

Unapproved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2015

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Michael DeGrego
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jim Richetelli
Susan Kelleher

Board members absent:

John DeRosa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room. She then asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon notified the Board that Mr. DeRosa would not be in attendance due to being ill.

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

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Feser introduced some new members of the administrative team. Introduced were: Mr. Jeffrey Burt, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, who is to begin on August 3rd;

Mr. Jeffrey Nielsen, former sergeant with the police department, as the School Safety and Security Coordinator for the district; and

Mr. Donato Piselli, Assistant Principal of East Shore Middle School.

She added that Ms. Arlene Gottesman will serve as the Interim Assistant Superintendent during the transition period.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

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Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Federico gave an update of the Permanent Schools Facilities Building Committee.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board there will only be a business meeting in July and August, however, the Board will meet on July 20th for the superintendent's evaluation.

Ms. Glennon told the Board the next transportation update is to be presented at the September business meeting; however, some members have expressed their desire to revisit the distances for transportation. She canvassed the members. The members were split in their decision. Mr. Piselli, Mr. DeGrego, Mrs. Federico, Mrs. Casey and Ms. Glennon were in favor of revisiting the distances, while Ms. DiBiase, Mr. Satti, Mr. Whiskeyman and Dr. Gold-Dworkin were not. Mr. DeRosa had conveyed his desire to Ms. DiBiase in advance, not to pursue the distances as well.

After a brief discussion, the Board requested the administration provide a report of the transportation distances reduced to 1.5 miles for high school students and 1 mile for elementary students. For middle school, they requested to have two scenarios presented, 1 mile and 1.5 miles. The information is to be presented at the October business meeting.

Mr. Richetelli cautioned the Board of the costs involved.

Being no further discussion, Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the Superintendent's Report.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

With New Standardized Testing, Why Anticipated Decline in Scores?

Dr. Feser and Mr. Hammer delivered a presentation on Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) and how they align with Common Core, and why the expected decline in scores. Common core has been in place for 30 years. Its primary focus is students being preparedness. For more than 25 years Connecticut has annually administered the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). These two assessments had a ceiling, while SBA does not.

Connecticut joined with most states across the country five years ago to adopt the Common Core State Standards. The standards will better supply students of being college and career ready upon graduation. Common Core State Standards, a new set of standardized tests needed to be developed. When the standards were adopted, a new assessment needed to be used. Connecticut chose the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). SBA requires a deeper thinking than the CMT and CAPT assessments.

The district, and many other districts will be faced with a decline in scores due the major shift in expectations.

Presentation on YMCA Before and After School Care Program

Mr. Clifford along with other members from the YMCA and its Board provided the Board with an overview of the YMCA and its' before and aftercare program. The YMCA is a not for profit agency funded primarily by grants. Provided was a daily schedule at the before or aftercare, cities who offer the program in their schools, as well as the costs. While it may have seemed lower than some of the public child care providers, it was still more than the Boys and Girls Club and the MPS program. Mr. Clifford explained his program has to be certified with the state, and the others did not. Mr. Clifford also reviewed the program's financial expenses.

Following the presentation, Board members asked more questions about the program.

Mrs. Federico asked how the sliding scale membership worked. She was told a family income of less than \$55,000 would qualify a family/person. But she was interested in knowing how the YMCA would go about reaching out to those families, or the families who can't afford the before or after care.

Ms. Glennon questioned how the rates could be so high when the YMCA does not pay rent at any of the buildings they are housed in.

Ms. Glennon said there should be equity in all schools.

Mrs. Federico would like the Milford Public Schools program to provide an overview of its program. She also asked for a breakdown of the \$117,000.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin requested the number of certified teachers who work in the MPS before and after care program.

Modification 2015-16 Professional Learning and Teacher Evaluation Plan

Dr. Feser explained the change in the teacher evaluation as directed by the state. In an effort to get teachers to take fuller responsibility for their individual professional growth, in the 2015-2016 school year, Milford will transition to a three year evaluation cycle for qualifying teachers. Teachers who receive and maintain a performance evaluation designation of effective or highly effective, including in the three categories from the Instructional Framework within the Instructional Domain that are used in observations – Expectations for Learning, Lesson Design and Implementation, and Monitoring for Learning – will be eligible to participate in a three year evaluation cycle. A minimum of one formal, announced in-class observation and one

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unannounced informal in-class observation in each of the 3 years will occur. In addition, one professional growth opportunity shall be completed every year.

