

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2018

Board members present:

Ray Arnold
Claire Casey
Adam De Young
Jennifer Federico
Scott Firmender
Rita Hennessey
Susan Glennon, Chair
Warren Pawlowski
Erin Pinsince
Craig Zentkovich

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized the Foran Wrestling team for winning the Class M State Championship. Senior team captains Ryan Luth, Ronnie Gaul and Qasim Khan were present. Also recognized were Head Coach Dave Esposito and Assistant Coach Noel Luth. Coach Esposito has been named by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association as the 2018 “Class M” Coach of the Year. Assistant Coach Luth has been selected by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association as the 2018 “Class M” Assistant Coach of the Year.

Dr. Feser and the Board offered congratulations to the team.

Ms. Glennon called for the student reports.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Shawna Winters and Michael McCarvill presented the report for Jonathan Law. The Foran student liaisons were not present.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Ms. Berni supported the idea of having a commemorative plaque in honor of Mr. Don Civitello. He was a wonderful man who founded Camp Happiness over 50 years ago.

V. CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Glennon provided an update on the superintendent search. Information on the search process has been uploaded to the Milford Public Schools website under the “Superintendent Search” plank. The Board is on track. She thanked the Board for their engagement.

Ms. Glennon called for liaison reports. There were none.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Instructional Highlight: Changes in Social Studies Standards and Instruction

Mr. Scott gave a presentation on the recent changes to the standards in social studies. In 2013, the College, Career and Civics or C3 Framework was introduced by the National Council for Social Studies for states to use as a guide as they revise their own standards and frameworks, and laws that govern social studies. The C3 Framework, like the Common Core State Standards, place emphasis on the acquisition and application of knowledge to prepare students for college, career, and civic life. The intent of the framework is to make the social studies more coherent, more challenging, and better aligned with what citizens need to learn and do. The C3 Framework is built on the dimensions: Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries, Applying Disciplinary Tools and Concepts (Civics, Economics, Geography and History), Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence and Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action. It changes the conversation about literacy instruction in social studies by creating a context that is meaningful.

In February 2015, Connecticut’s State Board of Education adopted new social studies framework based on the C3. The district has been reviewing its social studies curriculum to ensure it is aligned to the C3 Framework. The Social Studies Curriculum Review and Advisory Committee will make its recommendation in May 2018.

Mr. Scott then updated the Board on the recent collaboration project with Stratford and Amity on developing high quality inter-disciplinary performance based assessments. He was joined by some teachers who participated in the project work that offered comments supporting the project.

High School Graduation Date, 2018

Dr. Feser announced the last day for the 2017-18 academic school year will be June 13 for all students except for West Shore Middle School. West Shore’s students will go three additional days due to the opening on the school being delayed by three days. Joseph A. Foran will graduate on Tuesday, June 12th and Jonathan Law on June 13th. 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 Tuesday, June 12, and Wednesday, June 13 for the senior classes of Foran and Law High Schools respectively. Graduation ceremonies should begin at 5:15 p.m. for both high schools. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commemorative Plaque in Memory of Donald R. Civitello

Mr. Richetelli told the Board the district would like to honor Mr. Donald Civitello for his unwavering service to Milford Public Schools. Don began as a teacher before becoming the district's Special Education Director. He founded Camp Happiness, a summer camp for Milford children with special needs in the 1960s. He also spent many years as Foran's Football Coach. He passed away in May 2017. The Administration, Don's family and many friends and colleagues would like to honor his memory and commemorate his contributions by erecting a plaque in his name. The plaque would be placed in the plaza outside of the gymnasium at Foran High School. The cost of the plaque is between \$8-12,000, of which, most or all funds would come from a grant.

The Board felt the same sentiment.

Being no further discussion, Ms. Glennon called for a vote.

Mrs. Federico made a motion that the Board of Education approve the placement of a suitable memorial plaque commemorating and honoring the contributions to the children of the Milford Public Schools by Donald R. Civitello to be placed in the plaza outside of the Gymnasium entrance at Joseph A. Foran High School in accordance with Board Policy #7551.b. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies for First Reading

Dr. Feser presented four policies for a first reading of the Board, P2111, P4118.11/4218.11, P4118.14/4218/14 and 4118.112. All four policies will be brought back to the Board for approval at the May business meeting, however, some required further follow up or general housekeeping.

P4118.11 Nondiscrimination - The third paragraph is directed towards "genetic information." Does the paragraph need to be in the policy? Discrimination is defined in paragraph two.

P4118.14 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities - Seek legal advice on the language usage of Milford Public Schools versus Milford Board of Education.

P4115 (now 4118.112) Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace – Should Sexual Discrimination be separate from Harassment? See legal advice.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported on the human resources activity for March 2018. Eight retirements have been announced. Eighteen retirements is the annual average. Many staff wait until the end of the year to announce their retirement.

Mr. De Young noted Christine Kennedy's retirement listed on the report. He shared that Mrs. Kennedy was honored at the recent Kids Count Legislative Breakfast for her years of service to the kids in Milford.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the quarterly budget report, pointing out areas he is carefully watching, which accounts are showing a surplus and noted the projections are pretty much where they should be. Mr. Richetelli answered questions from the Board.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for March 2018. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500. He then answered questions from the Board.

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:

a. March 12, 2018 Business Meeting

b. March 26, 2018 Special Meeting

Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

Ms. Glennon asked if there was anyone who wished to make a Board Comment.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. De Young told the members he participated in “Get Caught Reading” at Orange Avenue and read to a third grade class. It is a wonderful program

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Jennifer Federico