

Milford Board of Education

Board of Education Meeting

March 14, 2011

Board members present:

Dave Amendola
Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Josip Jukic
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Gregory Oliver
Mark Stapleton, Chair
Jay Tranquilli
Robert M. White

Board members absent:

Tracy Casey
Jack O'Connell

Administration present:

Michael Cummings
Philip Russell
Wendy Kopazna
Susan Kelleher

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2011, in the Board Room at the Parsons Government Complex. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Cummings began by recognizing three students from East Shore Middle School for their placement in the recent essay contest hosted by the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) Connecticut Chapter. The group was founded in 1892 with history and education being their objective. This year's essay was to write about the life of Paul Revere.

Recognized were:

Trygve Lund	Honorable Mention
John Lickteig	3 rd Place
Douglas McLenithan	2 nd Place

The 12th Annual CT Elementary Schools Celebration of the Arts Festival hosted by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) recognition followed. Two students from Live Oaks were awarded this honor for their performing arts as well as the their high levels of citizenship and cooperative skills. Recognized were:

Jenna Cichowski	2 nd Grade at Live Oaks Elementary School
Risten Kandrach	

Mr. Cummings concluded his recognition by acknowledging several Joseph A. Foran High School Students for their participation in the National Job Shadow Day. With the assistance of Ms. Litzie, College and Career Coordinator, the program was a hit. Eleventh grade students were able to visit business and view people doing their job.

Approximately 50 students took advantage of this informative program. Recognized were:

Louis Mark	11 th Grade at Foran High School
Matt Healey	11 th Grade at Foran High School
Kathryn Amenta	11 th Grade at Foran High School
Mark Dillman	11 th Grade at Foran High School
Amanda Geib	11 th Grade at Foran High School
Trudie Litzie	College and Career Coordinator

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2011. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2011. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Glennon- 99 Carlson Drive – Ms. Glennon echoed Mr. Cummings comments about the College and Career counselors. She has worked with them and feels they are invaluable. She then turned her attention to the adult education report is to be given. She participates in the classes offered in the program. She noticed that some of the course costs have increased while others have not. She stressed the fact that people want to participate, however with this economy cannot afford the increase of \$20. She is very concerned for the seniors who are on a fixed income. Many have dropped out because of the increase.

Kathy Bonetti – 157 Seaside Drive – Mrs. Bonetti told the board the next PTA Council meeting will be held on March 17th at Mathewson Elementary School. Gayle Slossberg will be in attendance. Legislative issues will be discussed. There will be a meeting on Capitol Hill to discuss

Greta Stanford – Ms. Stanford announced herself as a retired teacher and the former majority leader for the Milford Board of Education. She congratulated the board on the campaign they ran to be elected. She then told the board their attendance issues, excluding Mr. Amendola who had been seriously ill, was deplorable. The board is elected to make policy about attendance, employment, curriculum etc. A board member has been quoted as saying, “Judges should be brought in to intimidate truants.” However, you are not attending meetings. She told the board that they are elected officials and they need to be engaged in the board business. Attendance issues have been the talk of the town. Residents are attending more meetings than the board.

V. CHAIR’S REPORT:

Dr. Stapleton updated the public on the Board of Finance’s vote to reduce the budget by 1.5%. He is very concerned. He does not know how to reduce the budget without damage to the schools.

Mr. White updated the board on the Permanent Schools Building Committee. He reported projects are on schedule. Working with contractor which will determine when Phase III will be completed at Foran.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports

Courtney Murray reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Kate Sylvester and Dan Evanich presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

2. Instructional Report

Adult Education Report

Mrs. Hart began her report by commenting on Mrs. Glennon’s public comment regarding the price increase. She explained the cost of a enrichment course is determined by the number of enrollments divided by the amount that is due to the instructor. Unfortunately, the program courses had not increased in many years. The district was in the red on many courses. She further explained the courses have pay for the mandatory courses ie. GED, ESL and Citizenship courses. She did, however, tell the board that Mrs. Glennon raised a very good point. The senior citizen’s are on a fixed income and \$20 can be a lot. It might be a good idea to freeze their fees for the program.

Mrs. Hart then reviewed the mandatory versus the voluntary programs offered throughout Milford. All voluntary programs are offered only to residents, while mandatory programs are handled differently. Non-residents can enroll if they are not able to take the class in their respective town.

UNAPPROVED

Dr. Stapleton asked how many citizens utilize the services. He would also like to know the difference of participation over the last five years. Mrs. Hart told him she would have to research that and send them at a later time.

Mr. Amendola asked if the mandatory programs are offered to non-residents and was told yes. However, they would need to pay Milford. The state reimburses the district's 23% of the cost of the mandatory programs.

Mr. Russell told the board the mandatory course enrollment has been steady at about 130.

Mr. Cummings told the board Mrs. Hart assumed the position in the fall. Changes to the program will occur over the next year.

Response to Board of Finance Cut

Mr. Cummings explained the Board of Finance vote reduced the budget by \$1.9M. That is a very substantial cut. The cut will undermine the school system. This comes after two previous years of cuts made. He reminded the board that there is very little room in the budget to cut other than staff and programs. It will be a lot of cuts because many of the line items are under \$20,000. The administration has done everything to can to keep class sizes to a minimum. The district has been under spending in many areas.

Dr. Stapleton asked Mr. Cummings to give the board some ideas of where the cuts would be.

Mr. Cummings told him that field trips would be cut. Art, sports, student activities and more would be cut. The value of the education experience to kids will be lessened. He further said that the Board of Finance stated that the ECS money could restore and distribute it to the city. The city will allocate how much money to give to education. This is very disturbing. ECS was instituted because the state realized that it costs a lot of money to educate a child. He will work with Dr. Feser in the upcoming weeks and will present to the board at a later time.

Mr. White asked Mr. Cummings if people could be rehired.

Mr. Cummings 1.5M ECS in tact. The pressure builds on the state legislators to put the money back into the state and then the city.

Dr. Stapleton mentioned again the stimulus money did not stimulate supplanted the ECS funding of 1.5M which took the place of the ECS. When that level of funding ended, so did that level of funding for ECS. The money was intended to be extra. Instead, the state legislators put the money in the general fund.

Mr. Amendola told the board that the stimulus money was used to keep 30 positions.

Mr. Cummings told him the request was to restore the 1.5M. Those 30 positions are in danger.

3. Operations Report

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report to the board. Included in the report are job openings, terminations, retirements, resignations and stipend appointments.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. White made a motion to move Consent Agenda Item H. Education Specifications for Joseph A. Foran High School Additions/Renovations Project – Phase II to New Business. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. White made a motion to move Consent Agenda Item A. Voucher List to New Business. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. White made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items B-G Mr. Amendola seconded. Those items were:

- b. Education Specifications for Joseph A. Foran Roof Replacements/Improvements
- c. Education Specifications for Jonathan Law Roof Replacements/Improvements
- d. Education Specifications for Pumpkin Delight Asbestos Floor Tile Replacement
- e. Education Specifications for the JFK Asbestos Floor Tile Replacement

UNAPPROVED

f. Education Specifications for the Joseph A. Foran Asbestos Floor Tile Replacement
The motion passed.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Unfinished Business

None.

- b. New Business

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Voucher Disbursement List. Mr. Amendola seconded.

Ms. DiBiase asked if Milford students are outplaced. Mrs. Kelleher answered yes. Milford does not have the choice. The decision is made by the guardian.

Being there was no further discussion, the motion passed.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Phase II Education Specifications for Joseph A. Foran High School Additions/Renovations Project. Mr. Amendola seconded.

Mr. Silver, architect, explained the need to change the agenda was to meet state requirements. He then showed the board a blue print of the project.

Mr. Russell asked the board if the Pumpkin Delight Partial Floor Tile Replacement project could be added to the agenda under New Business. The specifications were received after the board packets were sent out.

Mr. White made a motion to add the Education Specifications for the Pumpkin Delight – Partial Floor Tile Replacement – Final Plans to New Business. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Education Specifications for the Pumpkin Delight – Partial Floor Tile Replacement – Final Plans. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

IX. BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Amendola wanted to make sure that all board members had received a document that listed the improvements made to the sports programs over the last 10 years. In summary, approximately 2.6M was spent on improvements. He thanked administration for the CIAC audit report. He further said that what is not clear in the report is the increase in the coaches salaries. A lot of money is spent on sports. He asked if money will be allocated for the arts and music programs.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Robert M. White
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary