

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2019

Board members present:

Ray Arnold
Claire Casey
Adam De Young
Jennifer Federico
Scott Firmender
Rita Hennessey
Susan Glennon, Chair
Warren Pawlowski
Una Petroske

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Dr. Amy Fedigan
Carole Swift
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board of Education Room.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Cutaia congratulated the Foran wrestling team for placing second in the Class M tournament. She then recognized twelfth grader Nolan Bannon for earning State Champion in the 195 lb. division. Not only did Nolan take the championship, he was also selected to be on New Haven Register's All-Area Team and, placed second at the state open tournament.

Dr. Cutaia and the Board members congratulated Nolan.

Ms. Glennon called for student reports.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Bella Carroll and Cameron Asmussen presented the report for Jonathan Law. Mike Melillo presented the report for Joseph Foran. Nick Lanese was unable to attend the meeting, and therefore, Mrs. Federico read the report.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristyn Liebelt – 94 Monroe Street – Mrs. Liebelt is a participant in the PLTI training class. She spoke about the constant change in the classrooms, and the lack of student movement. Milford Public Schools continues to teach in a more structured setting and is moving away from “play.” She encouraged the Board to be cognizant of purposeful play when working with young children.

Cathy Berni – 99 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni suggested that the word “student” in paragraph three of the Adult/Continuing Education policy 6200 be changed to “individual.” Student implies that they are in some type of study.

V. CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Glennon thanked Dr. Cutaia for hosting the CAPSS Superintendent/Student awards. She reminded the Board members she and administration will present the Board’s budget to the Aldermen on April 24th at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. She will be sending a communication to the Board regarding upcoming MEA negotiations. High school graduation dates will be voted on tonight. She noted a conflict with the proposed date for Foran’s graduation may necessitate moving the June business meeting.

Ms. Glennon called for liaison reports.

Mrs. Casey reported the Board the Aldermen approved the increase in the age to buy tobacco and vaping products to 21 in Milford.

Mrs. Federico reported the Board the Permanent School Building Facilities Committee is in the process of closing out the West Shore project.

Ms. Glennon reported PTA Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award would go to Mrs. Patty Wrigley. The Milford Education Foundation held the invention convention.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Cutaia for the Superintendent’s Report.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Instructional Highlight: Vision of the Learner and High Quality Instruction

Dr. Cutaia presented on the work that is being done on coherence and capacity building, “Vision of the Learner and High Quality Instruction”, a five-year plan that is currently in draft form. The development of this is based on feedback received from the coherence audit performed by the Connecticut Center for School Change (CCSC). The plan will guide the decision making process in curriculum development, our teaching practices, assessment tools and professional learning. The vision has four primary principles: scholarship, personal development, citizenship and creative innovation. Administration is sharing the plan with the Board and is seeking feedback. The next steps will be to seek feedback from staff and parents. Once finalized, the administration will revisit the district’s Mission, Vision, Priorities and Goals.

The Board and Administration engaged in discussion. Mr. De Young suggested a change be made to number one of Personal Development. The word “moral” can be interpreted in many ways.

Following the discussion, Ms. Glennon said the document will ultimately become part of the Board Ends policies when finalized. The presentation is on file.

High School Graduation Date, 2019

Dr. Cutaia announced the last day for the 2018-19 academic school year would be June 10 for all students. Jonathan Law will graduate on Friday, June 7 and Joseph A. Foran will graduate on Monday, June 10th. Once the dates are approved by the Board, they will not change.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Board of Education establish a graduation date of Friday, June 7, and Monday, June 10 for the senior classes of Jonathan Law and Joseph A. Foran High Schools respectively. Graduation ceremonies should begin at 5:15 p.m. for both high schools. Mr. Firmender seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Ms. Federico asked for clarification of “firm date.” She was told that the date established now will hold regardless of any changes to the school calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

Policies for Second Reading

Dr. Cutaia presented seven policies, that were reviewed at the March business meeting, for approval.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P3220/3230 State/Federal Funds. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P3240 Tuition Fees. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P3250 Copies of Records. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P3270 Sales, Licensing and Rental of Property. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P3280 Gifts, Grants & Bequests. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the following policy as presented, P6200 Adult/Continuing Education. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna shared the human resources activity for March. Mrs. Kopazna reported she has received 18 MEA retirements.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Quarterly Budget Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2019. He explained the purpose of the report and pointed out areas that are being monitored closely.

A discussion ensued around the excess cost grant and salary negotiations. Mr. Richetelli assured the Board the budget will close in the black.

Mr. Richetelli told the Board the mayor has put a freeze on spending. Should there be monies remaining after the budget is balanced, the Board of Education could, in good faith, return the money to the City.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for March 2019. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion on the consent agenda items.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

March 11, 2019 Business Meeting

March 25, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 26, 2019 Residency Hearing

Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. De Young thanked the parents from the PLTI class for attending the meeting. He wanted to note for the record that he is in support of Mrs. Liebelt's comments regarding purposeful play.

Mr. Firmender said he attended Law's performance of The Addams Family. It was incredible.

Mrs. Glennon agreed. She attended The Addams Family, also. She encouraged members to see a MPS drama production.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Federico made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Jennifer Federico