

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

Regular Business Meeting

April 6, 2009

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
David Hourigan, Board Chair
Cindy Kopazna
Jim Quish
Joanne Rohrig, Minority Leader
Jim Santa Barbara
Pamela Staneski
Greta Stanford, Majority Leader
David Steinlauf

Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Wendy Kopazna, Dir. of Human Resources
Susan Kelleher, Dir. of Pupil Personnel Services

John Barile, Principal, Joseph A. Foran High School
Clifford Bugyi, Supervisor, Adult and Support Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Monday, April 6, 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. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Harvey Polansky and Board Chair David Hourigan started the meeting with recognition of several students and staff members for their recent good work. Recognitions included:

FOX-61 Student News Participants

The following students participated in a contest conducted through FOX-61 specifically for student-written, directed, filmed and edited news stories for television. This year, six news stories from Foran and four from Law were selected for broadcast on the network. Two of these submissions *Athletes for Academics* submitted by students at Foran, and *Senior Center Wii Bowling* submitted by students at Law were chosen for statewide recognition at the Student News Award Ceremony in Hartford on April 8.

Joseph A. Foran High School:	Rob Deal	Jonathan Law High School:	Jason Martin
	Tyler DeStefano		Shayna Slater
	Doug Daniells		Clayton Silcox
	Kate Hope		Casey Leslie
	Jordan Levine		Chris Kulenych (teacher)
	Kyle Charron		
	Julie Eppoliti (teacher)		
	Candy McGovern (teacher at Law and Foran)		

Jonathan Law Wrestling Achievement

Congratulations were offered to Rob Lonergan and Ricky Rozier, both of whom had outstanding wrestling seasons at Jonathan Law this year. Lonergan (103 lb. weight class) was named the SCC Conference Champion, Class M State Champion, and included on the All New England team. Rozier (285 lb. weight class) was also named as the SCC Conference Champion and Class M State Champion. Coach Matt Schoonmaker from Law was also recognized for his outstanding leadership and guidance of the Law team.

Live Oaks Cares Club

This club, under the guidance of parent Tanya Rotzal, focuses on community service projects – with their work touching the lives of many individuals throughout the region. The group has collected and distributed healthy snacks and homemade cards to more than 40 veterans at the West Haven Veterans' Hospital. They have worked on projects for Meals on Wheels, Adopt-a-Grandparent, and the Cool Hat Collection (for children with cancer). Student representatives who accepted the award on behalf of the group were Lily Muir and Tommie Rotzal.

Nurturing Children Award

Kathy Bonetti (Communication Coordinator for the Milford Public Schools) was recognized for recently receiving the Nurturing Children Award, bestowed by the United Way. Kathy's work in the community was identified as being a positive force for all children in Milford.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a) Greta Stanford made a motion to accept the February 23, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Joanne Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) Greta Stanford made a motion to accept the March 9, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Joanne Rohrig seconded. The following corrections were requested:
 - a. Attendance Record: Delete Pam Staneski, David Steinlauf and Sue Kelleher from list
 - b. Under Informational Items, 3 - Instructional Division: Mr. Santa Barbara stated that he did not wish to see differentiated instruction eliminated, he just wondered if it needed to be altered.
 - c. Board Comment: Mrs. Casey commented on the wonderful Art Celebration that had just opened the week prior and was complimentary of seeing a positive reflection of the work of students.

Mrs. Stanford restated the motion to approve the March 9, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- c) Greta Stanford made a motion to accept the March 23, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Joanne Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Taylor: 340 Wolf Harbor Road.

Mr. Taylor had specific questions relating to the Budget Detail and the Cash Disbursement reports included in meeting packet. His questions focused on the Medicare Reimbursement payments (Acct. #131271, 131284, 131289, 131298, 131300, 131317, 131330, 131335, 131358, 131360, 131667). Mr. Russell confirmed that these are annual amounts paid in one payment and not monthly payments.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Board Chair David Hourigan called for the Liaison Reports.

Mr. Jim Quish reported the Permanent School Facility Meeting would be taking place later in the week. He stated that they hoped the Jonathan Law project (that has already completed the bidding process) would move forward.

Mr. Jim Santa Barbara referenced the prepared report that had been distributed to the board members and offered to answer any questions they might have. There were none.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports.

Dan Worroll and Nicole Geoffrion reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Joseph A. Foran High School. Brittany Maher presented the report for Jonathan Law High School. Both reports are on file.

2. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Harvey Polansky reported Mr. Michael Cummings and his wife, Meghan, became the proud parents of a new baby boy – Keane Thomas Cummings, who was born earlier in the day (Monday, April 6). Dr. Polansky was joined by the members of the board in offering their congratulations to the family.

Dr. Polansky also pointed to the fact that the various athletic seasons had just begun and urged everyone in attendance to go to these athletic contests and support the work of our students.

3. Instructional Report

a) NEASC Report/Joseph A. Foran High School

Dr. Polansky explained that high schools throughout the New England region participate in an accreditation evaluation conducted by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which is conducted primarily as a self-study. The evaluation team provides a standard and then asks schools to measure themselves against that standard.

Dr. Polansky then turned the meeting over to John Barile, principal of Foran High School, to present the findings in the NEASC report.

