. Two versions were then presented as a first read. One version allows electronic voting by Board members, and the other does not.

Mr. DeRosa said there are no consequences for members who physically miss more than two meetings. Framework needs to be established.

Mrs. Casey does not agree with the version which does not allow for electronic voting. However, the policy needs to have more appropriate language.

Approved

Following a discussion, Ms. Glennon suggested the Board reach a consensus on a version tonight. The consensus of the Board is to have a policy which allows Board members to vote electronically. Ms. DiBiase and Mr. Saley were opposed to offering members the right to vote electronically.

Ms. Glennon will seek input from the Board and then submit the policy for a second read and approval at the February Business meeting.

Milford Education Foundation

Ms. Glennon explained the Milford Education Foundation had previously presented at the April Board meeting. At that time, the Foundation was in its infancy stage and a board liaison had been appointed. The Foundation requested the opportunity to go before the Board to report on its progress.

Ms. Glennon then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Harrigan to give a presentation on the Milford Education Foundation.

Mrs. Harrigan, along with Mrs. Prete narrated a PowerPoint which gave an overview of the Foundation and the recent work that has been done. The Foundation works to bring forward more enrichment opportunities by fundraising and/or applying for grants, with no cost to the taxpayers. Since the original presentation that was made to the Board, the Foundation has created a mission and applied for 501C3 status. The Foundation is able to pilot programs at no cost to the Board of Education. If the program becomes a success, the Board of Education could then adopt the program, thus funding it.

Following the presentation, the Board was asked to vote on partnering with the Foundation.

Mrs. Casey made a motion that the Board of Education have a partnership with the Milford Education Foundation. Mrs. Fucci seconded.

Mr. DeRosa asked for clarity of the relationship, specifically, voting rights.

Ms. Glennon told him it does not give the Foundation voting rights.

Mrs. Casey explained the relationship would be very similar to the relationship with the PTAs.

Ms. Glennon further explained the Foundation will bring opportunities to the Board that they could not afford.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin recommended the Board wait until the Foundation has obtained its 501C3 status before approving the partnership.

Ms. Glennon then called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon called for a recess at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting was called back into order at 8:25 p.m.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser.

VI. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

1. Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2014-15

Approved

Dr. Feser narrated a PowerPoint which gave the justification for the proposed budget increase of 1.326% for 2014-15. She explained the administration stayed the course with continuing improvement as the basis for development of the budget and went on to review the major portions of her executive summary.

Dr. Feser reminded the Board the 1.326% increase is the lowest in 10 years. The Board was asked to submit questions in writing as soon as possible. The budget will be discussed in detail beginning at the Budget Workshop on Wednesday.

Mr. Saley asked administration how 15 teachers could be cut with only 52 less students.

Mr. Cummings explained staffing is based on where the students attend school. There is a group of 5th graders moving through to middle school. However, the staffing needs will be further discussed at the workshop.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board to submit questions prior to the workshop to allow administration the time to research the answers.

Ms. Glennon then turned the meeting over to Mr. Richetelli for the Quarterly Budget Report.

2. Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli reported that 99% of the budget is expended. The district is to receive state reimbursement dollars to balance the Special Education transportation.

3. Transportation Policy

Mr. Richetelli shared the background on the changes made to the Transportation Policy. Following the transportation audit, substantial changes needed to be made to the policy to best reflect Milford's transportation practices. A new policy was then written. The policy was brought before the Board at the December Business meeting as a first read. Board feedback was then given. Those recommendations were incorporated into the policy. He then presented the policy for approval.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve the proposed new Transportation Policy P-3541 as presented. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion approved unanimously.

4. Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna gave the Human Resources Report for January, 2014. The Board was provided a listing of current job openings, as well as personnel changes.

Mrs. Fucci asked if a High School Supervisor for Pupil Personnel Services had been hired.

Mrs. Kelleher reported that Mrs. DeFrancesco has accepted the position to replace Mr. Swan who resigned in December to become Director of Special Education in East Haven.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2.

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. December 9, 2013 Business Meeting

Approved

b. January 6, 2014 Special Meeting
Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeRosa asked to speak about the comment he made at the meeting of January 6, 2014. At the meeting, he thanked the public for attending. After the meeting, he learned these were administrators who had been told to be at the meeting. In the future, he would like to be notified in advance if administrators have been asked to attend Board meetings.

Dr. Feser explained there are many meetings which require staff to be in attendance. She gave the recent meeting regarding High School athletics. Both high school principals, as well as the athletic directors were asked to be in attendance.

Mrs. Casey shared a recent visit to Law. Mrs. Casey and her son were visiting Law after the dismissal of school. They were both impressed to see the staff still engaged in their work.

Mr. DeGrego announced he will teach a Criminal Law class at Jonathan Law on January 14th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fucci a motion to adjourn. Mr. Piselli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Ms. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary