

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Board Budget Workshop  
January 15, 2008

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, January 15, 2008 in the Board of Education Meeting Room of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Members Present

Mrs. T. Casey  
Chairman D. Hourigan  
Mr. J. Quish  
Mrs. J. Rohrig  
Mr. J. Santa Barbara  
Mrs. P. Staneski  
Mrs. G. Stanford  
Mr. D. Steinlauf

Absent

Mr. D. Amendola  
Mrs. C. Kopazna

Chairman Hourigan announced the meeting will be less formal. Administration will be reviewing the enrollment, salaries and benefits series of the budget, which fall under the 1000, 2000 and 3000 accounts.

He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for the budget presentation.

Dr. Polansky told the board enrollment has been stable for the last seven years. He noted the difference has only been 18 students over seven years. The district used a demographer to trend out several years' worth of data, which played a key factor in the enrollment projection. He then asked Mr. Cummings to explain the enrollment numbers.

Mr. Cummings said ratios play a key factor in class size and staffing needs. The class size needs are different than those of past years. He then reviewed the priorities relative to the class size at the elementary level.

During the discussion, Mrs. Staneski asked for clarification of the grant positions.

Dr. Polansky referred to the 2007-2008 grant positions document that was handed out prior to the meeting, which will be kept on file with the minutes.

Chairman Hourigan asked Mike Cummings to list the Title 1 schools.

Mr. Cummings said they are: Harborside, West Shore, Kennedy, Pumpkin Delight, Meadowside and Simon Lake. This is based on demographics.

Mr. Cummings then continued to review the enrollment numbers to the board. He told them the predicted number is clearly the trend. The class sizes warrant the need for staffing.

Mr. Santa Barbara noted some discrepancies relative to the enrollment report. He used Calf Pen Grade 2 and Orange Avenue as examples. He said there are large gaps in the numbers going from one grade to another.

Mr. Cummings explained the data is based on one grade level, not the individual school. His prediction is the district will need a certain number of 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes next year. History played a key factor the prediction of how many classes will be needed. This will give a very good estimate of how many teachers will be needed in the district. He then noted the enrollment report is a fluid document.

Mrs. Stanford asked where the additional four certified teachers are to be placed.

Mr. Cummings explained they are Title 1 positions that are no longer being funded. They will be located at Harborside, West Shore, JFK and Pumpkin Delight.

Dr. Polansky explained that because of the cuts in grants and Title 1 funding, the district will now need to fund those positions.

Mrs. Staneski asked for clarification of the need for increasing the special education and was told the district has identified 10 kindergarten students with significant issues.

Mrs. Staneski asked for clarification of the afterschool program at the Academy. The program was designed for kids that do not fit into the traditional high school day.

Dr. Polansky said the program is for the students who are not succeeding in the morning program.

However, Dr. Polansky noted The Academy could accommodate an expansion at the new location. The program would go from 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with two cores of students.

Dr. Polansky then reviewed the teachers' salaries accounts with the board. He explained the step process and indicated a good percentage of staff fall under the higher step.

Mrs. Staneski noted the numbers of custodians did not increase even though last year the board voted to add the custodians.

Dr. Polansky told her Mr. Bradbury did request an increase. However, the budget did not allow for the additions. The infrastructure needs are warranted.

Mr. Quish asked if the custodial staff exceeds the state average for square footage. Mr. Russell told him yes.

Mrs. Staneski asked administration to explain the \$123,500 allocated for cafeteria aides. She asked why we are budgeting \$123,500 when we only used \$107,000 in 2006-07 school year. She believes administration could forecast a more accurate dollar amount. She called the \$123,500 into question.

Dr. Polansky told the board administration would make an assessment of where they are to date and will email the board.

Administration then continued to review the remaining accounts and clarify account questions for the board.

The board would like to know how many employees have taken advantage of tuition reimbursement.

Upon completion of the budget review, Chairman Hourigan read the public comment statement.

#### Public Comment

Joseph Della Monica – He referred to priorities #2 and #4 and the assumptions document. He said that according to the “priorities and assumption” document, the board should approve the budget as presented.

He also said that Milford needs to advocate at the State level so we will receive the dollars the district should be receiving.

He then thanked the Jonathan Choir for serenading a very sick six year old girl before the Christmas holiday.

Being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Stanford and seconded by Mrs. Rohrig. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Stanford  
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin