

Milford Board of Education

Regular Business Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2010

Board members present:

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

Administrators present:

Michael Cummings, Acting Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Wendy Kopazna, Director of Human Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a regular business meeting on Monday, March 8, 2010, in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. 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 moment of silence in remembrance for Alexa and Paul John Heron who lost their lives in a car accident on February 28, 2010.

II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Cummings recognized three groups at the meeting. They were:

J.F. Kennedy School

Bobby Fisk	Grade 4
Alex Fisk	Grade 4
Lexi Fisk	Grade 5

Our first student recognition tonight turns out to be a “family affair”. These 3 students from J.F. Kennedy decided to do a little something different on their birthdays this year. They contacted the Milford Department of Human Services and inquired how they would go about “adopting” a Milford family who was less fortunate than themselves. For their birthday parties the siblings asked their classmates to purchase gifts and necessities for their adopted families instead of for themselves. With the help and generosity of their classmates, they collected more than 32 outfits, 10 packs of diapers, blankets and many, many more items. This is an outstanding display of community service and we thank the Fisk children for helping our neighbors.

Foran High School

Nicole Battalino	Grade 12
Amber Mata	Grade 12
Louise Brown	Business Department Chair @ Foran

The Business Department at Foran High School has been a very busy and interesting place to be this year! Just to name a few of the highlights and accomplishments to be noted:

- The opening of the school store ~ “*The Lion’s Eye*” took place.
This is the first time students can purchase sweatshirts and other school related items off the rack since the old store closed in 1995.
The students also sell notebooks, pens, pencils, and calculators from the portable cart.

Unapproved

- The students have been able to officially reinstate their DECA Chapter. DECA is an international association of marketing students. The students and Dept. Chair, Louise Brown, will be attending the state convention tomorrow at Aqua Turf in Southington representing Milford and Foran High.
- Students have been involved in various aspects of the sales and marketing arena. Pictures of Foran's students involved in these activities are up for view tonight.

There are many, many other achievements these business students have done. While these achievements were the result of hard work and dedication by many students, teacher Louise Brown states two students in particular stand out in making these successes come true.

Senior, Nicole Battalino is the manager of "*The Lion's Eye*" and spends more time than any other student tearing down the store each day and keeping track of the sales. She is a true salesperson who takes this responsibility very seriously.

Our other senior, Amber Mata, is the President of the new DECA Chapter. Her "let's do" attitude for events and fundraisers is inspiring. Her personality proves as encouragement to other students signing up to compete in the upcoming DECA convention. Thank you to the leadership being shown over at Foran High School!

Pumpkin Delight School

Emma Hendricks	Grade 5
Matthew Boath	Grade 4
Samantha Markham	Grade 5
Emma Carollo	Grade 4

Students are very aware these days of the importance in addressing bullying issues. A new national survey reported earlier last week states that bullying is declining. Educational programs and awareness by our students no doubt have a role in these results.

A group of students from Pumpkin Delight wanted to share their thoughts with their fellow schoolmates on this subject so they decided to act upon it; literally! 14 students participated in a play co-authored by students Samantha Markham and Emma Carollo. The play took place at the school on February 11th for students in grades 1-5.

Tonight we have with us the authors of the play and two of the actors:

Emma Hendricks (who played the bully) and Matthew Boath (who played the victim). The concept of the play was about how to prevent being a bully, how to prevent being bullied and the procedures to follow in reporting bullying. Peggy Kelly, from the Milford Family Resource Center, assisted this group with their presentation. Thank you to all the students who participated in this valuable project.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- Mr. White made a motion to accept the February 8, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. White made a motion to accept the February 13, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. White made a motion to accept the February 17, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. White made a motion to accept the February 22, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Unapproved

Sean McGinley – 106 Shell Avenue – In favor of a high school lacrosse program. The Milford Lacrosse Program only goes up to 8th grade. Instructors are prepared to support the program. Children have left Milford to attend other schools. Please let the children pursue their dream.

Zach Tamosko – He is in support of a Milford Lacrosse Program at the high school. His colleagues are very upset that they will not be able to play after 8th grade. Please consider having a high school lacrosse program.