She then shared a chart showing the in-class observation requirements and other practice requirements.

Ms. Carlson added it is a high standard for teachers to be able to go through the cycle.

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Board of Education approves the changes to Milford's Professional Learning/Teacher Effectiveness and Performance Evaluation Plan as presented by Administration. Ms. DiBiase seconded. The motion passed unanimously. (Dr. Gold-Dworkin was absent from the vote.)

Reconfiguration Update

Dr. Feser updated the Board on the reconfiguration of the elementary schools. The administration continues to monitor class sizes and any hot spots. The schools are empty except for the gyms, to allow cleaning and some abatement. Technology is following the lead of Mr. Bradbury. Bus run communication will be different this year, and will contain the teacher assignment. This will bear a cost savings.

Mr. Federico asked if the Meadowside parking lot is on schedule. Mr. Richetelli replied, "Yes, however, there is a contingency plan if there is a delay."

Dr. Gold-Dworkin asked for the number of parents who are not registered in PowerSchool.

End of Year Financials Report

Mr. Richetelli reported out the end of the year financials drawing attention to a big driver being the number of retirements last year opposed to this year. He reminded the Board it was an anomaly and the average is 18.

2014-15 Final Budget Transfer Request

Mr. Richetelli gave a breakdown of the transfers. They are listed below.

Teacher Salaries (1111) 137,602.21 - Surplus is primarily due to staff turnover savings as the result of many more teachers retiring at the end of 2013-2014 than the normal average. As has been previously explained to the Board, the average number of retirements budgeted is 18 per year. There was actually 28 retirements last year. This results in hiring new teachers at lower salaries than those who had retired.

Retirements – Severance (1130) \$ 75,799.02 - Surplus is due to a lower number of teachers retiring at the end of this year (2014-2015) than the normal average.

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Transportation – Regular Ed (5100) \$ 47,043.81- Surplus savings of the equivalent of one bus due to consolidation of routes and bus stops that took place last summer.

Professional Development (8111) \$ 15,749.52 - Unspent funds due to the loss of a little more than a week in the beginning of this summer (due to snow days extending the school year) and the time that teachers spent packing their classrooms. This time would have been used to conduct professional development.

Student Activities (8200) \$ 30,288.66- Unspent funds due to less field trips and other expenditures district wide.

Funds will be transferred to:

BC/BS Over 65 (2006) \$ 8,434.70 - To cover a slight shortage due to more retirees than expected going onto over 65 coverage.

Electricity (4100) \$ 8,373.81 - Shortage primarily due to the increased electric usage at the expanded East Shore Middle School including the cost air conditioning in the new sections.

Natural Gas (4101) \$ 115,299.75 - Shortage due to: the increased square footage that needs to be heated in the expanded East Shore Middle School; increased usage district wide due to the severe cold this winter; and increased cost of natural gas overall.

Building Projects (4304) \$ 111,714.15 - To fund miscellaneous end-of-year building projects including: asbestos abatement/tile replacement, Foran cafeteria/kitchen improvements, HVAC repairs, lighting upgrades, painting, etc.

Equipment (7310) - \$ 62,660.81 - To purchase additional SmartBoards for K-5 classrooms district wide.

Mr. Satti made a motion that the Board of Education approves Administration's recommended 2014 – 2015 Final Budget Transfers of \$306,483.22. Ms. DiBiase seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Dr. Feser provided the report in the Mrs. Kopazna's absence. The district has hire 12 new teachers with 10 more scheduled for final interviews. There is concern in hiring a behaviorist and a speech language pathologist. Interviews are being set up for the Director of Pupil Personnel, and the West Shore principal.

Mr. Whiskeyman asked if any teachers were displaced. He was told no.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

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Mr. Satti made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the consent agenda items:

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. June 8, 2015 Business Meeting

Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeGrego complimented the students at Foran for their performance of Hair Spray.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Satti made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DiBiase seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
C. Robert Satti, Jr.