

Milford Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes March 23, 2009

Board members present:

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

Board member absent:

Jim Quish

Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent
Michael Cummings, Asst. Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Susan Kelleher, Dir. of Pupil Personnel Services

Building Administrators:

Dolores Hannon, Principal, Calf Pen Meadow
Michelle Dixon, Principal, Orchard Hills
Robert Davis, Principal, Meadowside
Steve Madancy, Principal, Orange Avenue
Deborah Herbst, Principal, Pumpkin Delight
Donald Busca, Principal, Simon Lake
Clifford Dudley, Principal, Mathewson
Rose Lacobelle, Principal, Live Oaks
Sean Smyth, Principal, JFK
Kenneth Saranich, Principal, Harborside
Vince Scarpetti, Principal, West Shore
Cathy Williams, Principal, East Shore
Janet Garagliano, Principal, Jonathan Law
John Barile, Principal, Joseph A. Foran

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 23, 2009 in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Board Chair David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. LEARNING WALLS

Mr. Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for introduction of the Learning Wall presentation. Dr. Polansky explained that, in years past, each school had its own 'data wall' that illustrated its Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) and the work that had been accomplished during the year. While the development of individual AIPs and the preparation of demonstration boards for each school was appreciated, it reinforced segmentation across the district rather than collaboration. With each school focusing on its own individual plan, inconsistency unfortunately became a by-product of the work.

As such, Academic Improvement Plans will now be developed and presented **by level** (Elementary, Middle, High). All of the schools included within a level will follow the same Academic Improvement Plan. The presentation of tonight's learning walls were a reflection of this new methodology (i.e. Elementary AIP Learning Wall, Middle School AIP Learning Wall).

Dr. Polansky believes this will enhance consistency districtwide. This new concept will also dove-tail with the goal of having every student leaving any particular grade *from any building* with a similar educational experience.

APPROVED

It is expected that this will help in curriculum and classroom planning, particularly at the transition points (elementary to middle; middle to high school). Five groups presented their joint Academic Improvement Plans, illustrated through the use of a Learning Wall presentation board. The five groups were:

Elementary: Dolores Hannon (Principal, Calf Pen Meadow Elementary)
Michelle Dixon (Principal, Orchard Hills Elementary)
**it should be noted all of the elementary school principals were on hand to provide additional information in the form of a panel*

Orange Avenue (RTI Model): Steve Madancy, (Principal, Orange Avenue Elementary)
(Response to Intervention Model)

Middle School Level: Ken Saranich, (Principal, Harborside)
Vince Scarpetti, (Principal, West Shore)
Cathy Williams, (Principal, East Shore)

High School Level: Janet Garagliano, (Principal, Jonathan Law)
John W. Barile, (Principal, Joseph A. Foran)

Special Education: Susan Kelleher, (Director, Pupil Personnel Services)

As a recap, Mr. Michael Cummings delivered a short MS Powerpoint presentation on the subject of Learning Walls and Academic Improvement Plans.

III. EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

Mr. Hourigan next addressed the subject of board policy review. Board members had received copies of these files in their weekly packets and were asked to review them in the context of a 'first read.' The board will have the opportunity to formally vote on the verbiage in these policies at the April 6, 2009 regular business meeting (signifying the 'second read'). The policies currently under review are:

BSL2: Unity of Control	GP6: Chair's Role	GP16: Number of Members, Terms
EL8: Asset Protection	GP7: Majority Leader's Role	GP17: Officers
EL9: Facilities	GP8: Board Member Code of Conduct	GP18: Resignation
EL15: School Year Calendar	GP9: Conflict of Interest	GP19: Filling Vacancies
EL18: Decision Making Process	GP10: One Voice Commitment	GP20: Board Member Orientation
GP1: Governance Commitment	GP11: Board Structure/Comm. Of Whole	GP21: Monitoring BSL/Evals
GP2: Guiding Principles	GP12: Board Operations	GP22: Grievance Hearing
GP4: Policy Making Development	GP13: Rules/Conduct Governing Meetings	GP23: Participating in Graduation
	GP14: Responding to Public Requests	GP24: Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured
	GP15: Board-Staff Communication	GP25: Minority Representation Role

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Berni, 96 Centennial Drive, Milford, CT 06461. Mrs. Berni stated that she appreciated the work reflected in the Learning Walls presented during the meeting, but reminded attendees that with the recent cut of \$800,000 recommended by the Board of Finance, it would be increasingly important for everyone to take part in the upcoming budget meetings with the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Hourigan announced the public hearing on both the city and the education budgets is slated for Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. He further confirmed that the Board of Education presentation to the Board of Aldermen will take place on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, also at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Greta Stanford made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategies relative to the current economic downturn. Joanne Rohrig seconded. Following some discussion, the motion passed with 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Cindy Kopazna). The Board went into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

VI. RECONVENE

Greta Stanford made a motion to reconvene in public session. David Amendola seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board reconvened at 10:30 p.m.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Hourigan stated that, during Executive Session, the board had agreed to give Mr. Hourigan the authority to speak with Milford Public Schools staff/employees regarding the current economic downturn and the impact it may have on the Milford Public Schools workforce.

VIII. ADJOURN

Greta Stanford made a motion to adjourn. David Amendola seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Greta Stanford, Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Bonetti, Acting Recording Secretary