

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Workshop Minutes
June 23, 2014

Board members present:

Michael DeGrego
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fucci
George Gensure
Susan Glennon, Chair
Anthony Piselli
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
James Richetelli
Michael Cummings

Others present:

Laura Boutilier, CCSC
Nicholas Caruso, CABA

Board Members absent:

Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Parsons complex. She then led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Mrs. Laura Boutilier.

II. LONG RANGE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Mrs. Boutilier began by going over the norms, or rules for the workshop that were agreed upon by the Board.

The Board members were then split into two groups. Mr. Caruso provided them with the givens, or facts gathered from the June 2nd workshop relative to the Executive Summary Report, and asked them to ascertain five that are most significant. Specifically, the Board had captured thoughts around the following areas:

- enrollment projections
- facility use predictions
- programming needs
- public survey results
- long term plan, and
- other items

Ms. Glennon called for a recess at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 8:10 p.m.

Following the recess, the groups shared their findings. See below.

Group 1

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1. Enrollment is declining – disproportionately on east side then on the west side in Milford
2. Our current number of classrooms exceeds our needs.
3. Desire to expand academic programs with equitable implementation.
4. Less transitions @ elementary level.
5. Redistricting is necessary to balance enrollment throughout the district.
6. Potentially keep kids here.
7. Long Term plan so only changing schools one time.

Group 2

1. The MPS have dropped 1400 students over the last 10 years, and is projected to decline another 18% in Milford, which reflects the trends across CT.
2. Through redistricting and reconfiguration, we have the opportunity to balance the schools district wide, and an opportunity to offer new programs potentially reducing the number of students going to magnet schools.
3. Fewer transitions in elementary schools are preferred, stemming from survey results.
4. The Long Term Plan should be implemented with only 1 reconfiguration occurring, and incorporating reducing the number of elementary school transitions.

The Board was then provided the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis that had been done using the PK-5 configuration from the previous workshop. They were asked to highlight the top three strengths and opportunities. They were then tasked with categorizing the threats and weaknesses ranging from a minor obstacle to extreme problematic.

The Board was then asked to do the same exercise using the Specialty School in a High School, with a PK-8 component at Harborside, beginning with a SWOT analysis. Those findings will be reported out at the next workshop.

Mrs. Boutilier explained the intent is to first look at the options that were presented by the Long Range Planning Committee but asked if there were other options to be looked at.

Ms. Glennon notified the Board that Mayor Blake recently suggested an option that has not yet been considered, that being PK-6. The option might keep all eight elementary schools open. West Shore and East Shore would host grades 7 and 8. Mayor Blake thinks Harborside holds the most potential for repurposing than any of the other schools and he feels that should be one consideration of any decision. There was agreement among the Board to ask Milone and MacBroom to provide us with the projected enrollment configuration analysis for this option.

Mrs. Boutilier closed by saying at the next workshop, the Board will finish the SWOT exercise with the Specialty High School/PK-8 component at Harborside. The Board will then conduct a SWOT analysis of the PK-6 format if the enrollment numbers can be confirmed.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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Mrs. Fucci a motion to adjourn. Mr. Piselli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary