

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
February 10, 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

The first recognition of the evening was given to students who participated, and placed in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest. Each year the DAR sponsors a contest where students write history essays. Recognized were:

Kayanush Mistry	Honorable Mention
Kali Borden	3rd Place Honors
Haley Gluhanich	2nd Place Honors
Kyle Lockwood	1st Place Honors

Dr. Feser then recognized student's from Jonathan Law High School. Specifically, Mr. Kulenych's Broadcast Journalism class who won first place in the First Amendment Video Contest with a video focused on bullying. Students recognized were: Mark Thibault, Amanda DeLeo, Molly Wasson and Jacob Williamson.

The final recognition was given the Madisyn Rauscher for her creative design for Milford's 375th Anniversary Logo.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated all of the recipients.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Erin Dunn and Andrew Jones presented for Joseph A. Foran High School. Report is on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pauline Lemieux – 30 Merwin Avenue Apt. C7- Former Teacher – Ms. Lemieux spoke strongly against the views of Common Core. She provided the Board with materials about the Common Core, along with a DVD. She invited the Board to attend a presentation by Dr. Duke Pesta on March 26th at the Holiday Inn Express in Southington, CT.

Tom Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski offered birthday wishes to Ms. DiBiase. He expressed his confusion with only \$200,000 being recognized for savings in Special Education when the consultant proposed \$9M.

Kathy Gage – 47 Pond Street – Ms. Gage encouraged the Board to take their time when making the decision on the long range plan for Milford Public Schools. Listen to the concerns from parents.

Edward Vanchot – 858 New Haven Avenue – Mr. Vanchot stated that he recently spoke at the Long Range Planning Committee forum. He provided the Board secretary with documentation covering statistics on school configurations. He made reference to an email he sent to the Board, but only received an email from Ms. Glennon.

Ms. Glennon made a point of clarification. She reminded the public that the Chair of the Milford Board of Education is the spokesperson for the Board. Therefore, Mr. Vanchot would only receive the one response to his email.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Ms. Berni would like to see changes made to testing to show results sooner. She noted there were a lot of good suggestions made at the Long Range Planning Committee forum. She hopes the Board hears them.

Ray Vitali – 48 Founders Way – Mr. Vitali is the Chairman of the Education Department for the United Way. He thanked administration and staff for their contribution efforts. The goal was exceeded by \$3,000. He further said the Long Range Planning Committee should have a long term plan.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Fucci provided a brief update on her attendance at the Department of Health meeting. Mrs. Casey reported she was unable to attend the Milford Education Foundation meeting due to a conflict with the Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Glennon offered congratulations to Mr. Piselli's mother in law on her 96th birthday and indicated he would be absent from the March business meeting.

Governance Process 6- Chair's Role

Ms. Glennon updated the Board on feedback she had been given on a question relative to *timeframe within which the board chair should call a special meeting when requested by three members of the Board*. She presented suggested changes as a first read to GP6 as recommended by legal counsel and the Connecticut Association for Boards of Education (CABE). The policy will be added to the agenda of the next Board

Business meeting for action.

Governance Process 12 – Board Operations

Ms. Glennon called upon Mrs. Casey to review the changes made to Governance Process 12 Board Operations.

Mrs. Casey explained the proposed language changes are consistent with the suggestions made by the Board at the last meeting and are consistent with current policy language. A deadline of 3:00 PM was added as to when a Board member can notify the Board secretary of their attendance plans electronically.

A Board discussion ensued.

Ms. Glennon called for a vote.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Governance Process 12 Board Operations with the changes as presented. Mrs. Casey seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the vote passed 6-4 No(DeGrego/DeRosa/DiBiase/Saley).

Governance Process 3 – Public Engagement

Ms. Glennon explained the policy was brought to the Board with the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation in sight. Her intent is to get a consensus from the Board before pursuing options to engage and inform the community. Board members agreed the priority is to keep communication open to the public.

Mr. DeRosa suggested a holding a series of forum's which will allow flexibility to the public. Mrs. Fucci made reference to the Educational Cost Sharing forum that was held in 2007 at City Hall.

Ms. Glennon agreed to do some research and would report back to the Board.

VI. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

District Reference Group

Dr. Feser and Mr. Richetelli narrated a PowerPoint presentation relative to the District Reference Group (DRG)s, and how they were assigned to towns. Milford is in DRG D. However, the district is more comparable to only four districts within DRG D based on demographics, facilities, enrollment etc. Those districts are Wallingford, Shelton, Old Saybrook and East Granby.

Mr. Saley noted the significant difference in staff numbers between Shelton and Milford.

Mr. Cummings reminded him of the various components that need to be reviewed. For instance, Shelton only has one high while Milford has two.

Following the discussion, Dr. Gold-Dworkin requested that the data scores from the comparable towns be provided to the new Board members. Dr. Feser indicated Mr. Cummings report from September 2013 would be provided to new board members.

Approved

Academic Calendar

Dr. Feser presented the proposed Academic Calendar for the 2014-15 school year as a first read. She explained the calendar mirrors the 2013-14 calendar. The Board requested the early dismissals be added to the calendar prior to approval. In addition, language should be added to reflect what happens to staff professional development should there be a closure or early dismissal on the scheduled day.

The calendar will be voted on at the March Business meeting.

Human Resources Update

Mrs. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Monthly report to the Board. She noted there are currently 12 job openings.

Non-Lapsing Account Funds

Mr. Richetelli provided an update on the Non-lapsing account and the status of the two high school artificial turf fields. The fields have a life expectancy of approximately 10 years. They are currently in their eleventh year. He further explained the previous Board approved the creation of a non-lapsing account to hold funds for the installation of new fields. Currently, \$450,000 is in the account. He then asked to have those funds used to partner with the City to install two new fields at Jonathan Law and Joseph A. Foran High School.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion that the BOE authorize the expenditure of \$450,000 from the Non-Lapsing Education Fund to be used for the purpose of paying for any costs associated with the replacement of the artificial turf surface on the playing fields at Jonathan Law and Joseph A. Foran High Schools. Mr. DeRosa seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-1 No (Gold-Dworkin).

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. January 13, 2014 Business Meeting
 - b. January 15, 2014 Budget Workshop
 - c. January 16, 2014 Budget Workshop
 - d. January 22, 2014 Budget Workshop
 - e. January 27, 2014 Committee of Whole Meeting

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Fucci applauded administration for the newsletters from East Shore, Special Education and The Academy. They are very informative, accessible and more personalized. She was also happy to hear East Shore is having an assembly on “Step Up”.

Mr. DeRosa told the Board the next couple months are going to be very exciting. His hope is that the Board will have conversations as a whole Board and with an open mind. The decision will impact the many lives and the city.

Ms. Glennon stated again that no decisions have been made by the Long Range Planning Committee.

Mrs. Casey asked the Board members to continue to remind people the Long Range Planning Committee will make a recommendation to the Board at its March Committee of the Whole meeting. The board will make the ultimate decision.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Ms. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary