

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2015

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Michael DeGrego
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin (7:06)
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Mike Cummings
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli
Susan Kelleher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room. She then asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the student recognition.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized two students for being chosen to receive the “Spirit of Life Award.” The award, distributed by the Connecticut Special Olympics, pays tribute to the Special Olympics athletes for their accomplishments both on the field and in life. Marshal Firmender, a fourth grade student at Meadowside, and Kristen Connolly, a post graduate student from Jonathan Law High School were recognized for their dedication, spirit and sportsmanship.

Dr. Feser concluded the recognition by acknowledging Stephanie Shteirman, a media specialist at Harborside Middle School, who was unable to attend the meeting. Recently, Ms. Shteirman received the Rheta A. Clark Award. The award recognizes library media specialists for extensive service and outstanding contributions in the library media field. Dr. Feser noted it was a colleague who nominated Ms. Shteirman for the award.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated the recipients.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Sofya Calvin and Kelsey Kopazna presented the report for Jonathan Law. Tyler Porcello and Shaina Arsenault presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Thomas – 84 Thompson Street – Mrs. Thomas thanked the Board for following through with the elementary redistricting plan. There will be more equity throughout the city.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon informed the Board of her recent conversation with Mr. May, who is the Chair of the MGAT Committee. MGAT has agreed to cover (film) the business and Committee of the Whole meetings of the Board, and therefore, the instructional update will be moved to the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Federico provided an update on the Permanent School Facilities Building Committee. An RFQ has been developed for potential architects for the upcoming school projects.

Ms. Glennon announced Tom Finn will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from PTA Council. He has served Milford Public Schools for more than 45 years in a teaching and administrator capacity. Ms. Glennon also made the Board aware of the meet and greet that PTA Council is hosting for the families affected by the elementary redistricting.

Mr. Satti asked to move the March 23, 2015 minutes to New Business.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Feser provided an update on the elementary redistricting. Letters will be sent out via US mail by the end of the week. The grandfathering letters will be sent to only existing fourth graders who are being moved out their current school pairing. The families will have two weeks to respond.

Revision to Graduation Performance Expectations

The administration provided the Board revisions to the policy at its March 30, 2015 meeting. At that time, Board members suggested some changes. Those changes were incorporated, and thus, Dr. Feser asked the Board to approve the revisions to the policy.

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the policy.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Policy 6146 “Graduation Requirements” with the changes proposed by administration. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin questioned why transfer students, who do not pass the performance standard the first time would only be given two more attempts, while others are afforded more.

A discussion ensued.

Following the discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

High Schools Graduation 2015

Dr. Feser announced the graduation dates for high school. Jonathan Law will graduate on June 15th, and Joseph A. Foran on June 16th. Both graduations will be held at 5:15 p.m. She reminded the Board that once the dates are adopted by the Board, they will not change. In addition, the middle school closing exercises will occur before the high school graduations.

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the high school graduation dates.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education establishes a graduation date of Monday, June 15 and Tuesday, June 16 for the senior classes of Law and Foran High Schools respectively. Graduation ceremonies will begin at 5:15 for both high schools. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli gave the quarterly budget report. While he did state there will be surplus in the certified teacher account due to the significant amount of retirements last year, it will be transferred to the overtime account to offset the deficit due to the storms during the winter. In addition, the special education tuition account is running a deficit. State reimbursements are expected to resolve it. He is confident the year-end budget will have surplus funds.

Mr. Whiskeyman asked if surplus funds would be placed in the non-lapsing account. Mr. Richetelli indicated they would not. There are projects that have been put off that can be carried out using the funds.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna provided an update of her attendance at a job fair. She made reference to the earlier comment about the high number of teacher retirement last year. She expects only an average amount of retirements this year.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Richetelli provided a brief history of the approval process of the Capital Improvement Plan. He emphasized the plan is based over a five year period and is used as a tool that identifies the capital needs for the school system. The plan has no funds attached to it. Following the Board's approval, it is forwarded to the Mayor, who develops a city-wide plan that is then sent to the Planning and Zoning Board and the Aldermen for final approval. Many projects have been on the plan as a lower priority and have moved to a higher priority need. Three new projects have been added to the plan. They are additions, alterations and/or renovations at Pumpkin Delight Elementary, Calf Pen Meadow and Live Oaks.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Plan and forward the plan to the Mayor for consideration and funding. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the consent agenda items:

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. March 9, 2015 Business Meeting
 - b. March 16, 2015 Special Meeting

Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the March 23, 2015 minutes.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the March 23, 2015 Special meeting minutes with the following change on page 4.

Mr. Satti stated the public had been heard. The decision being made tonight is difficult.

Mr. DeGrego seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeGrego recommended Board members attend the graduation ceremonies. They will get to see firsthand all of the work that has been done.

Ms. Glennon commented on the recent strings concert she attended. She applauded the staff and the students for their work.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Satti made a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
C. Robert Satti, Jr.