Mr. Barile delivered a MS Powerpoint presentation to help guide the discussion of the full 73-page report. Highlights of the report included:

NEASC uses a 7-Standard Scale to measure a school for accreditation. The seven standards and the report's findings are:

- Mission and Expectations
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Assessment of Student Learning
- Leadership and Organization
- School Resources for Learning
- Community Resources for Learning

Details for commendations and recommendations for each of these standards were referenced in the presentation and can be found in the NEASC report. Discussion followed and ancillary information was requested by the board. Requested information included:

- 'Contracting Up' numbers, by school
- NEASC Report for both JLAW and JAF (approx. 10 years ago?)
- NEASC Report for JLAW last year

Mr. Barile also stated that the report just received from NEASC should be considered as *NEASC's recommendations only*. We now have the opportunity to consider the recommendations made in the report and then are able to respond to NEASC. Those recommendations that we believe are accurate, we can accept and create a plan to address them. Those that we do not believe are representative, however, we can debate further with the NEASC group. Once all of the issues have been addressed by both sides, the final NEASC report and subsequent accreditation will be filed.

b) 2009 High School Graduation Date/Time

The annual discussion surrounding the date and time of our high school graduations took place. Greta Stanford made a motion to accept Administration's recommendation of conducting simultaneous graduation exercises at Jonathan Law High School and Joseph A. Foran High School on June 25, 2009 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Joanne Rohrig seconded. Discussion followed. Board Chair David Hourigan called for a vote.

Roll Call Vote

In Favor:	David Amendola	Opposed:	David Hourigan
	Tracy Casey		Jim Quish
	Cindy Kopazna		Joanne Rohrig
	Pamela Staneski		Jim Santa Barbara
	David Steinlauf		Greta Stanford

Motion failed.

Greta Stanford made a motion to accept Administration's alternate plan of conducting both graduation exercises on June 25, 2009, with one beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the other beginning at 7:00 p.m. Joanne Rohrig seconded.

Roll call vote

In Favor:	David Hourigan	Opposed:	David Amendola
	Jim Quish		Tracy Casey
	Joanne Rohrig		Cindy Kopazna
	Jim Santa Barbara		Pamela Staneski
	Greta Stanford		David Steinlauf

Motion failed.

Board Chair Hourigan called for a caucus to take place. Board members in the Democratic Party removed themselves to the Learning Center at 9:00 p.m. The Board members reconvened in the Board Meeting Room at 9:50 p.m.

Greta Stanford then made a motion to conduct both graduation exercises simultaneously on June 25, 2009, with both beginning at 5:15 p.m. Joanne Rohrig seconded.

Roll call vote

In Favor:	David Amendola	Opposed:	Jim Quish
	Tracy Casey		Joanne Rohrig
	David Hourigan		Jim Santa Barbara
	Cindy Kopazna		Greta Stanford
	Pamela Staneski		
	David Steinlauf		

Motion passed.

Dr. Polansky said he would conduct a survey of parents on the question to assist with future discussions on this subject.

c) Adult Education Report

Clifford Bugyi, Supervisor of Adult and Support Services, next presented the Annual Adult Education Report. Approximately 2,500 – 3,000 people enroll in Adult Ed courses annually. Adult Education programming includes mandated classes (GED, ESL), as well as general interest classes each semester. Roughly 170 courses are offered each semester.

Board members asked questions relating specifically to numbers of enrollees for the GED, ESL, and other programs mandated in the Adult Education program. Mr. Bugyi provided answers to the various questions, as asked.

4. Operational Report

a) Personnel Report

Mrs. Wendy Kopazna, Director of Human Resources, presented the report for March. She also reported on the department's participation in the Fairfield County Educator Recruitment Fair, which occurred on March 28th. A total of 446 certified educator candidates, representing 29 certification areas, were given brief (2-8 minutes) interviews. Reading specialists continue to be a shortage area for districts.

b) Budget Report for March

Mr. Russell presented the Budget Performance Report for March, as well as the Cash Disbursements Report. He pointed to one account – 2006 BC/BS Over 65 and noted that while this appears on the report as a \$64,134 deficit, it will be erased when the expected \$105K rebate is received from payments made to the fund.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Cindy Kopazna requested Item b-3-GP12 be moved to Action Items - New Business.

Greta Stanford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented with the exception of Item b-3-GP12. Joanne Rohrig seconded. The Consent agenda included:

- Voucher list disbursements, March 2009
- Policy Governance (Items BSL2, EL8, EL9, EL15, EL18, GP1, GP2, GP4, GP6, GP7, GP8, GP9, GP10, GP11, GP13, GP14, GP15, GP16, GP17, GP18, GP19, GP20, GP21, GP22, GP23, GP24, and GP25).

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

Unfinished Business. None.

New Business. The Board revisited the policy GP12 – Board Operations. Additional minor revisions were requested, relating primarily to the number and types of meetings the Board would conduct as part of their annual calendar. Mr. Hourigan asked that the revisions be entered and the policy included on next month's agenda for approval.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Casey commented that the recent budget deliberation process had been difficult and wanted to make sure the public knew they all had taken their responsibility to heart. The other board members concurred.

Mrs. Staneski reported she had attended John F. Kennedy's drama production, The Wizard of Oz ... Sort Of, and commended the school, students and staff for a fantastic evening. She also commended the Bridgeport Cabaret for their collaboration with the school in producing this event.

X. ADJOURN

Greta Stanford made a motion to adjourn. Joanne Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.