

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2013

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
James Maroney
Beverley Pierson
Christopher Saley
Mark Stapleton
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a board meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013 in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Casey asked for a moment of silence to honor the Sandy Hook Elementary School victims. She then told the public that an organization titled the Sandy Hook Promise was unveiled earlier in the day. The organization honors the lives that were lost and promises to do everything they can to help keep schools safe. She encouraged the board and the public to visit their website at sandyhookpromise.org.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Ratan Manohar & Hayley Soulier reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Hamsa Ganapathi presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lucilla Massey – 57 Morris Lane – She thanked Mr. Richetelli for installing the locks on the doors at Orchard Hills. She was told that there needs to be police presence at PTA functions. Her school has a family event every month. The police will cost money that the PTA does not have. How are they supposed to pay for it? The schools lost support when the elementary schools split up.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mr. Berni publicly thanked Sue Glennon for helping with the snowflake initiative that took place over the break. She then told the board to review the budget carefully during budget deliberations.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Casey provided the public with the upcoming budget workshop dates. The board hopes to vote on the budget on January 22nd.

Mrs. Casey then announced that Mr. James Maroney would be leaving his position as Board Majority Leader at the conclusion of the budget workshops later this month. He is off to Hartford as a member of the State House of Representatives for the 119th district. She thanked him for his dedication and work as a board of education member.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School Safety/Security Update

Dr. Feser began her report with an update on school security. She explained that she has met with Mayor Blake and Police Chief Mello several times over the past month. The discussions have been around school security strategies. She reported that police presence has been at all schools over the past month. The schools have been checked to ensure all buzzers, locks, surveillance cameras, equipment and other items are in proper working order. The security procedures and policies have been reviewed by staff. A Safety/Security Committee has been formed that includes members from the Milford Public Schools, Fire, Police and Health departments.

Dr. Feser also reported that security awareness led to a symposium that was held recently at the Aqua Turf. Over 800 people from across the state attended. Members from the Police Department and Milford Public Schools attended the meeting. She then announced that funding has been added to the 2013-14 budget for greeters to be added at the elementary schools. She would give further details under her budget presentation.

Dr. Feser updated the board on the locks project. Phase I has been completed; Phase II will be completed by early February and Phase III by the end of the school year; which then all schools will have classroom locks on every door. She concluded by expressing her gratitude of the relationship of the police and education system.

Dr. Stapleton told the board that the locks have been underway for quite some time. The project has been years in progress. He referred back to Columbine.

Mr. Saley asked Dr. Feser if we are overstepping the security piece. He reminded everyone that kids are resilient.

Dr. Feser told the board, a committee has been formed to discuss security. They will meet regularly and report out. It will be a measured approach.

Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2013-14

Dr. Feser told members of the board there were several factors that led to the development of the budget. The board goals along with the priorities helped frame the budget while keeping the focus on the learning

needs and operational needs. She presented a PowerPoint (on file) as she unveiled her 2.39% increase. She explained three areas are major budget drivers. 1. Common Core State Standards is the tool in which students will be assessed by the State beginning in 2015. The tool is responsible for prompting the change in the instructional approach, in math and language arts which ultimately affect all curriculum areas. 2. Public Act 10-111 which dictates that new teacher evaluation plans must be in place by the 2013-14 school year, as well as the administrator plan, and 3. School Safety.

Dr. Feser then explained the technology which will cost \$628,113 in the upcoming year. The increase of cafeteria aides to free up the middle school administration from three lunch waves has been added. Student leaders at four of the more needs driven elementary schools to assist the principals. Both would cost \$275,000. A .5 behaviorist position, summer school transportation and stipends for middle school curriculum leaders were included at a cost of \$129,397. Eight new greeters at the elementary schools and security upgrades, a part time residency officer and a business analyst will account for \$309,000. She then told the board those changes would not increase the budget. Rather she would find savings through staff reductions, contracted services, facilities, transportation, instructional supplies to find the funding. In all, the administration found \$1,341,704 in the reallocation of funds.

Dr. Feser concluded her presentation by asking for the board's support of her proposal. She then told them she would give more details during the upcoming workshops.

Mrs. Casey asked the board members if they had any questions. She then told them the board would be discussing the budget in detail over the next week.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli told the board he has no major areas of concern. However, 99.45% of the budget has been encumbered, or obligated. Those accounts include salaries and benefits.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna gave the Human Resources Report for the month of December.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4.

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. December 10, 2012 Business Meeting
3. Acceptance of Phase III Hazardous Material Abatement Project at Foran High School
4. Acceptance of Phase II Lead and Asbestos Abatement Project at Foran High School

Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

James Maroney
Corresponding Secretary