

Milford Board of Education Regular Business Meeting Minutes July 12, 2010

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Josip Jukic
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Jack O'Connell
Greg Oliver
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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a regular business meeting on Monday, July 12, 2010, in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a) Mr. White made a motion to accept the June 14, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Cathy Berni of 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni wished Mr. Bugyi a happy “part time” retirement.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Stapleton reported the elementary school moves are going well. All work is on schedule and will be complete before the start of the new school year.

Chairman Stapleton also updated the public on the superintendent search process. The board will take action to hire a firm at tonight's meeting.

Mr. White reported the construction at Jonathan Law and Foran is going well.

Mr. O'Connell asked for an update on the Pumpkin Delight issues that were mentioned by a parent at the June meeting. The parent said the school had deficiencies in the building. How accurate is that?

Mr. White said the only thing going on right now is the elevator. Mr. O'Connell said that the previous minutes stated there were handicap issues.

Mr. White said that there are four classrooms that will not be accessible by the elevator. Mr. Russell told the board the school will not be fully handicap accessible because of those four classrooms. It will however meet handicap standards.

Mr. Jukic asked for an update on the transportation problem the parent had mentioned at a previous meeting.

Approved

Mr. O'Connell told the board there is a right of way at the end of the street. A lot could be done with it to solve the transportation problem.

Mr. White and Mrs. Casey said that the Pumpkin Delight issues had not come up with the Permanent Schools Building Committee. Mr. White then told him that administration would address it as needed.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Instructional Report

Expulsion Report

Mr. Bugyi reviewed the Expulsion Report with the board. Thirteen children were expelled in the 2009-10 school year with drugs being the number one cause for expulsion. There were approximately 40 to 50 investigations. He explained the expulsion law to the board. The law provides every child an education. Therefore, when a child is expelled, they are home schooled or given the option to attend the alternative education program. The law limits an expulsion to be no longer than one full school year. Every child is offered an education.

Graduation Statistics

Mr. Cummings shared the graduation statistics for Jonathan Law and Joseph A. Foran. He also noted that students from The Academy were factored into their home schools. He then asked the board for questions.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Cummings if many children are getting lost along the way.

Mr. Cummings told him the four year graduation percentage rate is in the low nineties. Some of the 10% will go to summer school and graduate in four years. The drop out rate is approximately 2%.

Mr. Cummings said he is satisfied with the number; however, he does not like the process. He then told the board the high school principals will review what changes will occur with the eighth to ninth grade transition to help bolster support for students.

High School Reform

Mr. Barile and Mrs. Garagliano presented a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

After a board discussion, the board recessed at 8:33 p.m.

Chairman Stapleton called the meeting back in order at 8:50 p.m.

2. Operations Report

Personnel Report

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

End of the Year Financials

Mr. Russell presented the Budget Performance Report for June 30, 2010, as well as the Cash Disbursements Report. He told the board the report is the final for the 2009-10 school year. He reported 100% of the budget has been encumbered. A final transfer of \$115,495.77 will need to occur to balance the books.

Mr. Russell then told that the firm "Blum Shapiro" is auditing the department. The audit is a legal requirement of the state. He believes it is going well.

Mr. Russell also told the board that Mr. Bradbury will be reporting out on the summer projects at the August meeting. He will review the projects list that was previously submitted to the board at the meeting.

Chairman Stapleton asked what the auditors would be doing. Mr. Russell said that they would audit grants, payroll, accounts payable, food services, large transaction bids and more. The firm would most likely perform an audit of our processes involved with following policies in a few years.

Approved

Mr. Russell reported the district has received the Excess Cost Grant funds. He then told the board \$16,000 was transferred back to the City because of a surplus in the legal account. The budget was \$210,000 and several transfers were done in anticipation of higher legal expenses.

Mr. O'Connell said the adopted budgeted amount was \$145,000. He then asked Mr. Russell if the board authorized the transfers to cover the amount over the originally budgeted amount. Mr. Russell told him yes. He also explained how the projections were made.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll asked how a shortfall occurs for athletics and does it happen often. She had specifically noticed the shortfall with Jonathan Law.

Mr. Russell said that he will have to research it and report back to the board. Another board member also asked for the transfer amounts for the last three years. However, the amount to budget for athletics is very difficult. It highly depends on the receipt of the funds from basketball and football revenues. If the gate receipts fall short, the board will help cover the funds. The department will also need to cut back.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll then questioned the line item for sports uniforms. How would that happen?

Mr. Russell said that they were planned for the year.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll then asked the process involved with requesting a new sign for a school. Mr. Russell told her that he would research that and follow up with a memo to the board.

Mr. Amendola asked administration how the athletic departments can spend the money when they don't have it. If they know there are not going to be gate receipts, then how can they spend the money? He further said that teachers were laid off and a school was closed because of the lack of money. He also believes that when the report is generated, it will show that the board paid \$20,000 for uniforms. That could fund a paraprofessional.

Mr. Amendola then said that he understands uniforms need to be replaced. However, if the gate receipts are not there, maybe the uniforms could last a little while longer. Only fund items needed for safety reasons. He also said that maybe administration could hold off on purchases if the shortfall is expected.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Russell told the board the athletic directors will present at the September meeting.

Mrs. Casey said that she would like to see more planning versus a report.

Mr. Cummings said that CAIC was contracted to conduct an analysis of the two high school sports programs. When the report is finished, then administration can plan for the 2011-12 budget. He concluded by stating the sports program does need to be reviewed.

Mr. Amendola again said that some things could be put off if the gate receipts are not there. For example, fields maintenance or uniforms.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

- a. Voucher List
- b. Ready to Learn Program
- c. Budget Transfers

The motion passed 9-1(Amendola-no).

VII. ACTION ITEMS

Approved

- a. Unfinished Business
None

- b. New Business

Mr. White made a motion to approve the selection of the New England School Development Council for the superintendent search firm. Mr. Amendola seconded. Mr. O'Connell recused himself.

Mrs. Casey said that NESDEC is a not for profit organization and was one of the least expensive on the list.

Chairman Stapleton told the public that there were originally five firms. Three were interviewed. NESDEC is very familiar with Milford. They have a long history with superintendent searches.

The motion passed 9-1 (O'Connell-recused).

VIII. BOARD COMMENT:

Chairman Stapleton told the board that he is looking forward to working with NESDEC and moving forward.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25p.m.

Robert White
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary