

Milford Board of Education Minutes for the Regular Business Meeting March 9, 2009

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
David Hourigan, Chair
Cindy Kopazna
James Quish
Joanne Rohrig
James Santa Barbara
Greta Stanford

Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent
Michael Cummings, Asst. Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Wendy Kopazna, Dir. of Human Resources

Board members absent:

Pamela Staneski
David Steinlauf

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Monday, March 9, 2009 in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Board chair David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for student and staff recognition.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Dr. Polansky began by recognizing the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Contest winners. The contest consisted of an essay written about the ideals of the Gettysburg Address. Recognized were:

Maria Karkanitsa	2 nd place for 6 th grade level
Angela Foley	Honorable mention for 8 th grade level

Alejandra Dorado

Dr. Polansky then recognized Alejandra Dorado to come forward. He told the board that Alex has been accepted to the United State Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She was nominated for the Naval Academy by U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. She is only one of three (3) individuals selected from Milford. Her mission is to pilot a space shuttle mission some day.

Dr. Polansky also told the board that Alex is also Jonathan Law's selection to attend the South Central Area Superintendents' Association recognition event. This event allows superintendents to personally recognize select students for their service and achievements.

APPROVED

Meadowside Elementary School Safety Patrol

Dr. Polansky told the board that Meadowside made the decision to have a safety patrol team out of concern for the safety of younger students. The participating students have learned leadership skills by assisting students in grades K-3 off the bus, monitoring the hallways and helping with afternoon dismissal. Recognized were:

Samuel Carroll	Ryan Casey	Haleigh DePalmer
Tia Diblase	Tricia Gildea	Muhammad Hamzha Navaid
Harshita Degala	Nicholas Koesnikoff	Zachary Thrun
Muskan Lal	Mindy Le	Taylor Loughlin
Justin Manes	Mustafa Mumtaz	Fiona Noyes
Glenn Orpiano	Kristen Passaro	Beatrice Relucio
Blair Sprosta		

Durham School Bus Services

The last recognition of the evening went to Durham School Bus Services. Dr. Polansky said that there are 475,000 school buses in operation in the US today, transporting 25 million children. It has been reported by the DOT that school buses are the safest form of transportation to and from school. He then asked Neil Martino, Milford Manager to come forward. He commended Neil and his staff for delivering our children to and from school safely. Mr. Martino then introduced staff members who were present. He told the board he is so proud of his drivers. They truly are remarkable citizens.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009 Regular Business Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. With the noted changes, the motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Hourigan asked for Public Comment. There was none.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hourigan asked if any board member had a report. Being none, he turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for the informational items.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports: Student representatives from both high schools were in attendance and presented their activity reports. Copies of these reports are on file with the Board Secretary.

2. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Polansky told the board the CMTs and CAPTs were in progress. The CAPT testing will be over in the next week. CMTs will run throughout the month. He would like to see the State return to alternate year testing.

3. Instructional Division: Strategic Road Map

Dr. Polansky told the board the Strategic Road Map really connects the plan to the Governance Policies. Indicators that were used to determine growth models were used to measure the growth.

Mr. Cummings told the board that a consultant put the document together based on those growth models.

APPROVED

Mr. Santa Barbara wondered if differentiation instruction might now need to be altered. He was told that the insights were written a year ago and identify challenges that currently exist and will change on a regular basis.

Mrs. Casey asked if the weighted percentages have changed. Mr. Cummings updated the board on the percentages that have changed. For instance, decreased ninth grade retention increased by 10% because the district is more concerned about ninth grade retention. Dr. Polansky also added that once there is a better curricular line, the weighted scores will change. It is tied into the instructional plan. Mr. Cummings continued to review the changes with the board.

Mrs. Kopazna made a correction to the number of the board members in Strategic Direction D.

She then asked for clarification of Strategic A. Dr. Polansky told her that the consultant felt there should be only two high school insights, especially with high school reform about to be implemented. He then told her he would have more information in June.

Mr. Hourigan asked if there is mandatory summer school for ninth graders who fail. Dr. Polansky told him no. The state has not mandated that at this time. It would also be a budgetary issue.

Mr. Hourigan asked what is in place for the students who do not demonstrate mastery. Mr. Cummings told him there are tutorial programs in place; mainly after school. However, he does feel summer school could help. Dr. Polansky told the board the chronic absenteeism affects a lot of the students who do not demonstrate mastery. Therefore, the summer school program may not help that particular student.

A discussion ensued regarding the roadmap to gain a clear understanding of the strategic directions.

Dr. Polansky told the board at future board retreats the focus will be on the progress of the road map.

Cable Advisory Council Grant – Mr. Cummings told the board through the hard work efforts of Mr. Guaglianone, both Foran and Law have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,789 each. The grant will be used to purchase equipment for a television studio package. The creation of a television studio at each location allows the school to become a broadcasting facility for both inside and outside of the building. Students in the television production and video production courses will be able to have their work shown on the local cable access channel.

4. Operational Division Report

- a. Personnel Report:** Mrs. Kopazna reported on the personnel report as of March 1, 2009. The report has been arranged a little differently because some of the employees funding sources were changed due mostly to grant funding.

Mr. Santa Barbara asked why the reading teacher was still vacant and was told it has not been filled as of yet. The spring may bring new candidates.

- b. Budget Report:** Mr. Russell reported 96% of the budget has been encumbered. Significant over expenditures fall in special education transportation and special education tuition accounts. The district is currently over by 750,000 in this area. However, we should receive 1M in reimbursements are expected. The 4000 account series will be expended more now that the snow season is over.

APPROVED

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report.
- b. Use of Facilities: Administration recommends approval of the application for use of the Jonathan Law High School for religious services by Cornerstone Christian Center on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, 2009

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Mrs. Stanford made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as published. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. ACTION ITEMS: None

X. BOARD COMMENT:

Chair Hourigan asked the board members for any comments they may have relating to Board business. Mrs. Casey commented on the wonderful Art Show that had just opened the week prior and was complimentary of seeing a positive reflection of the work of Milford students.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hourigan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Greta Stanford
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary