

Milford Board of Education

Regular Business Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Mark Stapleton
Jay Tranquilli
Robert White

Administrators present:

Michael Cummings, Acting Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Wendy Kopazna, Director of Human Resources
Sue Kelleher, Director of Pupil Personnel

Board members absent:

Jack O'Connell
Greg Oliver
Josip Jukic

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a regular business meeting on Monday, June 14, 2010, in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons 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 AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Cummings recognized the following groups at the meeting.

Unified Sports: Mr. Cummings recognized the student representatives from the Unified Sports Program. Alexa Kovlakas, a freshman at Foran, was also awarded the Gold Barnum Award from the Ringling Brother & Barnum Bailey Circus. She received \$1,000 to be used for a future community service project. Recognized were:

Julia Agram	5 th grader, Orange Ave.
Thomas Agram	8 th grader, Harborside
Alice Hatton-Miller	9 th grader, Foran
Hannah Johnson	8 th grader, Harborside
Ariel Kovlakas	8 th grader, Harborside
Ava Kovlakas	5 th grader, Orange Ave.
Nora Raccio	4 th grader, Orange Ave.
Steve Madancy	Principal/Coach and Supervisor of the program

Young Writers of American Poetry: Mr. Cummings then recognized eight students from East Shore Middle School who were selected to have their poems published in a student anthology titled "Award-Winning Young Writers of America, 2010".

Thousands of poems were submitted. Less than 20% were chosen for publication. Recognized were:

Phoebe Collins	6 th grader, East Shore
Bryan Firmender	6 th grader, East Shore
Christian Lafond	6 th grader, East Shore
Hannah Buckley	6 th grader, East Shore
Katie Buckheit	6 th grader, East Shore
Mitchell Gage	6 th grader, East Shore
Hanxin Liu	6 th grader, East Shore
Cooper Rivera	6 th grader, East Shore
Laura Heffern	Teacher, East Shore
Rick Hribko	Teacher, East Shore

Approved

The final recognition of the evening went to the incoming and outgoing student liaisons. Student liaisons attend board meetings and update the board on school activities. They also report back to the student body on board business. Recognized were:

Bing Zheng	Student Liaison (outgoing), Jonathan Law
Bryce Delgrande	Student Liaison (outgoing), Jonathan Law
Shenali Parikh	Student Liaison (outgoing), Joseph A. Foran
Dylan Leonard	Student Liaison (outgoing), Joseph A. Foran
Kevin McFadden	Student Liaison (incoming), Jonathan Law
Courtney Murray	Student Liaison (incoming), Jonathan Law
Kate Sylvester	Student Liaison (incoming), Joseph A. Foran
Daniel Evanich	Student Liaison (incoming), Joseph A. Foran

He thanked the outgoing students for their enthusiasm, insight and support throughout the year, and welcomed the 2010-11 liaisons.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a) Mr. White made a motion to accept the May 10, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) Mr. White made a motion to accept the May 24, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. STUDENT REPORTS

Bing Zheng and Bryce Delgrande reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Kevin McFadden and Courtney Murray presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Cathy Berni of 96 Centennial Drive – She commended Mr. Cummings on a job well done. She told the board he has been an excellent communicator. She shifted her focus to the personnel report; noting the retirements. She hopes that will allow for some room with the budget next year. She does not understand why the district does not participate in the Healthy Foods incentive program. Fundraising could be done differently so the district could benefit from the program.

Mr. Chris Saley – 19 Marsh Street – He wanted the board to carefully read the emails he sent them. He asked the board to reconsider closing Simon Lake. He then read a prepared statement with the following discrepancies in the decision to close Simon Lake and not Pumpkin Delight. Simon Lake is on a level lot. Accessibility is better at Simon Lake. There is more parking available at Simon Lake. ADA compliance – Pumpkin Delight does not comply. Mr. Saley further said that he attended the Open House at Pumpkin Delight and was appalled. Special needs persons should be very concerned. Traffic compliance – Pumpkin is serviced by one residential street. Pumpkin will be going from 280 to 439. Please reconsider.

Mr. Daniel Paul – 54 Terrace Road – Mr. Paul continued reading Mr. Saley's statement. The multipurpose room at Pumpkin is much smaller than the room at Simon Lake. There is no labor required to accommodate lunch waves, unlike Pumpkin. He also noted that Simon Lake has a rock wall. In closing, Mr. Saley's statement referred to the enrollment numbers projected out over the next five years. Mr. Paul then said that Mr. Cummings is not answering questions. While he responds to emails, he does not back up any of his responses.

Mr. Joe Simoncek – 61 Governor's Way – Mr. Simoncek asked the board and administration to consider all options when determining the start times for the elementary schools. Working parents are already affected by the economy. Staggered start times would make it even more difficult for families to balance.

Mrs. Paul – 54 Terrace Road – She has not heard from anyone supporting the plan. She does not understand how you can implement such a big change to the school system without getting a consensus from the public. She also has no idea how the before and after school care is going to work.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Stapleton reported the board is moving forward with its superintendent search. Consultants will be interviewed at the end of June. He hopes to have a firm selected by early July. He then called for the Liaison Reports.

Mr. White reported on the Permanent School Building Facility Committee stating the construction at the high schools is going well.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Instructional Report

Mr. Cummings gave the board an update on the lacrosse efforts. He has been in discussion with Mr. McGinley, who is the director of the Milford Lacrosse Program. While it is true that the lacrosse program has offered to fund the program for the first year, the numbers and sports programs district wide need to be reviewed. He explained how the hockey program began as a self funded program. As years passed, the Board of Education assisted the funding of the program. This could potentially be a problem with Lacrosse. Once a program is offered, you really can't terminate it so he will need more time to develop a plan that will work for all.

Mrs. Casey asked if lacrosse could be a club and was told no.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll questioned the costs. She said the equipment is not that expensive. Mr. Cummings told her that Trumbull High School spent between \$30,000-\$50,000 for the nets needed to play the game.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll asked if contract language could be added to assess the program annually. Mr. Cummings told her that does not solve the problem. He will need to review all costs involved.

A discussion about the athletics program ensued. Mr. Amendola noted that most towns have one high school and the funding solely goes to the school. Milford has two and the funding is split.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Cummings told the board he would continue to work with Mr. McGinley. He is to report back to the board after conducting more research.

Mr. Cummings then updated the board on the reconfiguration plan. He will continue to monitor class sizes over the summer. In some cases, he may need to add a class. The teacher assignments are finished. However, the teacher/student appointments will not be completed until August. He reported the parent survey regarding the elementary school start time has been completed and tallied. He will share the information with the community later in the week. He also told the board that he has been in contact with the YMCA regarding the before and after school care program. The before and after school care will be finalized very soon. It too will be reported out to the community.

2. Operations Report

Healthy Food Certification

Mrs. Faustich reported that there are many districts across Connecticut that do participate in the Healthy Food Plan annually. However, Milford has chosen to allow the students' expanded fundraising efforts by selling candy. Milford Food Services does not sell candy to students. The booster clubs and other groups do. The amount raised far exceeds the reimbursement amount the district would receive from the State. She also explained that any reimbursement from participating in the program would go the Food Services budget, which is separate from the Milford Public Schools budget.

Mrs. Casey said there are still over 140 districts that participate. She questioned why. There must be some benefit.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported the listing of job openings, as well as the personnel changes for May, 2010.

Approved

Budget Report

Mr. Russell presented the Budget Performance Report for May 31, 2010, as well as the Cash Disbursements Report. He told the board a transfer would need to be done to balance out the retirement and building projects accounts. He then reported 99% of the budget has been encumbered.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. White asked for a motion to approve consent agenda items a - d. Mr. Amendola seconded.

The consent agenda included two items this month. These were:

- a. Healthy Food Certification – July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011
- b. Personnel Report
- c. Budget Report
- d. Budget Transfers

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Unfinished Business
None

- b. New Business

Mr. White made a motion to approve moving the Family Resource Center from Pumpkin Delight Elementary School to Mathewson Elementary School. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. BOARD COMMENT:

Mrs. Casey congratulated Brian McCready on his recent wedding. She then told the board she attended The Academy's graduation. It was very nice.

X. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Stapleton asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session.

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss non-certified non-union salaries and benefits. He invited Mr. Cummings, Mr. Russell, Mrs. Kopazna and Mrs. Kelleher into the session. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:50 p.m.

XI. RECONVENE:

Chairman Stapleton called the meeting back into public session at 10:10 p.m.

XII. ACTION:

Mr. White made a motion to add one hearing impaired position and additionally approve the Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists employees to contribute to the existing defined contribution plan. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Casey made a motion to authorize administration to distribute a maximum of \$20,000 in a salary increase pool across the active non-union Milford Public Schools employee-base based on their 2009-2010 performance review and current salary. Mr. White seconded. The motion passed 5-1 (Tranquilli).

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Approved

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:15p.m.

Robert White
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary