

# **Milford Board of Education Regular Business Meeting Minutes August 9, 2010**

## **Board members present:**

David Amendola  
Tracy Casey  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Josip Jukic  
Diane Kruger-Carroll  
Jack O'Connell  
Mark Stapleton  
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 member absent:**

Greg Oliver  
Jay Tranquilli

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Milford Board of Education held a regular business meeting on Monday, August 9, 2010, in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 July 12, 2010 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Anthony Vitelli of 115 Melba Street approached the podium to speak. Dr. Stapleton asked Mr. Vitelli if he had filed a grievance against a board member. He asked if he had to answer the question. Mr. Amendola then confirmed that a grievance had been filed against him. Dr. Stapleton told Mr. Vitelli that he would not get the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Mr. Vitelli told him that he was not going to talk about the grievance, but about himself as a professional and a taxpayer. Dr. Stapleton told him that there is a meeting scheduled in October when he will be able to present the facts to the board. Tonight's meeting is a business meeting. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Stapleton called for a recess to contact legal counsel at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting was called back into order at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Stapleton told Mr. Vitelli that he would not be able to speak. At that time, Mr. Vitelli then said that he believes the community wants to know how the athletic money is spent. He explained that inaccurate information has been made public and posted in the newspaper. He felt that as a citizen he should be able to speak.

Dr. Stapleton told him that business meeting is not the right forum. He also told him that he is protecting his rights as well as the board member's rights. The board will be the final arbiters for the grievance.

Mr. Vitelli asked how a board member can make statements, but not give the employee the chance to speak. Mr. Vitelli then said he would need to seek legal counsel.

Mr. Frank Luysterborghs of 57 Hawley Avenue approached the podium. Dr. Stapleton asked him if he had filed a grievance and was told yes. However, the reason for his speaking was not related to the grievance. At that time, Dr. Stapleton told Mr. Luysterborghs that he would not be allowed to speak. Mr. Luysterborghs told him that incorrect information has been printed in

## Unapproved

the newspaper. He should be able to respond to it. He then said that he felt as if he were being gagged. Dr. Stapleton told him this is simply to protect both the grievant and the board member. The board will have a meeting in October when the athletic directors to explain the budget.

Ms. Lisa Biagione – 73 Sentinel Avenue – Ms. Biagione recapped the July Board meeting. She told the board they first listened to a presentation on high school reform. In the presentation, athletics was deemed a necessity. They are valued and requirements for 20<sup>th</sup> century education. The board must share the commitment in athletics. Immediately following the presentation, a motion was made to select a search firm. Why? She then announced the two following websites that may be of use to the board:

Hornforkids.org – for any child who may need a horn or instrument

Donorschoose.org – online charity offering supplies

Mrs. Kathy Bonetti – 157 Seaside Avenue – Mrs. Bonetti is the president of the PTA Council. She provided the board with a quick update on activities that have occurred over the summer. The next PTA Council meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Stapleton reported the board will meet with NESDEC on Thursday night. The meeting will be the first to begin the search for a superintendent.

Mrs. Casey reported she and Mr. White had attended the Permanent Schools Building Facilities meeting earlier in the month. The Law Phase Iv is complete with only two minor outstanding items. Law's Phase III is almost complete. Foran Phase IV is scheduled to be on track as well.

### V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

#### 1. Instructional Report

##### **CAPT/CMT Report**

Mr. Cummings explained the CAPT test is given to tenth grade students in March. The test encompasses Math, Science, Reading Across the Disciplines and Writing Across the Disciplines. He explained how the scores are reported by five different levels. The State legislation is requiring students to be proficient, while Milford wants students to be at goal. Overall, Milford scores are improving, but they are not where administration wants them to be. Buildings continue to work on unit designs to get a better read on where students are.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Cummings to explain how the DRG works. He was told the state created DRGs to allow for cross town comparisons. However, the comparisons are not accurate.

Mrs. Kruger Carroll (board member) suggested that administration should create its own DRG.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Cummings told the board that he would give a full detailed report at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

##### **Enrollment Report**

Mr. Cummings shared the enrollment report as of August 5, 2010 with the board. He explained the accuracy of the report can be questioned. There is a process for enrollment. However, there is not a process for students leaving the district. The secretaries do not report until 10 days before the start of school. He then told the board he would report a more accurate enrollment report in September and then a final in October.

Mr. Amendola asked administration to provide a report to the board of the students leaving the district to attend private schools.

#### 2. Operations Report

##### **Personnel Report**

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

##### **Food Services Year End Financials**

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Mrs. Faustich presented a PowerPoint that introduced a new program to promote healthy eating habits among students. “Build a Tray” begins using a tray with five sections. The food groups are broken into sections which are identified by various shapes. The students are then asked to take at least three items to complete their lunch. The State will reimburse Food Services for every lunch bought with three items or more selected to complete the lunch.

Chairman Stapleton called for a recess at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting was called back into order at 8:55 p.m.

### Summer Projects

Mr. Bradbury presented a PowerPoint presentation that showed the extensive amount of work done at the schools over the past two months. At this point, Mathewson, Orchard Hills, Meadowside, JFK, Live Oaks and Orange Avenue are complete. He assured the board the schools will be ready for opening day.

The board discussed using Simon Lake as a storage facility. Mr. Russell told the board that the building would need to be turned back over to the City because utilities were not budgeted for the building.

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. White asked for a motion to approve consent agenda item a. Mr. Amendola seconded.

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

- a. Voucher List

The motion passed.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Unfinished Business
  - None
- b. New Business
  - Policy 5123 Promotion and Retention
  - Mrs. Scaramella shared the changes to the policy with the board. She explained that the changes are consistent with the State statute.

Mr. O’Connell would like to have a discussion on truancy at a future meeting.

## VIII. BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Amendola asked Mr. Cummings about the letter from Notre Dame in regards to hockey.

Mr. Cummings told the board that Notre Dame has offered to join in Milford in a coop agreement at no cost to the district. Notre Dame’s enrollment numbers are low. A coop agreement is not new to Milford; however, he needs to follow up with Notre Dame. He has some questions about insurance and their long term financial commitment to the program.

Mrs. Casey added that other programs such as Lacrosse need to be reviewed as well. While we do need to walk the talk, Milford cannot fund everything and if it comes down to jackets versus teachers, she supports teachers.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll asked about the recycling.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55p.m.

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Robert White  
Corresponding Secretary

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Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary