

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Michael DeGrego
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Jess Gregory
Walter Hagedorn
Tom Jagodzinski
Susan Krushinsky
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
James Richetelli
Wendy Kopazna

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Glennon asked for a moment of silence in memory of Foran graduate Danni Kemp who passed away recently.

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

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized students from Jonathan Law in Mr. Kulenych's, Broadcast Journalism class. The students entered an annual contest sponsored by Envision Kindness Public Service Announcement, and won the Overall Popular Choice award. They produced a video that promoted kindness in school. Recognized were seniors, Abby Williamson, Basima Karzoun, Tia DiBlase, and Lexi Fisk.

Foran wrestlers Michael Ross and Ryan Luth were recognized for their contributions to the wrestling team and being named a "New England Champion".

Jonathan Law senior, Kiara Smith was recognized for her 11 accomplishments in the Track and Field this year. Kiara is also the first Milford student athlete to qualify for, and compete in, the New England Indoor Track Championships and the New Balance Indoor Track National Championships.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated all the recipients.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Jillian Bendlak and Tyler Chavez presented the student report for Jonathan Law. Bailey Garfield presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board of the upcoming NEASC audit that will occur on April 2nd at Jonathan Law High School. She then called for the Liaison Reports.

Mrs. Krushinsky told the Board the West Shore project is moving along. DEEP has requested a watering system be installed in front of the school.

Ms. Glennon updated the Board on her recent attendance at PTA Council.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Performance Based Assessments w/Amity and Stratford

Mr. Scott gave an overview of a collaboration he initiated between Milford, Stratford Public Schools and the Amity Regional Schools. The project is designed to create expertise in the area of performance assessments. Specific professional learning will take place 4 days over the summer and two additional days in February and April 2018. Staff will learn to become teacher leaders in the creation of effective and meaningful performance based assessments and the three districts will share assessments they create.

School Safety and Security Report

Mr. Nielsen narrated a PowerPoint that highlighted school security and upgrades that have been done. In addition to the upgrades, Mr. Nielsen shared the alignment of the School Safety and Security Working Group which is a joint collaboration of Milford Public Schools and the City of Milford department leaders. The group meets regularly to review school safety assessments, crisis management plans, training and ensures that district is in compliance with State safety and security mandates.

Food Services Financials Report

Mrs. Faustich gave the annual Food Services Financial Report. While the program has seen a slight decrease in the amount of meals sold in the past year, the financial status is solid. She reminded the Board that Food Services is a self-supporting program. There have been no changes to the program at this time. The report is on file.

Healthy Foods Certification

Ms. Faustich gave the recommendation that the district participate in the Healthy Food Certification program for the seventh year. By participating in the program, the Milford Public Schools will need to adhere to the Connecticut Nutrition Standards which are published annually by the Connecticut Department of Education.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education will participate 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students 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. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education will exclude 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. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Generation Accountability Report

Mr. Burt provided the Board with an overview of the latest state accountability report for 2015-16 school year. The Next Generation Accountability Report was available for the first time in February 2016. It replaces the Profile and Performance Reports, which had previously replaced the School Strategic Profile. This report is based on 12 indicators. A new growth component will provide a more accurate depiction of student performance. The Next Generation Accountability System will help measure school and district success toward the goal of providing every student a quality education that prepares him or her for success down the road. Report scores are calculated using a formula that incorporates the accountability system indicators. The state categorizes all students in the indicator scores.

5000 Policies for First Reading

Due to the hour, the policy discussion was deferred to the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna delivered the human resources report for the month of February. She noted there have been nine retirements to date. The district continues to only fill essential open positions.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for February, 2017. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500.

A Board member asked how the funds were used in Account 188195 in the amount of \$8,468.50. Mr. Richetelli will need to follow up with the Board.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion on the consent agenda items.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:

- a. February 13, 2017 Business Meeting
- b. February 27, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed Revision to GP17 – Officers

Dr. Gregory offered a small modification to Version 2. She added in:

17.5.1 Every effort shall be made to seek representation from both parties in the leadership roles.

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion.

Mr. Jagodzinski made a motion to approve the proposed change to Governance Policy 17 as outlined in draft Version 1. Ms. DiBiase seconded.

A discussion ensued about the different philosophies of changes outlined in versions 1 and 2. Version 1 gives the responsibility of one party to select the majority leader in the event of an evenly split Board. Version 2 includes the whole Board in the selection of the majority leader. Board members agreed both parties strive for nonpartisanship.

Ms. DiBiase asked for a recess.

The Board recessed at 10:00 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:15 p.m.

Ms. Glennon asked Mrs. Griffin to reread the motion on the floor.

Ms. Griffin read the motion. “Mr. Jagodzinski made a motion to approve the proposed change to Governance Policy 17 as outlined in draft Version 1. Ms. DiBiase seconded.”

By a roll call vote of 5 Yes (DeGrego/DiBiase/Hagedorn/Jagodzinski/Krushinsky) 5 No (Casey, Federico, Gregory, Whiskeyman, Glennon), the motion failed.

Ms. Glennon asked if there were any other motions.

Mrs. Federico made a motion to approve the Governance Policy 17 as outlined in draft Version 2 with the language added by Dr. Gregory. Dr. Gregory seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Gregory expressed her dismay in the Board of Finances action with the reduction of funding to support an additional SRO. She would like the BOA to add the funds back into the budget.

Mrs. Krushinsky told the Board she attended the Realtors Breakfast hosted by Dr. Feser. She thought it was great.

Ms. Glennon told the Board she attended the WAVE event at West Shore. Mrs. Krushinsky and Mr. Jagodzinski attended also. She gave kudos to Mrs. Edo for organizing the event.

Dr. Feser told the Board the parent conferences that were to be held on Wednesday have been moved to March 22nd.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Ms. Suzanne DiBiase