

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2012

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
George Gensure
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
James Maroney
Beverley Pierson
Christopher Saley
Mark Stapleton
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Susan Kelleher
Wendy Kopazna
James Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a business meeting on Monday March 12, in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser began the recognition of the evening by commending the Milford Junior Pee Wee Football Team. She then gave the highlights of the team's run. The team is the first Pop Warner football team to win the Southern CT Conference Championship. The team then went on to win the Connecticut State and New England Championships and moved onto being reigning region champions. The team then qualified to play in the National Championship at the Wide World of Sports Complex in Disney World in December.

The next recognition went to a second grade student at Orange Avenue School. During independent reading time, Amelia McGonigle became aware of something thought to be very disturbing. Amanda was reading about Polar Bears and the demise of their habitat due to Global Warming. Amanda requested to meet with Principal Swift to see if she could address her classmates. Amelia put together a PowerPoint presentation showing the problems and possible solutions on how everyone can help reduce the negative impact of Global Warming. Amelia presented the PowerPoint, at an assembly to all the classes at Orange Avenue in the multi-purpose room. She shared with each group her thoughts and suggestions on this important subject. Dr. Feser thanked Amelia for advocating for our ecology.

Dr. Feser then asked Allyson Cano to come up. Allyson is a fifth grader at Pumpkin Delight. On a recent trip to Columbia, Allyson was approached by children asking for her shoes. She noticed that the children were without shoes. Many of whom did not have enough money to purchase them. Allyson quickly thought of a way to help out. She began a charity titled "Walk a Day in Our Shoes." Since Allyson's father is from Columbia, she will collect shoes and then bring them back the next time she visits the country.

Recently, she met with The Milford Bank to place collection receptacles in the branches. Dr. Feser also noted that Allyson is the recipient of the 2012 South Central Area Superintendents' Associations Award. Dr. Feser congratulated Allyson for her work.

The final recognition of the evening was given to Bonnie Feuer. Bonnie Feuer has been a paraprofessional in the Milford School District since September, 1991. Recently, Bonnie became a published children's author. She said she was struck at the fair by the fright and shyness shown by a wallaby on exhibit when a crowd was around. When Bonnie went back to see the animal and there was no crowd, the wallaby went right over to her and wasn't frightened ~ that's when the idea for the book was born. Wallaby the Wannabe is a book in the outback. Wallaby goes on adventures and meets many different creatures. Wallaby finds attributes in each animal and wants to be just like them all. "Acceptance" is the theme here and is one which should be embraced by us all. Dr. Feser congratulated Bonnie on her publication.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Tess Gildea and Thomas Bassine reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Joseph A. Foran High School. Gabrielle Novak and Matthew Ouellette presented the report for Jonathan Law High School. Both reports are on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Casey noted that all board members were in attendance. She then thanked the Cabinet and board members for attending the retreat the previous Saturday. The time was well spent and **the board reached a consensus on the initial actions of the long range planning work.**

PTA Council Report

Ms. Glennon advised the members of the upcoming PTA Council Student Career Expo that will take place at Jonathan Law on March 20th. The expo is intended for children of all ages. Ms. Glennon then told the members that the next PTA Council will be held on March 15th at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

Mrs. Casey then notified the board that the Milford Association of School Administrators is to begin negotiations. Any board member interested in serving on the negotiations team should notify Mrs. Casey.

Mrs. Casey told the public that Governor Malloy will hold a Face to Face meeting in New Haven at Wilbur Cross High School at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow night. The topic of discussion will be school reform.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Framework Update

Dr. Feser told the board that a committee of teachers and administrators along with a consultant who put together the framework. It is a very impressive document. She told the board the framework will give the board the idea of what the discussions have been about all over the state.

Mr. Cummings introduced his staff present to the board. Mr. Cummings then told the board the framework began one year ago. He then narrated a PowerPoint (attached) to guide the board through the process for creation of the framework.

The framework is intended to be a growth model. Its design is to look at teacher performance. Mr. Cummings told the board there is documentation that proves the most effective teachers have the ability to improve student's achievement. The framework is designed to ensure that the district is continually working on improving achievement. The framework has a common vision and language of strong instructional practice. It links specific teacher behaviors to the indicators of performance. Having those will give the district the ability to have discussion about instruction across schools and levels.

Mr. Cummings then reviewed the background work that occurred to develop the framework. To give the board an idea of where the district is now and where the district is going, he distributed a teacher observation form that is being used in the district currently. It is a narrative format. In light of the new changes from the state, the administration will bring a revised plan to the board for approval. The revised plan would not be used until the 2012-13 and possible later depending on the state.

Mr. Cummings explained the framework has five major domains and indicators for each. A lesson plan was created for each domain and distributed to the administrators. The feedback of the lesson plans were received in February. He then shared the domains and their respective indicators with the board. The indicators ranged from highly effective to ineffective. The indicators also give the leadership the opportunity to work with a teacher that needs improvement. The targets are very clear.

Mrs. Casey asked how you differentiate between teachers who have been in the job for many years opposed to a new teacher.

Mr. Cummings told her the teachers and administrators set goals for the year. The goals would not be the same for every teacher.

In conclusion, Mr. Cummings told the board the document was created for Milford.

Food Service Financial Report

Mrs. Faustich explained the foodservice budget is separate from the Board of Education budget. The foodservice budget is a self-supporting program. The program serves breakfast and lunch. She told the board the amount of sales has not changed much in the last year.

Healthy Food Certification

Mrs. Faustich narrated a PowerPoint to ensure the board understood the changes that would take affect if the board approved the healthy food certification program. She explained the board would vote to participate in the program, and then a vote was needed to exempt the district after school hours at events. She further explained the program had been presented in the past but the timing was off. If the board chooses to participate, there is enough time for the PTAs and sports clubs to plan for the new school year.

Mrs. Faustich explained the state will reimburse the foodservice program ten cents per meal. The money will go back into the foodservice budget. The incentive will help offset the cost of the healthier selections. At this time, she does not feel the cost of the meals will increase.

Mrs. Faustich also noted that candy could be sold at football games, basketball games etc. However, candy and other non-approved items could not be sold during the day or at a club meeting.

A board member asked how many districts participate in the program. Mrs. Faustich told her 133 of the 185 school districts participate. It is a win win program!

Mrs. Casey asked when the conversations with the clubs would begin.

Dr. Feser told the board that there is enough time to inform and educate the various clubs and organizations. The PTA Council has already begun conversations about the subject.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to participate in the Healthy Food Certification and certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under the 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, 2012 through June 30, 2013. 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. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed 9-1 (DiBiase).

Mr. Maroney made a motion to exclude from the 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. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna shared the personnel report with the board.

The board recessed at 9:05 p.m.

The board reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1-3.

1. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. February 13, 2012 Business Meeting
 - b. February 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - c. March 1, 2012 Board Workshop
 - d. March 3, 2012 Board Workshop
2. Acceptance of the Jonathan Law Phase III Project
3. Disbursement Report

Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Academic Calendar

Dr. Feser told the board the 2012-13 Academic Calendar is being presented for action.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the 2012-13 Academic Calendar as presented by administration. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Education Audit

Mrs. Casey announced that Mrs. Kubek has volunteered to be on the audit committee. She then said the intent is that the committee would go back to the board before engaging in a commitment. **Dr. Feser agreed.**

An internal committee would be compiled of Cabinet, Mrs. Kubek and anyone Mrs. Kelleher feels pertinent to the committee. The administration is in the process of reviewing RFPs from other districts. Cabinet would first review all RFPs to weed out any inexperienced individuals. The committee would then begin the interview process. The committee needs to be clear on what the scope of the audit would be. She recapped what was discussed at the February Committee of the Whole. Some of the items were gifted and talented, organization structure, communication with stake holders, meeting state and federal guidelines, overall performance of students, transition practices, resources, transportation and more. Like districts would be used as benchmarks. **The committee would then make a recommendation to the board.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Maroney made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations between the Milford Board of Education and the Milford Local 1303-453 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO Security Guard Contract. He then invited Dr. Feser, Mr. Richetelli, Mr. Cummings and Mrs. Kopazna into the session.

The board reconvened into public session at 10:23 p.m.

X. BOARD COMMENT:

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

James Maroney
Corresponding Secretary

Approved

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary