

Approved  
**Milford Board of Education**

Business Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2016

**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  
Susan Kelleher  
Wendy Kopazna

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Dr. Feser congratulated six elementary school students who placed in the Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest. All students in fourth and fifth grade across the state create a fire prevention poster as part of their art class. The first place posters for fourth and fifth grade are displayed in State buildings and could be part of the annual Fire Prevention Calendar that is distributed across the state. Recognized were:

4<sup>th</sup> graders Judy Tarczali, Arush Puri and Emma Honcz

5<sup>th</sup> graders Ava Lam, Jenna Johnson and Cynthia Pan

Next up was the Foran Wrestling Team. For the very first time in Foran history, its wrestling team won the Southern Connecticut Conference Championship (SCC). They went on to win the Class M State Wrestling Championship, followed by the State Open which they placed 7<sup>th</sup>. Their journey completed by placing 9<sup>th</sup> in the New England Tournament of Wrestlers. Recognized were:

Luke Edmondson, Michael Ross, Gino Esposito, Jubilee Witte, Noah Hubler and their coaches  
Coach Dave Esposito, Coach Noel Luth, Coach Frank Peters

The final student recognition was given to the Jonathan Law Unified Sports Team. The team was recently awarded the Michael's Cup Award. The criterion for selection includes not only the quality of a school's Unified Sports program but also its involvement in community service activities and its youth leadership programs. Those recognized were:

Luigi DeCastro, Jennifer Gill, Kristen Parks and Coach Patricia Daniels

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated all of the students for a job well done.

Dr. Feser introduced CABA Associate Director Bob Guthrie who was in attendance to present Milford Public Schools with the CABA Communications of Excellence award. Mr. Guthrie shared with the Board that a PowerPoint submitted to CABA last fall on the New Standards and New Assessments had won the excellence award. He presented the award to Ms. Kathryn Bonetti, the creator of the presentation.

### **III. STUDENTS REPORTS**

David Patrick and Emily Carroll presented the student report for Jonathan Law. Lindsey Carlson presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lara Edmondson – 881 West River Street – Mrs. Edmondson thanked the Board for listening to the comments made about the revisions to Policy 5117. Other issues need to be addressed including ECE courses only offered at Foran.

Mike Scagliarini – 18 Paddock Place – Mr. Scagliarini encouraged the Board to ask questions of the Administration as to why the changes to the policy are necessary. The current policy places emphasis on the best interest of the student, while the proposed policy does not. Affording the child the opportunity to choose will empower them to pick the right fit.

Ernest Pepe – 18 Admore Road – Mr. Pepe believes students should be able to choose which school they attend.

Gina Bonfetti – 434 Herbert Street – Mrs. Bonfetti supports the “overlapping sibling” clause.

Kelly Hayes – 896 Wheelers Farms Road – Ms. Hayes has a senior at Foran and a junior at Law. They thrive at both schools. She believes the students should be able to choose which school is the best fit for them.

Teresa Patrick – 106 Beaverbrook Road – Mrs. Patrick told the Board the current policy forces Law and Foran to compete against one another. She has two children who attend Law and they are thriving academically. However, four years ago, Law was unable to field teams for lacrosse and football when eleven Law students went to Foran and play sports. That affected the Law sports teams. Grandfather the current students and their siblings and draw the line now.

Kevin Barry – 603 West River Street – Mr. Barry commented on the numbers of out of district students. The current policy has been interpreted as if Milford has open choice. He encouraged the Board to receive all of the information before voting.

Deb McKenna – 94 Seaside Avenue – Mrs. McKenna has three students in the school system. The current policy has allowed parents to work with schools and determine the best fit for their child. You are forcing parents to leave Milford Public Schools. The programs offered at Foran and Law are not equal. There is a true financial benefit in taking ECE courses. The ECE courses should be offered at Law.

### **V. CHAIR’S REPORT**

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board about the email she sent them last week regarding MEA negotiations. Two volunteers are needed to serve on the negotiations committee.

Mrs. Krushinsky reported out on the Permanent Schools Facilities Building Committee. The East Shore consultant will be onsite next week. The East Shore project could be complete in May/June. The committee is exploring a second option of building the WSMS parking lot behind Jehovah Witness space,

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after hearing concerns from neighbors. The bids have been awarded for five roof projects and work will begin in June.

Mr. DeGrego informed the Board the Milford Prevention Council will meet Wednesday. He then offered congratulations to the students in Mr. Kulenych's class. Mr. Kulenych sent the Board a video of Law students that dealt with several issues students are faced with each year.

