

Approved  
**Milford Board of Education**

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
March 27, 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  
Carole Swift

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AUDIT UPDATE**

Dr. Feser provided the Board a brief background on the decision to hire a consultant firm to conduct an audit of the Special Education department. Following, Mr. Burt and Mrs. Swift, assisted by a team of administrators and teachers delivered a PowerPoint presentation (on file) that highlighted the district's progress on the recommendations that emerged from the District Management Council audit. The results of the audit offered opportunities, or recommendations to the district that, if implemented, would raise student achievement for all regular and special education students while increasing effective use of resources. The recommendations (opportunities) were:

1. Develop and implement a clear and consistent vision for providing reading instruction at the elementary level.
2. Develop and implement a clear and consistent vision for raising academic achievement at the secondary level, with a focus on increasing time on task with content strong teachers.
3. Establish clear roles and responsibilities of leaders in regular and special education, and increase coordination and planning between them.
4. More efficiently manage the deployment of therapeutic services, psychologists and social workers.

Mrs. Swift began by addressing Opportunity #3. To assist with the implementation of this opportunity, the building principal now oversees all staff within a school. In the past, special education staff members and regular education staff worked parallel to one another.

Mrs. Sinal-Swangler and Mrs. Lisa Swanson spoke about progress on Opportunities #1 and #2. Mrs. Currier, Dr. Dudley and Foran teachers delivered experiences from recent case studies that demonstrated how the collaboration and targeted instruction has attributed to student growth.

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Mr. Burt presented the Smarter Balanced Assessment data for school years 2014-15 and 2015-16 for students with disabilities vs students without. He explained the differences relating to special education students taking this assessment vs the former CMT. SBA, which has only been in place for two years, is computer adaptive and is aligned to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. The CMT allowed for 10% of students with disabilities to use an alternative assessment. SBA allows for only 1% to use an alternative assessment. The data presented was based on the new State model for growth, as opposed to the SBA achievement scores presented in the fall. The report shows the number of students meeting their individual growth targets as well as the overall percentage of the aggregated target achieved by all students.

### III. 5000 POLICIES FOR FIRST READING

Dr. Feser presented the following policies as a first reading to the Board:

- 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault/Policy and Regulation
- 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention/Policy and Regulation
- 5141.7 Concussions/Policy
- 5144.1 Use of Physical Force

Dr. Feser noted that the language in the policy changes will ensure the policies are compliant with state and/or federal mandates and are typically boiler plate.

After reviewing the policies, the Board made a few language modifications. The changes will be made and brought for approval at the April business meeting.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni applauded staff on the presentation. She questioned what training is being given to substitute teachers, especially long term substitutes. She also raised the issue of training of chaperones on mandated reporting. She said in New Haven there is free online training that she has done for her daughter's school.

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

### V. ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Suzanne DiBiase