

Milford Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting February 22, 2010

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Jack O'Connell
Greg Oliver
Jay Tranquilli
Mark Stapleton
Robert White

Board members absent:

Josip Jukic

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010, in the Media Center at East Shore Middle School. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

Chairman Stapleton asked for a motion to move agenda item "III. Action" to number "II.", making the Instructional Report number III.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. White made a motion to move agenda item "III. Action a. Approval of the Agreement for the Resolution of Negotiations for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Milford Association of Education Secretaries (UE Local 222)" to Agenda Item II. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the agreement for the resolution of negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement with the Milford Association of Education Secretaries (UE Local 222). Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION REPORT

Mr. Cummings began by introducing staff members present. Those were:

Cathy Williams, Principal of East Shore Middle School
Shannan Carlson – Team Leader 8th grade Social Studies
Sarah Gallipoli – Team Leader 8th grade Resource Teacher
Kerrie Astrosky – 8th grade Math
Pam Begin – Librarian
Robbie Silver – Speech
Mary Michaud – Resource
Deb Groppuso – Psychologist
Diane Zanghi – School Secretary
Margaret Lontas – School Secretary
Carol Scaramella – Reading Supervisor
Gail Krois –
Lisa Swanson – Math Coordinator

Mr. Cummings reported the purpose of the meeting was to discuss RTI or Response to Intervention and what the district is focusing on to meet the requirements. He began the presentation explaining the three tier structure RTI uses to assess students (see Attachment A). Each side of the triangle represents students and teachers and the bottom is curriculum. The meeting focus will be on student and curriculum linkage in the three tier system. 80% of students should fall within the “core” group which represents Tier I, or students responding to core instruction. 15% of students will fall in Tier II “at risk. 5% of students will need a very different curriculum. There a four components used in determining what category the students fall in. They are: quick assessments, mastery tests, district-wide testing and developmental reading assessments.

Mr. Cummings then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Krois.

Mrs. Krois then shared a PowerPoint presentation (on file) with the board. She explained the district is redesigning the curriculum work and linking it across grades and levels to increase rigor and challenge. The belief is if department and course plans exemplify the best practices of “Understanding by Design”, combined with the rigorous assessment tasks, the district will be able to provide timely and effective interventions that ensure success for all students. All students around the country are required to be on RtI by July 1, 2010. She further explained the district’s new vision and what the district is doing to bring it to fruition. Assessment vehicles have been developed to help identify a students progress towards goals. New assessments are being added to assist in identifying students at risk sooner.

A board discussion ensued.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Biagione – 73 Sentinel Road – Ms. Biagione said she understands that new visions have been added to direct curriculum: essential and enduring learning. These are broader long term goals that are intended to take students beyond his/her schooling years. So please keep in mind that the district is looking at increasing curriculum demands in the present and beyond, at the same time that 80% of Milford students are not meeting core group standards. This needs to be addressed simultaneously.

Secondly, a discussion took place on CMT and CAPT assessments and whether or not these assessments are useful and/or in need of improvement. It was discussed that these assessments are tougher than some other states and could be a penalty for funding by having a higher standard assessment. Please keep in mind that these assessments are still being used to measure AYP and can cause loss of funding and sanctioning for not meeting AYP. Although the district wants to add new visions to address curriculum: essential and enduring learning, please keep in mind that course content must still be assessed. Finally, if the district wants to add more rigor and challenge to the courses and content, then it would seem logical to also have tougher test assessments that stand up to measure the increased rigor and challenge it seeks to teach.

V. BOARD COMMENT

Chairman Stapleton thanked Mr. Cummings and his staff.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Amendola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Robert White
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

