

Milford Board of Education

Board of Education Meeting

February 14, 2011

Board members present:

Dave Amendola
Tracy Casey
Gregory Oliver
Mark Stapleton, Chair
Robert M. White

Board members absent:

Suzanne DiBiase
Josip Jukic
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Jack O'Connell
Jay Tranquilli

Administration present:

Michael Cummings
Philip Russell
Wendy Kopazna
Susan Kelleher

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, February 14, 2011, in the Board Room at the Parsons Government Complex. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Cummings began his recognition by asking Ms. Theresa Voss who is the music teacher at Orange Avenue to join him. In addition to being the music teacher and choir director at Foran, Ms. Voss coordinated the Pennies for Peace program at Orange Avenue.

The Pennies for Peace program promotes community-based education and literacy programs in remote regions in Central Asia, including building schools. Orange Avenue students are encouraged to bring pennies to donate to their classroom's collection. To date, these students have raised more than \$400 in pennies. Recognized were:

Owen McCabe	Student Representative
Lucy Helene	Student Representative
Kaitlyn Dalby	Student Representative
Emma Davies	Student Representative
Juanito Briones	Student Representative
Theresa Voss	Music Teacher, Orange Avenue

Mr. Cummings then recognized Ethan Barry, a 6th grade student at Harborside Middle School. Ethan recently entered the Walter Camp Essay Contest. He wrote an essay about how his grandfather has inspired him through the years. His essay won first place. Ethan attended an awards dinner at Yale. Congratulations Ethan.

Mr. Cummings asked State Representative Kim Rose to join him in the final recognition of the evening. Mr. Acri is a history teacher at West Shore Middle School. Mr. Acri was nominated by the VFW for being the District Level Teacher of the Year. He advanced onto the State Level of the competition. Representative Rose was present to announce that Mr. Acri had won first place at the State level. He will now move onto the national level. Rep. Rose presented Mr. Acri with a citation on behalf of the State.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The board did not have a quorum. Therefore, no action was taken.

Mrs. Casey corrected the February 2, 2011 minutes. "Strike the last sentence before the vote."

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Glennon- 99 Carlson Drive – Ms. Glennon likes the format of the 2011-12 Academic Calendar. She also likes having the snow days built into the calendar.

She is confused and disappointed by the recent opening for the Energy Specialist position. She explained the original posting had a deadline of January 27, 2011. However, the job was pulled down prior to January 27, 2011. Therefore, she knew of many people who did not get the opportunity to submit their resume.

Her final comment of the evening was how she was appalled by the lack of board member attendance at the board meetings. It is an embarrassment. She feels attendance should be taken at the beginning of the meeting and noted in the minutes.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni agrees with Ms. Glennon. Attendance has been a problem with the current board for a long time. The public needs to know how many meeting the elected officials are missing.

Lisa Biagione – 73 Sentinel Hill Road – Ms. Biagione told the board that she has attended all of the workshops. It is very important that the board talk about the "what if's".

Kathy Bonetti – 157 Seaside Avenue – Mrs. Bonetti reported on the last PTA Council meeting and the upcoming events. PTA Council has a Facebook page. The next meeting is February 17th at 7 p.m. at Parsons.

Joe Simoncek – Governor's Avenue – He does not like the appearance of the calendar. It is too busy.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Dr. Stapleton announced the following absences of the board: Suzanne DiBiase due to illness, Jack O'Connell is away, Jay Tranquilli due to illness.

Mrs. Casey reminded the board members that liaisons have been assigned to all of the groups. However, the only report she has heard has only been from Permanent Schools, which she is on.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports

Courtney Murray reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Kate Sylvester and Dan Evanich presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

2. Instructional Report

Academic Calendar

Mr. Cummings updated the board on how the February break absences will be handled. Absences are unexcused according to board policy. However, the students will be able to make up work and the absences will not be charged against them as long as they can show proof of where they are going. Teachers have been asked not to assign quizzes during next week.

3. Operations Report

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report to the board. Included in the report are job openings, terminations, retirements, resignations and stipend appointments.

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She further reported that Mr. Russell's position has been posted.

Food Service Financials

Mrs. Faustich began her report by showing a brief video to the board.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Unfinished Business

Mrs. Casey reminded the administration that new positions require board approval. Therefore, the board should approve the position before a person is hired. Mr. Cummings agreed to have the position on the February business meeting agenda as an action item. He then reminded the board the position is entirely funded by the energy education program. However, the salary will come out of the MBOE budget and then the district will be reimbursed.

Energy Policy

Mr. Russell asked the board if there were any questions regarding the policy.

Mrs. Casey has many questions. The language throughout the policy should apply to Milford Public Schools. The policy is written in a generic form. She also noted the third paragraph is not in synch with the job description.

Mr. Cummings explained the person will become a financial steward of the district. It is very similar to how the safety committees act.

A discussion ensued about the job description and policy. In the end, the policy should be consistent with the MPS policies with the number one priority being the education of the students.

The job description needs to be written for Milford Public Schools

Mrs. Casey added that benchmarking should be done so the salary is comparable.

Dr. Stapleton added the salary for the teacher is \$55,000.

Both the job description and the energy policy will be redone and presented to the board at a later meeting.

IV. BOARD COMMENT:

Mrs. Casey told the public that she had submitted over 75 questions regarding the budget. She felt that she was open with administration, the board and the public. She too expressed her disappointment that board members are not at committed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Robert M. White
Corresponding Secretary

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Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary