

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2012

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Susan Kelleher
Wendy Kopazna
James Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a business meeting on Monday February 13, in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser began the recognition of the evening by recognizing Ms. Corinne Bartow, science teacher, and her Jonathan Law Environmental Science Team. The team consists of eleventh and twelfth grade students. They joined together to clean out an invasive plant species which had taken over the reservoir area behind Jonathan Law High School. During this process, the students learned about the impact of various invasive plant species, as well as vocabulary and content and skills development.

Recognized were:

Taylor Doran, 11th grade
Albert Russo, 11th grade
Courtney Green, 11th grade
Sam DaSilva, 11th grade
Corrine Bartow, teacher

Dr. Feser then recognized C.A.L.F, a group of students, teachers and parents from Calf Pen Meadow Elementary School who became very involved in a literacy club. Ms. Lisa Carlson, a 5th grade teacher introduced C.A.L.F to the school which stands for “Children Ambassadors for Literacy in Families”. She began by contacting the Literacy Center with the hopes of forming a community bond with the students of Calf Pen.

The student's membership is based solely on volunteerism. She further said there are 29 members to date and their activities are numerous. As a group, they have held book collections, the "ambassadors" traveled over to the West River Health Care Center on Orange Avenue to read holiday stories to the residents and community. They conducted book sales raising over \$378.

Dr. Feser thanked the entire group for their efforts. She told the board there were 29 members of the club. However, at the meeting, she would be presenting the representatives of the club with certificates. Those recognized were:

Lucy Helene, 3rd grade
Tyler Iacono, 3rd grade
Finn Sawitsky, 4th grade
Sydney Maher, 5th grade
Lisa Carlson, teacher

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Tess Gildea and Thomas Bassine reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Joseph A. Foran High School. Gabrielle Novak and Matthew Ouellette presented the report for Jonathan Law High School. Both reports are on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lucila Massey – 57 Morris Lane – Thanked the board for their support of the East Shore renovations. She had no idea of the condition of the school. The best part is the renovations will be complete by 2013.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Ms. Berni thanked Ms. Glennon for her attendance at Mathewson's PTA meeting. Board member's attendance at PTA meetings is encouraged and welcomed. She then told the board she noticed there are a lot of retirements which is very encouraging. She is interested in how the numbers will turn out at the end of the school year. She then noted that the secretarial contract was to be discussed and voted on. Ms. Berni feels increases should be given for merit, not just because of seniority.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Casey noted that all board members were in attendance. She then announced that the February Committee of the Whole will be dedicated to the East Shore renovations project to ensure clarity. There have been a lot of different conversations about the renovations. Her goal is to make sure there the public is given accurate information. Mrs. Casey told the board that she has personally contacted the president of East Shore's PTA to notify her about the intent to have the topic discussed at that meeting.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

High School Program of Studies

Dr. Feser turned the meeting over to Mrs. Gail Krois, Supervisor of Professional Learning, to give an overview of the changes to High School Program of Studies guide.

Mrs. Krois shared a PowerPoint presentation (on file) with the board and explained the changes and style of the program guide. She explained the course descriptions were added back into the book. By doing this, it enables students to think more about taking classes that they may have thought would not be suited for them. Another improvement by adding the course descriptions is the student has everything in the program guide related to the course. In the past, course descriptions were scripted in Power School. Therefore, students needed to go to multiple places to get a clear understanding of a course. Another change to the catalog is offering courses that will focus on college and career readiness or post-secondary education. She further explained that courses will be offered to teach critical thinking, technical and job specific skills along with interpersonal skills to help develop a pathway for kids.

Mrs. Casey told Mrs. Krois that her daughter, who is 8th grade, has already selected her courses for next year. She further stated that the descriptions were wonderful. The book was written very well. She was able to compare the courses to the requirements for the college she wants to attend.

Strategic School Profile

Dr. Feser explained the Strategic School Profile (on file) is a report generated by the State annually. The report is of the 2010-11 school year as the state reports one year in the rear. However, it provides a wealth of information on school districts including the individual schools within the district. The SSP has been in existence for 15 plus years.

Dr. Feser reviewed the highlights of the district scores with the board. She noted the revenues are, however, from the 2009-10 school year.

Following a brief discussion, the board asked administration to follow up on the six questions listed below.

1. Verify the hours of the school year. How will they differ from this year?
2. The elementary and middle school reports show the number of students who were in the school the year before. This data is not in the high school report. Can we find out what that number is? That is, can we find out how many of our students from grade 8 go on to the high school? Can we also find out what the mobility rate is of students once they are in the high school?
3. Can we find out what the number of students that leave the Milford Public Schools after grade 8 and where they go?
4. In the SSP, it shows that 62.1% of the identified gifted students receive services. Why aren't 100% of the students receiving services?
5. Please explain some of the discrepancies in the District Expenditures and Revenues, 2009-10 chart, e.g., Instructional Staff and Services is higher than the PK-12, DRG and State averages; the same with Instructional Supplies and Equipment, Plant Operation and Maintenance. On the other hand, Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services is lower than the PK-12, DRG and State averages, as is Student Support Services and Land, Buildings and Debt Service.
6. Please verify the percent of high school juniors and seniors working 16 or more hours per week at both Law and Foran. There is a large difference in the percentages.

Proposed 2012-13 Academic Calendar

Dr. Feser explained the Academic Calendar is being brought to the board as a first read. The board will vote on the 2012-13 Academic Calendar at the March business meeting. She noted the calendar reflects a start

date of August 29th. She shared the school start dates around the region with the board; most being before the Labor Day holiday.

Security Guard Request

Dr. Feser turned the meeting over to Mr. Thompson, principal, Jonathan Law High School. Mr. Thompson explained the immediate need to hire a security guard for Jonathan Law High School. He explained that Jonathan Law only has one security guard at the current time. He told the board the school is very large with 30 potential exit doors. There is limited coverage for lunch waves, automotive pick up and drop off, before and afterschool hour coverage's etc. He further explained that should there be an investigation that involves bullying, fighting, and theft etc., the specialist could be pulled from his area leaving the entire school unmonitored.

Dr. Feser told the board there are funds available to fund the position for the remainder of the school year. In fact, the second security guard at Jonathan Law is budgeted for in the 2012-13 school year budget. The last few months have only proven the need for two security guards at Jonathan Law.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the restoration of a security guard at Jonathan Law High School for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year. Dr. Stapleton seconded.

Mr. Whiskeyman asked if the position could be eliminated if the Board of Aldermen changed the budgeted dollar amount.

Mrs. Casey explained the board could make any necessary changes to the budget if the amount were to change.

The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna shared the personnel report with the board.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1-5.

1. Consideration of Minutes: January 9, 2012 Business Meeting, January 10, 2012 Budget Workshop, January 12, 2012 Budget Workshop & January 17, 2012 Budget Workshop
2. Acceptance of the Pumpkin Delight Elementary School Elevator Project
3. Acceptance of the Pumpkin Delight School Removal & Replacement of Asbestos Floor Tile Project
4. Cash Disbursement Report
5. Overnight Field Trips

Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss the Milford Association of Education Secretaries Contract. He invited Dr. Feser, Mr. Richetelli and Mrs. Kopazna into the session. (8:55 p.m.) Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reconvened into public session at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the Milford Association of Education Secretaries Contract (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2015). Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Maroney then made a motion to add the overnight field trip for the Foran Key Club trip to the agenda. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Feser explained the trip was submitted to her office earlier in the day. She then asked the board to approve the trip.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the overnight field trip for the Foran Key Club trip to Springfield, MA to attend the Kiwanis International District Convention April 13-15, 2012. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. BOARD COMMENT:

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

James Maroney
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary