

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Budget Workshop
January 17, 2008

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 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

Mr. D. Amendola
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

Mrs. C. Kopazna

Chairman Hourigan stated that Mrs. C. Kopazna would not be attending the meeting tonight.

Chairman Hourigan then said administration will be reviewing series 4000 through the series 8000 accounts with the board. He then noted that over 40 questions have been submitted in advance of tonight's meeting. He said the questions will be presented to the Mayor with the budget, and will be made available to the public.

He then began the meeting with a review of the 4000 series accounts which includes utilities (including water and sewer), maintenance and repairs, contract maintenance, building projects and , maintenance of department vehicles.

Mrs. Staneski asked if the lighting dollars could be combined with the "Light the Night" program with United Illuminating to save the district some money.

Mr. Hourigan asked if some of the lighting could be covered under the capital improvement plan.

Dr. Polansky said administration would research it.

Mr. Hourigan asked if it was a safety issue or maintenance issue. He was told it is partly both.

Administration then reviewed the 5000 series of accounts with the board. The 5000 series includes transportation, insurance, postage, telephone, advertising, printing, mileage and tuition.

Mrs. Rohrig asked why the “board” pays for account 5106. She was told it is to cover the expenses for the educational field trips.

Mrs. Casey asked what number of students was put in the budget to attend the Trumbull VoAg program. She was told there are currently 23 students in the program.

Dr. Polansky said he believes this issue will become a mandate.

He then told the board he has asked Trumbull not to recruit until the budget is approved.

Mr. Quish asked if administration is monitoring the bus services. Mr. Russell told him they are monitored and the bus runs are tracked.

Administration walked the board through the 6000 and 7000 series of accounts. These accounts include educational supplies and capital equipment. Administration provided more clarification of accounts to the board.

Finally, the 8000 series was reviewed with the board. The 8000 series is “All other support”. This series of accounts included dues and fees, professional development, student activities, student athletics, parent activities, education revenue projection, education cost analysis, and competitive grant awards/entitlement grants.

There was an in depth discussion about the athletics account. Mrs. Staneski and Mr. Amendola said there is an equity issue at each of the high schools. They have continued to ask for a detailed report that shows where the money received from game receipts is being distributed.

Mrs. Staneski said that the board has been waiting for over a year for data that shows where the game receipts are going. She then requested again, a breakdown of the athletic costs.

Dr. Polansky noted that a line item titled Game Receipts may need to be added.

It was determined follow up is needed relative to the athletics account. Dr. Polansky told the board administration will have the information available by the next board meeting.

Mrs. Staneski stated there have been discussions in the past regarding the centralization of the athletic directors.

Dr. Polansky said that two athletic directors are warranted for the district. They are teachers and receive teacher pay. He mentioned that Southington High has one and he is a paid administrator.

The board took a recess at 10:20 p.m.

Board Comment

Dr. Polansky then said the bus numbers for 2008-09 remained the same, referring to an early question of a board member.

Mrs. Casey asked if an analysis had been done on overtime for custodians versus "fill ins". She was told yes.

Mrs. Staneski asked where ISO was in the budget. She was told it was not in the budget.

Mrs. Stanford asked for clarification of the absence report provided. After explanation, Mr. Hourigan asked for a report that accurately shows what days of week teachers are primarily out.

The board was asked to send any further questions to administration by Friday and responses will be done prior to the January 22nd meeting.

Public Comment

Nancy Seltzer – 74 Camden Street – She asked if the district receives Title 19 funding for Special Education Services. She then asked if the two fragile children could be reimbursed under that funding.

Mike Taylor – 340 W. Harbor Road – He questioned the costs of caps and gowns in graduation costs, CAFE and the retainer that we pay for our legal advice (they belong to CAFE). Instead of paying someone to sell tickets, why can't parents sell tickets? He also feels that administration may be able to cut the mileage rate paid for travel.

David Tomasco – 118 Cedarhurst Lane – He thanked Dr. Polansky for keeping the funds for Trumbull VoAg in the budget. He then made the suggestion to have a further discussion of ECA Aquaculture and Agriscience at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Tricia Mulhoff – Crescent Dr. – She supports the budget as presented.

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 10:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Stanford
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin