

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2011

Board members present:

David Amendola
Suzanne DiBiase
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Jay Tranquilli
Jack O'Connell
Gregory Oliver
Dr. Mark Stapleton, Chair
Robert M. White

Board members absent:

Tracy Casey
Josip Jukic

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
Philip Russell
Susan Kelleher
Wendy Kopazna

I. Call to Order

The Milford Board of Education held a Board of Education Meeting on Monday, May 9, 2011, in the Board Room at the Parsons Government Complex. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. Student/Staff Recognition

National Geographic Bee

The first recognition of the evening was given to Chris Flynn. Chris is a seventh grader at East Shore Middle School. Chris placed 14th out of 100 competitors at the 2011 National Geographic Spelling Bee held on April 1, 2011. Chris had to first win the spelling bee at the school level before proceeding to the qualifiers. The National Geographic Society invited the students with the top 100 scores to compete at the state level.

Dr. Feser congratulated Chris on an outstanding job representing East Shore.

Excellence in Middle School Science Teaching Award

Ms. Dolores Holmes was then recognized for being selected by the Connecticut Science Teachers Association to receive the "Excellence in Middle School Science Teaching Award" for the 2010-2011 school year. This award is bestowed upon a teacher who has not only demonstrated excellence in classroom science teachers, but who has also contributed professional by proving workshops and/or other support for colleagues.

Dr. Feser congratulated Ms. Holmes for winning this award.

Jonathan Law Key Club

The next recognition was given to the Jonathan Law Key Club. The Key Club created 14 different textbooks for more than 200 students attending a boarding school in Uganda. The books will be shipped by the end of the school year. Ray Carissimi and Cody Roy,

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the club's co-presidents, created a book on the metric system. Ratan Monohar created a "World Book" depicting continents and oceans.

Ratan was also elected lieutenant governor for the state's Key Club organization and oversees seven schools. He was one of just three club members in New England to receive the honorable Sandy Ninninger Award.

Dr. Feser then recognized Mr. Ted Boynton, the Key Club Advisor for the past 14 years. She emphasized how important the Key Club is to young men and woman. It is a stepping stone for many kids and gives them a chance to find success, build self confidence and gives them the opportunity to help others. Mr. Boynton views his role as an honor and privilege.

Dr. Feser thanked the entire Jonathan Law Key Club for the countless hours of volunteerism and unselfish acts in order to help others.

Frank Vespi, Art Coordinator

The final recognition of the evening was given to Frank Vespi. Mr. Vespi has worked as an art teacher for 40 years, all in Milford. In addition to being a school art teacher, he also serves as the coordinator of the Art Department for the district.

Mr. Vespi oversees the coordination of the annual artwork exhibit in the halls of Parsons. The exhibit not only brings wonderful joy to the parents and students, but to everyone who passes through the Board of Education hallways.

Dr. Feser thanked Mr. Vespi for his guidance, leadership and being a devoted educator of the arts.

III. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2011. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Chair's Report

Dr. Stapleton told the public the Board of Aldermen will vote on the budget in the upcoming weeks. He then informed the board of a retreat that will take place on May 16th at 6:30 p.m. He encouraged all board members to attend.

Mr. White reported on the Permanent School Building Committee. Projects are slowly moving along. Schools continue to have asbestos abatement done. The Foran Phase II has an end in sight. The elevator at Pumpkin should be complete by the end of the school year.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Feser read a "Teacher Proclamation" in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day. The proclamation is on file.

1. Student Reports

Courtney Murray and Kevin McFadden reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Kate Sylvester and Dan Evanich presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

2. Instructional Division

Strategic School Profiles

Mr. Cummings shared the Strategic School Profiles with the board. He explained the state is very behind in reporting the results. The data is actually from the 2008-09 school year. The March 2009 CMT was used. Therefore, it is not an accurate snapshot of the district's scores. For example, in the 2008-09 school year, the high schools had 10 late start days in the calendar. Therefore, the hours are lower. Since then, the teachers union approved to have 15 minutes added to the teacher work day, which equates to 45 hours more in a school year.

Ms. Kruger-Carroll asked if homeroom was going to be eliminated. She recalled a discussion about it at one time. Mr. Cummings told her the students would need to be weaned off of homeroom. One of his fears is the increase of tardies that will occur as a result.

Mr. O'Connell would like to see five comparable districts along with their tests scores so the board can make a fair comparison.

2nd Grade Transition

Mr. Cummings explained how much work has been put into the 2nd grade transition. The principals will be visiting every 2nd grade classroom. They will attend PTA meetings and speak about the plan. A 2nd grade orientation will take place in the next month. Students and parents will be able to visit the 3-5 school to which they will transition, and meet with staff and the principal.

3. Operations Report

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported there have been 8 retirements so far. There could be more retirements as the year comes to a close.

Budget Report & Transfers

Mr. Russell reviewed the transfers with the board. The transfers will fix the gap in accounts 5600 and 5601, which is the Special Education out of district tuition account. The balance is currently \$1.1M. He explained the district has received \$843,579 in state excess costs grant funds leaving an outstanding balance of \$334,244.

VII. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. Education Specifications: Administration recommends approval of the Final Plans and Specifications of the Joseph A. Foran High School Roof Improvements/Replacements.
- c. Education Specifications: Administration recommends approval of the Final Plans and Specifications of the Jonathan Law High School Roof Improvements/Replacements.
- d. Education Specifications: Administration recommends approval of the Final Plans and Specifications of the John F. Kennedy Asbestos Floor Tile Replacement.
- e. Budget Transfers: Administration recommends approval of the budget transfer from accounts 1111 (\$50,000), 1118 (\$25,000), 3235 (\$60,000), 3307 (\$25,000) and 6000 (\$175,000) totaling \$335,000 to account 5601.
- f. Overnight Field Trip: Administration recommends approval of the Jonathan Law High School Football Team field trip to Deer Lake Reservation in Killingworth, CT from June 18 to 19, 2011.

VIII. Action Items

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Feser announced the appointment of Mr. James Richetelli as Milford's Deputy Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Richetelli is currently serving as the Mayor of Milford. She further explained that Mr. Richetelli was by far the most qualified individual who interviewed for the position. It is important to know that Mr. Russell agreed to stay employed by the Milford Public Schools until November when Mr. Richetelli's term as mayor is completed. Mr. Richetelli will assume his role as Deputy Assistant Superintendent in November, 2011.

IX. Board Comment

None.

X. Adjournment

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved

Robert M. White
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary