

Milford Board of Education

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2017

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Walter Hagedorn
Susan Krushinsky
Tom Jagodzinski
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
Jim Richetelli
Carole Swift

Board members absent:

Michael DeGrego
Dr. Jess Gregory

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board of Education Room. She asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, she asked for a moment of silence for Donald Civitello, who passed away last week. Mr. Civitello was a fixture of Milford, graduating from Milford High School, returning as a teacher, coach and eventually assuming the role of Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Among many things he did during his tenure, one endeavor that touched many families was the establishment of Camp Happiness, a day camp for children with special needs.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser.

II. 2017-18 MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET DISCUSSION

Dr. Feser recapped the 2017-18 budget process from the Board approving Administration's recommendation of \$92,336,582. In March, the Board of Finance (BOF) made its recommendation of \$92,296,582, reducing the Board of Education's budget request by \$40,000. To offset that reduction, Administration will eliminate the proposed additional or fifth school resource officer position, as the city has not budgeted for its portion of the position. In May, the Aldermen made an additional \$342,316 reduction to the budget bringing the total approved amount to \$91,954,266M. This results in a .374% increase over the 2016-17 budget.

Dr. Feser explained the need to make some staffing adjustments from what was originally presented in January. The budget originally submitted showed a reduction of 14.4 teaching positions, 10 regular education and 4.4 special education. The Administration has learned of the need for an additional special education teacher, so is recommending a change in the reduction of special education teachers to 3.4. An additional regular

Approved

education teacher will be reduced bringing the reduction in regular education teachers to 11, leaving the total at 14.4.

As part of the Board of Aldermen reduction administration is recommending the reduction of one an additional FTE due to declining enrollment. This FTE will be made up of a combination of Art/Music/PE/Media, a small percent of each. This will bring the total teacher reduction to 12 full time regular education teachers and 3.4 special education teachers.

Board discussion ensued.

Following the discussion, the Board requested to be provided with the final number of actual teacher layoffs. The hope is that attrition and/or resignations will help offset layoffs. Class size guidelines will remain a priority.

Dr. Feser and Mr. Richetelli reviewed the additional accounts and the respective funds that they recommend offset the reduction of \$382,316 as approved by the Boards of Finance and Aldermen. The reductions are in areas that should not greatly impact student learning. Those reductions are, Salaries Reduction of \$160,000 (Reduction of one FTE – Teacher Art/Music/PE/Media and Substitute Teachers); Contracted Services \$80,000 (School Resource Officer and Copier Lease); Facilities \$63,000 (Buildings and Grounds); Educational Supplies & Equipment \$64,951 (Equipment/Furniture and Computers) and Other Educational Support \$14,365 (Professional Development).

Board discussion ensued.

Ms. Glennon asked if any members of the public wished to speak before the budget vote. Being none, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the budget.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. 2017-18 MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the budget for 2017-2018 in the amount of \$91,954,266 with line item adjustments as recommended by Administration. Mrs. Federico seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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Approved

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

Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Suzanne DiBiase