

Approved

**Milford Board of Education**

Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2013

**Board members present:**

Tracy Casey  
Michael DeGrego  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Laura Fetter  
George Gensure  
Susan Glennon  
Dora Kubek  
Christopher Saley  
Earl Whiskeyman

**Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Michael Cummings  
James Richetelli  
Susan Kelleher

**Board members absent:**

Beverley Pierson

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, May 13, 2013 in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION**

Recognitions were given to the following:

Sarah Briggs, Media Specialist/Jonathan Law High School, was honored for receiving the 2013 Carlton Erickson Award.

Erin Dunn, 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Foran, for receiving the Governor's Scholar status.

5<sup>th</sup> grade students for placing in the *Office of the Secretary of the State's 2013 PowerPoint Contest*, which its objectives were to heighten awareness of the state's history:

Roma, Ubaldi, 1<sup>st</sup> place

James Rodrigues, 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Hannah Kupson, 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Maxine Lynch, Honorable mention

Benjamin Grunow, Honorable mention

Ted Boynton, Para and Key Club Advisor at Jonathan Law High School, was honored for being named the "*New England District Key Club Advisor for 2013*".

Andrew Jones, 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Foran was recognized for being named as the 2012-13 Connecticut Youth Governor.

Dr. Feser congratulated the recipients.

### **III. STUDENT REPORTS**

Ratan Manohar and Hayley Soulier reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Hamsa Ganapathi and Alexandra Corsi presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Santura – 71 Dale Drive – Mr. Santura is a senior at Jonathan Law. He had not planned to take the AP Latin exam until he received a call from the teacher on the day the exam was to be administered. He was told he would receive a zero if he did not take the exam. He then went to school and took the exam. He wanted the administration to know that he was not the only student who had no intentions of taking the exam. He knows of others who did not take the exam.

Dr. Feser told him that Advanced Placement exams are not optional at the high school level.

David Slossberg – 14 Honeysuckle Lane – Mr. Slossberg expressed his disappointment in the decision to be in school on Rosh Hashanah. He identified himself as a taxpayer and an attorney in town. He told the Board to look holistically at the calendar days being taken off. They should discuss “holy days.” Rosh Hashanah is a very important holy day for the community.

### **V. CHAIR’S REPORT**

Mrs. Casey announced National Teacher Appreciation Day was May 6, 2013. She then read a proclamation to honor teachers (on file).

Mrs. Casey told the public she has received phones calls from various people expressing their concerns about the decision to be in session on Rosh Hashanah. She then introduced Mr. Joel Levitz, President of the Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont.

Mr. Levitz offered comments about Rosh Hashanah, and why school should not be in session. Rosh Hashanah is the first day of the New Year. It is one of the highest of holy days in the Jewish calendar. History has been to acknowledge the day. While the Board may afford accommodations to students who practice that faith (such as providing an excused absence or not scheduling tests), those accommodations unintentionally draw attention to the child. He encouraged the Board to do research and look at the calendar holistically.

Mrs. Casey thanked Mr. Levitz for his comments.

Mrs. Casey made a motion to reconsider restoring Rosh Hashanah. Ms. Kubek seconded.

A discussion among Board members followed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Casey asked the administration to look at the calendar holistically for the 2013-14 academic year. She then asked for the proposal for the amended calendar.

Dr. Feser explained the recommendation would be to add one day to the end of the year. Therefore, the last day of school for the 2013-14 calendars would be June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Glennon made a motion to approve the amended 2013-14 Academic Calendar. Ms. Kubek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Casey told the Board that Mrs. Pierson was absent due to a work conflict. She then asked Ms. Glennon to report on PTA Council.

Ms. Glennon told the Board that PTA Council chooses a person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award every year. Kathy Bonetti was named the 2013-14 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Mrs. Casey reported she attended the Kids Count Legislative Breakfast.

She then reported the Board of Education budget was presented to the Board of Aldermen. The vote will take place on May 16, 2013.

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

Mrs. Casey turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser.

Dr. Feser updated the Board on the parent survey progress. She explained the survey had been administered electronically. However, Panorama, the company conducting the survey, had trouble with the printing company. She then read a letter of apology from Panorama. In addition, Panorama will be reducing its cost for the project. She concluded by stating that upon completion, the administration will bring the results to the Board.

### **Kindergarten Report**

Dr. Feser turned the meeting over to Mr. Cummings who provided the context for the development of a new Kindergarten report card. He then introduced Carol Scaramella, Supervisor, English Language Arts. Mrs. Scaramella explained that the new report card is aligned to the grade level expectations and the Common Core Standards. She displayed the existing and new report cards and spoke to the differences. The report card was piloted last year by a select group of teachers. The group collected feedback and made final revisions. The card will be in use in June, 2013. Mrs. Scaramella told the Board an information session was held with parents which gave a full explanation of the new report card.

### **Policy 5118 Resident and Non-Resident Students**

Dr. Feser explained it had been several years since the Residency Policy had been updated. The policy is a first read. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Scalice to update the Board on the changes to the policy.

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Mr. Scalice explained that Policy 5118 Resident and Non-Resident Students had not been updated since 2002. There have been changes in the law which warranted the policy to be updated. Additionally, the original policy had included the regulation. The policy and regulation are now separate documents.

Mrs. Casey expressed concern over the policy indicating that it is too broad. She stated the policy should have the major components in it. Dr. Feser stated they would re-write it.

The proposed new language that would have parents re-register their children every time they changed schools was challenged. Ms. Glennon felt it placed a huge burden on parents. There was discussion.

Dr. Feser indicated that there was an error with that language, and families will not have to re-register their children when they change schools. Dr. Feser stated the administration will bring back to the Board revised language.

### **Policy 3451 Transportation Policy**

Mr. Richetelli explained the recommended changes from the April 8, 2013 Board meeting had been incorporated into the policy. The policy would need to be approved by the board.

Mrs. Glennon made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy as submitted by the administration. Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

Mr. Richetelli explained the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning tool for the district's needs. It identifies anticipated needs five years out. The project costs are estimates. He further told the Board that nothing has been added from the plan submitted a year ago. However, projects have been reprioritized. For example, security has been moved up in the plan as well as roof replacements and the renovation project at West Shore.

Ms. Glennon made a motion to approve the 2013-18 Capital Improvement Plan and authorize administration to forward the plan to the Mayor for consideration and funding. Ms. DiBiase seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Human Resources Report**

Mrs. Kopazna gave the Human Resources Report for the month of April. She then reported that she has received 14 teacher retirements and six teacher resignations.

Mr. Saley asked if the district has an exit interview process to help gauge why people are leaving the district.

Mrs. Casey asked administration to provide a breakdown of the retirements at the June meeting.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Glennon made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2.

1. Disbursement Report

2. Consideration of Minutes

- a. April 8, 2013 Business Meeting
- b. April 30, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Ms. DiBiase seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**X. BOARD COMMENT**

Mr. Saley reiterated his concern over the process used for approving the SRO program and its funding.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Glennon made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary

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Ms. Susan Glennon  
Corresponding Secretary