## **VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Instructional Division Highlight: Middle School Technology**

Mr. Burt introduced Mr. St. Germain, Supervisor of Media Services and Instructional Technology. Mr. St. German said the purpose of the presentations would give insight to what is happening at the middle schools, specifically with technology. Media specialists have collaborated with teachers to integrate technology into instruction.

Middle school students assisted by media specialists and teachers navigated presentations using various applications. Harborside students demonstrated their projects using Scratch. Scratch is a free programming language and online community where students create narratives, games and animations through coding. It showcases math and science. East Shore students, combining technology and language arts, demonstrated a student-created movie trailer based on a book the students read. The video was filmed on a Chrome book and hosted on You Tube. West Shore students conducted an investigative unit on Egypt. In this performance task they used Smore, a tool that is used to publicize businesses. Smore is a web-application that brings flyers into the modern era. Geography and language arts units were used for this project. These projects are student-centered - they all required students to do a lot of self-directed learning in order to complete their projects and this kind of learning sticks with students more than if they were given all of the instructions on how to complete the projects. The students shared that working on the computer is engaging and fun.

### **School Attendance Areas P-5117 Proposed Revised Policy**

Dr. Feser presented the third reading of the proposed policy revision. She reviewed the changes made to the policy language as requested by the Board at the previous meeting, including the request to bring forth alternative options in Sections V. Change in Residence During a School Year and VII. Grandfathering of Students Currently Place in Out-of-Attendance Area Schools.

An alternative option for when the policy would take effect was also presented.

The Board discussed the options put forward. Following the discussion, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion on Policy 5117.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to approve Policy 5117 – School Attendance Areas, third reading as presented with the alternative options for: Section V – Change in Residence During a School Year Clause A. and B., Section VII – Grandfathering of Students Currently Placed in Out-of-Attendance Area Schools Clause A, B and C., Section VIII – “This policy and all provisions will take effect on the first day of the 2016-17 school year.”

Mrs. Federico seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

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Mrs. Krushinsky made a motion to amend the original motion by striking the last sentence. This “upcoming sibling” grandfather provision shall apply through the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Jagodzinski seconded.

Dr. Gregory, having been the Board member to suggest the language, explained the intent was to accommodate the families who had been disrupted by the most recent elementary changes.

By a roll call vote, 5-5 (No Casey/DiBiase/Gregory/Whiskeyman/Glennon) the motion failed.

Ms. Glennon explained since the motion failed, discussion continues with the sentence remaining in the revision.

After further discussion Dr. Gregory called the question to a vote. Being no further discussion and no objection from any board member to move forward with a vote, Ms. DiBiase re-read the motion.

By a roll call vote 6-4 (No DeGrego/Hagedorn/Jagodzinski/Krushinsky) the motion passed.

### **High School Graduation Dates, 2016**

Dr. Feser explained that state law requires Boards of Education to wait until April 1<sup>st</sup> to set graduation dates and that those dates cannot occur prior to the 180<sup>th</sup> school calendar day. Our calendar has 181 days of school and our practice is to have graduation on consecutive nights with the high schools alternating which goes first. Once voted on, the date(s) will not change due to an unforeseen closing which extends the school year. She then recommended the official graduation dates of June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>, for Foran and Law respectively.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board of Education establishes a graduation date of Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10 for the senior classes of Foran and Law high schools respectively. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Quarterly Budget Report**

Mr. Richetelli presented the quarterly budget report for information purposes. He feels we are in good shape for this time of year. Planning for summer projects has begun.

### **Approval of the Agreement with the YMCA for Before and After School Child Care**

Mr. Richetelli reported on the directive of the Board for administration to develop a plan for a district-wide Before and After School Program that is comparable in structure and equitably priced for all families at all eight elementary schools. As was presented to the Board at the February Committee of the Whole Meeting, administration recommends moving forward with the YMCA managing all eight schools at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

Mr. Richetelli reviewed the five year YMCA contract with the Board. The contract will grandfather the current MPS program employees at their current rate of pay. The fee structure for 2016-17 will not exceed the fees used by the 2015-16 MPS program. While the contract has a five year term, fees will be reviewed annually and any increases must be mutually agreed upon. Mr. Richetelli shared other benefits the current MPS employees will have as employees of the YMCA.

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board approves the Agreement Between the Milford Board of Education and Harold F. Woodruff Family YMCA for before and after school child care services at the

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eight elementary schools and authorizes Administration to sign the Agreement and take all steps necessary to effectuate and implement said Agreement. Ms. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Human Resources Report**

Mrs. Kopazna reported on the human resources activity for March and shared the spring coach stipends.

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

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda Items 1 & 2

2. Disbursement Report

3. Consideration of Minutes

Special Meeting of March 21, 2016

Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 28, 2016

Special Meeting of April 5, 2016

Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary:

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Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary:

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Ms. Suzanne DiBiase