Will Vitelli – 121 Todd Drive – He will be going to high school and he wants to stay in Milford. However, he wants to play Lacrosse. Other districts offer the sport at the high school level.

Will Vitelli Sr. – 121 Todd Drive – He asked to the board to consider offering a Lacrosse program in the high schools. Let the kids be kids and do what they want to do.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – She would like further information about the Camp Happiness Program. The rumor out there is the paraprofessionals will be eliminated.

Mike Taylor – 340 Wolf Harbor – The board needs to appoint a new superintendent. Voice the need or the use of fund for attorneys.

Joe Prisco – He would like to know where the basketball photos at Live Oaks ended up. His son is in one and he would like to keep it.

Frank Agvent – 110 Sassacus Drive – The board has hired a very good law firm. Please review the new superintendent's contract carefully. Do not give him or her the farm.

Joe Dellamonica – 83 Lindy Street – East Shore Middle School renovations keep getting pushed back. The school is a dump. He has a real issue with lunch there. The students actually have to leave the building after they purchase their lunches and enter through a different door. Then sit down and eat lunch. It is pathetic.

Jessie Black – 57 Spruce Street – She is in her fifth year playing lacrosse. The boys are her brothers. She can't imagine playing without them. They have formed a bond. Please consider having lacrosse at the high schools.

Andrew Jones – 49 Green Street – He has improved dramatically at lacrosse. He also said the group is his family. Please consider the program.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Stapleton called for the Liaison Reports.

Greg Oliver reported on PTA Council.

Robert White said the Permanent Schools Building Committee postponed the project for the Pumpkin Delight elevator until the next meeting.

Diane Kruger-Carroll reported on the Health Department.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports.

Bing Zheng reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Shenali Parikh and Dylan Leonard presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

2. Instructional Report

Mr. Dan Worroll – Milford Fire Department gave an overview of how the weather system works. He told the board the program used by the Milford Fire Department projects weather in "Milford" 96 hours out. He explained how he begins dialogue with the superintendent's office about two days prior to the inclement weather forecast. He also explained how the system can determine flooding situations in advance.

Unapproved

Adult Education Report – Mr. Bugyi reviewed the annual Adult Education Report with the board. Report on file.

Chairman Stapleton asked for a recess at 8:30 p.m. The board reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Graduation Date & Time – Mr. Cummings gave the board administrations' pros and cons for three graduation scenarios. The board will vote on the graduation at the April business meeting.

Breathalyzer Update – Mr. Barile, principal of Joseph A. Foran and Mrs. Garagliano, principal of Jonathan Law told the board the breathalyzer policy is working at the high school dances. They believe the policy has halted students from drinking before or during dances. Mr. Barile said that there was only one person confirmed to be under the influence by administering the test. He was not a student, but the date of a student. Mr. Garagliano has been used eight times in the last two years and had two positive tests.

3. Operations Report

Mr. O'Connell would like the legal fees added to the agenda under a separate item. While he appreciates Mr. Russell breaking out the fees, he believes the board needs to discuss these items in more detail. There is a lot of money being spent of legal fees.

Personnel Report – Mrs. Kopazna reported the listing of job openings, as well as the personnel changes for February, 2010.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. White asked for a motion to approve consent agenda items a & b. Mr. Amendola seconded.

The consent agenda included many items this month. These were:

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. Overnight Field Trip: Administration recommends approval of the Jonathan Law Key Club overnight trip to Springfield, MA from April 9 – 11, 2010.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Unfinished Business
None

- b. New Business
Mr. White made a motion to approve retaining the law firm of Durant, Nichols, Houston, Hodgson & Cortese-Costa, P.C. to serve as special counsel to the Board for purposes of the hearing to consider the termination of Superintendent Harvey B. Polansky. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed 9-1 (Casey).

Mr. White made a motion to approve the appointment of the full Board of Education as the Personnel Search Committee for the position of the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed 9-1 (O'Connell).

X. BOARD COMMENT:

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Stapleton asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Unapproved

Robert White
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary