

## **Milford Board of Education**

Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2011

### **Board members present:**

Tracy Casey  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Josip Jukic  
Diane Kruger-Carroll  
Jay Tranquilli  
Jack O'Connell  
Gregory Oliver  
Dr. Mark Stapleton, Chair  
Robert M. White

### **Board members absent:**

David Amendola

### **Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Michael Cummings  
Susan Kelleher  
Terry Deveny

## **I. Call to Order**

The Milford Board of Education held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2011, in the Cafeteria at Harborside Middle School. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

## **II. Public Comment**

On file.

The board recessed at 6:25 p.m.

Chairman Stapleton called the meeting back to order at 6:40 p.m.

The board and administration discussed the proposed budget cuts further.

The board recessed at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman Stapleton called the meeting back to order to 7:15 p.m.

## **III. Action-Recommended Reductions to the 2011-12 Board of Education Operating Budget**

Mr. White made a motion to approve the 2011-12 Board of Education Operations Budget in the amount of \$85,459,589.00 which reflects the administration's recommended reductions totaling \$966,481.00 Mrs. Casey seconded.

Mr. White then made the following amendment:

Enrichment program get fully restored back with the \$72,000 and give administration the authority to reallocate the funds from other accounts. Mr. O'Connell seconded.

Mr. White told the board he feels that the students will benefit from the enrichment program. Sports is fully supported, however, students on the other end need a solid program as well.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Casey made an amendment to eliminate indoor track at a cost of 19,000 and replace one paraprofessional from the list of 16 and allocate \$2,000 to the original motion therefore administration will only need to find \$70,000. Mr. Oliver seconded.

Mrs. Casey believes this year is not the year to be adding sports given the economy.

The amendment failed by a roll call vote 4 yes/5 no.

Yes/Casey, Jukic, O'Connell, White

No/DiBiase/Kruger-Carroll/Oliver/Tranquilli/Stapleton

Mr. O'Connell moved to question.

Mr. White then repeated the original motion to approve the 2011-12 Board of Education Operations Budget in the amount of \$85,459,589.00 which reflects the administration's recommended reductions totaling \$966,481.00. By a roll call vote, the motion passed. 7 yes/2 no.

No/Casey/Jukic

#### **IV. Board Comment**

None.

#### **V. Adjournment:**

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Casey seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Corresponding Secretary:

Robert M. White

Recording Secretary:

Terri Deveny



**STATEMENT BY SAL FOLLO, PRESIDENT  
AFSCME LOCAL 1303-453  
BEFORE THE MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION - MAY 26, 2010**

Good evening. My name is Sal Follo and I am the President of AFSCME Local 1303-453, the school security guard union.

I am here tonight to express my displeasure with the proposal to eliminate four school security guard positions..

At the start of this school year, the district employed seven guards – three at Jonathan Law and four at Foran. We now have only three at Foran, because one of the guards left and has not been replaced. Your current proposal is to create a new Dean of Students position at each high school by cutting security guards.

You are sacrificing security on the front lines where it is needed most. Where are your priorities? This just does not make sense. The parents of Milford's students deserve to know that everything is being provided to ensure that their sons and daughters are in a safe and secure place of learning.

Is it logical to increase the square footage to be patrolled at the high schools and then decrease the personnel needed to ensure safety in those areas?

At the very least we should be maintaining four guards at Foran and three at Law. Our average salary is \$22,000 a year. This is a mere pittance to provide a safe and secure environment for the students of Milford.

I am not an alarmist and I will not cite recent examples of incidents that could occur in our schools, but is there anyone willing to take that chance?

Dollars should never trump the safety of our children. Let's do the best we can and keep the schools as safe as we can.

Our union urges the Board of Education and the Superintendent not to go forward with the proposal to lay off more than half of our unit. Please maintain the seven school security guard positions for the high schools and keep our students safe. Thank you.

*Council 4 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) represents 35,000 employees and is the state's largest AFL-CIO union. To learn more, go to [www.council4.org](http://www.council4.org).*



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