

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
March 26, 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
James Richetelli
Gail Krois
Carol Scaramella
Lisa Swanson

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday March 26, 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. INSTRUCTION DIVISION'S IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS ALIGNED TO NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DISTRICT CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Cummings told the board members the objective of the meeting was to highlight the benefit of the legislative decisions and provide an overview of the district's integration of the legislative policies.

He reminded the board that Milford seeks out the good in legislative changes to help shape a better educational environment for the students.

Mrs. Krois explained the Public Act 10-111 substantially talks to the changes we need to make in the secondary schools. The purpose of the act is to help prepare students to be college and career ready. She reviewed how the district is preparing for the act. The district has already implemented an advisory program. Graduation requirements are being changed. Therefore, the district is increasing the credits while changing the standards. By the year 2020, or the current fourth grade class, students will need to obtain 25.0 credits to graduate. The current state graduation requirement is 22.0 while Milford is already at 22.4. Mrs. Krois reviewed the changes in requirements. The added credited courses effective 2020 are: 1.0 Fine Arts, 1.0 Humanities, 1.0 Math, 1.0 Stem, 1.0 Physical Education, 2.0 Career & Life Skills, 2.0 World Language & 1.0 Senior Project.

Dr. Feser told the board that administration is looking at the possibility of changing the schedule at the high school. Mr. Cummings said that they are looking at the opportunities for summer school.

Mrs. Casey asked what percentage of students graduate with more than the required credits. Mr. Cummings told her that about 75% of the students graduate with 27 credits.

Mrs. Krois reviewed the Common Core State Standards with the board (see the attached PowerPoint). She explained they define the benchmarks. She further said the standards are not the curriculum.

Mrs. Krois turned the meeting over to Mrs. Scaramella.

Mrs. Scaramella reviewed the changes in the Common Core State Standards that will affect English. The changes include add more non-fiction reading in grades K-5; adding literature to science, social studies and history; writing to inform or argue using evidence; text dependent questions and academic vocabulary.

Mr. Saley said he is concerned about the timeframe to get there. He then asked if there is something the board can do to get it done quicker.

Mrs. Scaramella thanked the board for their support.

Dr. Feser told the board the work for 2020 is already underway.

Mrs. Swanson then explained the changes to Math.

Mr. Cummings said it is important level of task that the students are going to be required to do is way more complex. They challenge the way that teachers were taught to teach. It is going to be a struggle.

Mr. Cummings then reviewed the school climate and the leadership/teacher evaluation with the board. The school climate includes literacy support, after-school tutoring, online learning models, extended office hours and more.

Mr. Cummings concluded by explaining what the goals of the District Continuous Improvement Plan are.

- Attain 100% of students in grade 2 and grade 5 reading at grade level using as a baseline 2011 performance on DRA and other measures

- Increase the number of students achieving Goal on the CMT and CAPT in all grades and subtests by a minimum of 20% using the 2011 scores as a baseline

Mr. Cummings told the board the DCIP will be reviewed annually using student assessment results. Mrs. Casey said that the board talked about having milestones added. The intent is to look at them to see if what the district is doing is working.

Mrs. Casey told the public the direction Milford is going in is very exciting. She is proud that Milford has already begun the work.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL 1303-453 OF COUNCIL 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO SECURITY GUARDS JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2014

Mr. Richetelli explained that board has taken up the discussion of the security guard contract. Administration recommends approval of the contract.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the agreement between the Milford Board of Education and Local 1303-453 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO Security Guard July 1, 2010-June 30, 2014 Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Advisory “If all” She questioned the word usage. Do the text dependent questions go both ways? She assumes the teachers are being brought into line to teach Math Investigations. She was surprised to hear 30% of the students are not getting the 27 credits. Could they be Spec Ed?

Mr. Cummings told her that many of the special education students are graduating with more than the required amount of credits.

Dr. Feser told Mrs. Berni that the Advisory statement is intended for “all” students.

Debra Rodriguez – Derby resident – Thanked the board for recalling her. She is a security guard who was laid off. She also thanked the board for approving the contract.

Jennifer Ju – 22 Saranac Road – Ms. Ju asked the administration if there has been any consideration to get more planned public relations for the schools. She feels that there is a lot of miscommunication of information out there. She believes a lot of people care but the word is not getting out. Maybe people would stay in Milford schools if they were aware of the positive things going on.

V. BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Whiskeyman told the administration that he is very encouraged. He foresees a time when each student will be tracked through the system as an individual. Their learning experience will be their own. He sees the advisory and student plans as very positive.

Mr. Gensure told the administration that he was heartened by the level of the presentation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Approved

James Maroney
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary