

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2015

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Michael DeGrego
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli
Susan Kelleher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room. She then asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for recognition.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Jonathan Law twelfth grader, Raeven Grant was the first to be recognized as this year's recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution's "Good Citizen Award." The Good Citizen Award recognizes students for having outstanding qualities, such as, dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

Dr. Feser then recognized Patricia Daniels, a teacher from Jonathan Law High School for her dedication and participation in the Unified Sports program. Because of her loyalty, Ms. Daniels has been selected by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association to receive the "Outstanding Coach of the Year for Unified Sports".

The final recognition of the evening was given to two Foran students for being selected to perform at the Connecticut Music Educators' Association All-State Music Festival. Samantha Martinez, a junior represented the Foran choir, and Katie Buckheit, also a junior at Foran and plays bassoon, piccolo and flute represented the band.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated Ms. Daniels and the students.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Tyler Porcello and Shaina Arsenault presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Sofya Calvin and Kelsey Kopazna presented the report for Jonathan Law.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski questioned the two academic specialists in the proposed budget, that they were in response to the special education audit. He said there was no indication in the report this was needed. He feels the Board is going in the wrong direction in addressing academic achievement. His final comment was about the Board and the public not being allowed to see the presentation before it's presented.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni thanked Ms. Glennon for reaching out to her after she spoke out about the redistricting plan. She also mentioned the recent Minds in Motion event led by the Milford Education Foundation. She has heard very positive feedback.

Joanne Poffenberger – 50 Green Street – Mrs. Poffenberger spoke about the complexity of children taking SBAC. She encouraged the Board to implement keyboarding in the early grades so students will have the skills needed to take the test, as it is computer driven.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon announced a special meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th dedicated to redistricting, and will be at held 7:00 PM at City Hall. She then reminded the Board of the upcoming events in the district.

She notified the Board she has had conversation with the new MGAT chair regarding meetings being televised. She then called for the liaison reports.

Mr. DeGrego asked to move Consent Agenda Item 3e to New Business.

Mr. Whiskeyman offered an update on ACES. In the report, he noted the tuition will not increase in the 2015-16 school year.

Ms. Glennon updated the board on PTA Council.

Ms. Glennon then turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the Superintendent's report.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Division Highlight

Before the presentation, Dr. Feser explained that a complete report on data assessments would be given to the Board in the fall. However, the intent of the presentation is to give the Board a mid-year check-in on the key assessments. All of the assessments are tied to Board goals. She then narrated a presentation of the three key assessments used in the district, DRA2, DCA and NWEA. Developmental Reading Assessment 2 (DRA2) is given in kindergarten through grade five. It measures reading level, accuracy, fluency and comprehension, and is given three times a year in grades one through five, and twice a year in kindergarten. It identifies reading levels which aid in the planning for students. She shared data broken out by "all", "free and reduced" and "special education". She touched on the highlights of the scores. The percentage of "all"

Approved

students at or above performance level is increasing. However, less than half of special education students are reading at or above goal. Work on aligning IEP goals to the academic standards must continue.

Dr. Feser then gave an update on the District Common Assessments, which have been developed by staff, are given in grades six through twelve, three times a year, in core courses. She gave details of the learning expectations for each of the core subject areas, along with the growth in the grades between the fall and the winter. While she reported growth is occurring in all disciplines, special education is slow to respond to interventions. Next steps will include identifying which classrooms have the strongest growth and develop learning modules for teachers; increase use of DCA learning expectations and rubrics; have students self-assess using the rubric and to identify specific learning expectations with which students are struggling and examine or modify the curriculum.

The last assessment update was on the Northwest Evaluation Association, or NWEA. It measures a student's reading and math performance against the Common Core State Standards. She presented the data using September 2014 as the baseline.

Board members posed some questions during the presentation that required follow-up. They are attached.

Revision to Graduation Requirements

Due to the hour, the Graduation Requirements policy was moved to the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

2015-16 Academic Calendar

Dr. Feser presented the 2015-16 Academic Calendar for approval. She recapped the major changes to the calendar from the 2014-2015 calendar were a Thursday start for students, three professional development days prior to the start of school, with one day being used for a student orientation due to the reconfiguration. The calendar aligns with the ACES Regional Calendar.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the 2015-16 Academic Calendar as proposed by administration. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.

Mr. Whiskeyman noted the words "Early Dismissal" should be removed from Thanksgiving vacation.

With that change, the motion passed unanimously.

Food Service Financials Report

Mrs. Faustich reported out on the annual financials for the Food Service division. The report is currently showing a shortfall. Ms. Faustich projects, as in past years, the financials will balance at the end of the year. The district currently participates in the Healthy Food Program through the state. The state reimburses 10 cents per meal that is sold. The state has currently reimbursed the district \$47,000 which is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total reimbursement.

Healthy Foods Certification

Mrs. Faustich updated the Board on the Healthy Food Certification program. The Milford Public Schools benefits from the program in the following ways: 1) a healthier school nutrition environment will support

Approved

student learning, 2) financial incentive will support the food service program, and 3) the provision to exempt foods at events will minimize the negative financial impact on the school fundraising and other programs.

Mrs. Faustich then referred to Public Act 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Healthy Food Certification (HFC) requires boards of education to certify annually whether they will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published annually by the Connecticut Department of Education. The statute provides financial incentive for the Milford Public Schools. The Milford Food Service Program receives 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches served in the district in the prior school year. The additional income will help offset the USDA School Breakfast Requirements that will increase our food costs next year.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Satti for a motion.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the participation in the Healthy Food Certification and certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to student separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises whether or not school sponsored. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon asked for a second motion that would allow the district to exclude from the certified food items outside of school hours or events.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the exclusion from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported on Human Resources Report for February.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Glennon made the Board aware that the education specifications would need to be read verbatim as required by the state. She then asked Mr. Satti for a motion on the Consent Agenda Items.

Mr. Satti made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items:

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. February 10, 2015
 - b. February 11, 2015
 - c. February 17, 2015

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the Hazardous Material Abatement project at Joseph A. Foran High School and authorize the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement from the State Department of Education Office of School Facilities Unit. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Hazardous Material Abatement Project at Joseph A. Foran High School. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Satti for a motion on the minutes of February 23rd.

Mr. Satti made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.

Mr. DeGrego made reference to page three of the minutes from February 23, 2015. He recalled what he said at the meeting was different from what was included in the minutes. He asked the Board to accept the minutes with his statement added; a statement which included that he was not in support of any of the redistricting options presented.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board minutes are not verbatim transcriptions of meetings, but rather a summary.

Mr. DeRosa called for a point of clarification. He urged the Board to continue with its past practice, which did not include verbatim statements made by members.

A brief discussion ensued.

Following the discussion, Mr. DeGrego made motion to accept the amended minutes, with his statement included. There was no second.

Ms. Glennon then referred to the original motion on the floor, which was:

Mr. Satti made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.

By a roll call vote, 9-1 No (DeGrego), the motion passed.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeGrego read a statement regarding his stand on redistricting. He asked be added to the record. It is attached.

Approved

Mr. Satti updated the Board on his visit to Meadowside Elementary School where he delivered the fire prevention certificates to the students who were unable to be at the Board meeting last month.

Being no further comments, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to adjourn.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Satti asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mr. C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Corresponding Secretary