

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
August 20, 2007

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, August 20, 2007 in the Board of Education Meeting Room of the Parsons Complex. Chair Kopazna called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. asking everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Members Present

Mr. D. Amendola
Mrs. C. Kopazna
Mr. S. Marlow
Mrs. D. Mead
Mrs. C. Nihart
Mrs. J. Rohrig
Mrs. P. Staneski
Dr. M. Stapleton

Absent (excused)

Mr. David Hourigan

Chair Kopazna turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for new administrator introductions.

Dr. Polansky introduced Christina Magnuson to the Board. Christina has been appointed as the new Assistant Principal at Joseph A. Foran High School. The board welcomed her to the community.

Consideration of Minutes

Mrs. Staneski and Mr. Amendola made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2007. Chair Kopazna noted a wording change. Motion passed unanimously as amended.

Mrs. Staneski and Mr. Amendola made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the business meeting of July 9, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Staneski and Mr. Amendola made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of July 9, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Chair's Report

Chair Kopazna reported that she, along with Board members Joanne Rohrig and Mike Cavallaro, attended a school tour led by Facilities Director Patrick Bradbury. The group was impressed with the work projects that had been conducted over the summer, particularly those at Pumpkin Delight.

Chair Kopazna then reported on a meeting she recently attended with the Milford Education Funding Committee. State Rep Paul Davis and former State Rep Peter Smith and Mr. Ryan were in attendance, as well. The purpose of the meeting was to try to gain a better understanding of how Milford's data is applied to the ECS formula. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided to implement a three prong approach to get the specific breakdown of Milford's data and how it was applied to the criteria set forth in this year's ECS formula.

MEA negotiations continue. She reported that a meeting would take place later that evening in executive session where the board would receive an update from board counsel. Negotiations will go to mediation.

Chair Kopazna announced that Opening Day would be held on August 30th at Foran at 8:30A.M.

She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for the superintendent's report.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Polansky announced that a new feature called "Bridges to the Board" would be added to the MBOE website. The new area will be a place for administration to post answers to questions received from the public and the board.

He told the board he is meeting with State representatives also to lobby for state funding. The meetings will occur over the next month or two.

Teacher Evaluation – Dr. Polansky next introduced Mrs. Wendy Kopazna, who delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the "Performance Evaluation Plan."

She explained evaluations are essential in establishing long term goals, toward creating motivation and toward meeting contractual and state mandates. There are seven groups of employees, (six unions and one of non-union). She reviewed the procedures in place for each group.

Dr. Polansky said that each bargaining unit has their rules in place for evaluations. Human Resources will make sure it happens and proper documentation is done.

Dr. Stapleton asked how employees with multiple roles would work.

Dr. Polansky told him that the employee would be evaluated in each role.

Mrs. Staneski asked if there was any input from students in determining the evaluation for club advisors.

Dr. Polansky told her no.

Instructional Report

Mr. Schaefer explained content comprehension occurs in grades three, four and five, when the emphasis shifts from "learning to read" to "reading to learn". Reading in content areas such as science, math, social studies requires skills beyond those used in early grades. Milford participated in a pilot of a new reading assessment titled SSSmart last fall, and again in the spring. Mr. Schaefer gave the highlight of the assessment.

Mr. Ryan reported on the high school calendar and assessment. The purpose is to develop common assessments across the schools, provide information for ends policy reporting and to meet the accreditation standards of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Rather than conduct this professional collaboration through the implementation of 20 "delayed start" Mondays (as was done last year), this work will be conducted on 10 "early dismissal" Wednesdays this year. Input was gained from teachers and administrators.

Chair Kopazna asked how the parents would be notified of the early dismissals.

Mr. Ryan explained the communication will be through newsletters, Connect Ed messages and it will be posted in the parent handbook.

Mrs. Staneski asked that an update be given to the board at a later time.

Mr. Ryan then gave an update on the elementary class size. He explained larger classes in kindergarten and grade one will have para-educators at the beginning of school. He will monitor the class sizes for the first two weeks and staffing decisions will be made at the conclusion of the second week.

Dr. Stapleton was surprised by the amount of students still at Mathewson.

Mr. Schaefer him the Mathewson is the largest school, physically.

Mr. Ryan then reported on the results of the May 2007 Advanced Placement exams. 303 exams were administered and 71% of the students scored a three or higher. Students who scored a three or better can earn college credit depending on the college or university they attend.

Mr. Schaefer then reviewed the changes to the administrative Attendance Policy. The policy was reviewed by principals, the board and legal advisors. It complies with all state laws.

Mr. Schaefer shared the updated Fundraiser Policy with the Board. The changes were made based on the input received from the Board.

Mrs. Staneski asked what would happen if a fundraiser was conducted outside of the policy requirements.

Dr. Polansky told her we would work with the principal and the money would go into the student activity fund.

Mr. Ryan reported on the Connecticut Mastery Test results.

He told the board the No Child Left Behind Act sets an acceptable level of achievement at "Proficiency", while in Connecticut the benchmark is to reach "Goal." He further described the challenges in meeting required benchmark in both systems. There will be an in depth discussion on the CMT at the Committee of the Whole meeting in September.

Mr. Scarpetti gave the following update on Pumpkin Delight.

- Pavement has been laid out.

- Curb will be done as on August 21, 2007.

- Central air in media center is done.

- Floors in kindergarten are done.

- Parent parking lot is paved.

He explained the bus times will be longer than usual on the first day because of parents taking pictures.

Name tags and pictures will be provided to the bus drivers. Bus monitors are being hired.

Two things that may not be completed are the lights in the parking lot and the landscaping surrounding the new lots.

Mrs. Rohrig asked if the Mathewson kindergartners are being mixed in with Pumpkin Delight kindergartners and was told yes.

Mr. Schaefer then shared the results of the graduation statistics with the board. A total of 479 students graduated in 2006. Over 75% of the students will continue their education.

Mr. Schaefer then gave the report on the Read 180 program. Read 180 is a summer school program for students completing eighth grade at the "intervention" level in reading. Of the 13 students that attended the program, five made substantial progress, four made some progress and four made limited progress. The majority of the students who attended the program were non-English speakers.

Mrs. Staneski asked how we could encourage enrollment to this program.

Mr. Schaefer said families could be struggling with the \$50 fee. He feels it may be time to make it a requirement.

Dr. Polansky said there has been discussion about having a program during the school year for students who are struggling. It is a non-negotiable. We need to provide a continuum through out the year. Grant money may be available for this kind of program.

Mr. Ryan then explained it is necessary for the Board to approve teachers who have volunteered to be mentors in the states BEST program. The program is on a two year cycle and is monitored by the state. He shared a list of teachers who have applied for the program.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported 45 new teachers have been hired. The paraprofessionals from 2006-07 school year that chose to stay have been placed. Five new positions have been posted due to retirements, resignations and transfers.

She noted MEA negotiations continue.

Operations Report

Mr. Russell gave the budget performance report as of July 31, 2007. The employee benefit account is showing a negative balance. The fuel account should show a positive with the negotiated rates.

Mr. Russell then explained the need for the Board to approve the resolution for the Housatonic Community College Classroom Use. The resolution will authorize Mr. Russell to execute the rental agreement with HCC in order for them to use classroom space at Jonathan Law High School in the evening for college credit courses.

Mr. Russell then updated the Board on the bus transportation. Ms. Merk has been working with Durham buses to create a seamless first day for students who ride the bus. Bus routes have been sent to the newspapers and will be uploaded to the website. The maintenance department has done a great job getting the schools ready.

Dr. Stapleton asked if we are making use of the bus software.

Mr. Russell told him that the software was very helpful with redistricting, but not with this exercise. However, it should help us with our enumeration project.

Mr. Russell asked Eileen Faustich to give a report on the Food Services Department.

Mrs. Faustich reported the Food Services Department had another financially successful year. Meal participation was up 10.9%. In 1992, the department served 342,000 meals. We are currently serving 804,659 meals. The increase has created the need for more refrigeration storage. She explained to the Board the cost of the refrigeration unit is expected to be \$225,000. Food Services will fund the entire cost with money from the 2006-07 year and with anticipated funds from the 2007-08 school year.

She further said she has been working with Silver Petrucelli over the past several months to select a site and design for the unit. She also noted that the unit will be secured and landscaping will be added.

She said the lunch price for 2007-08 will remain the same as the 2006-07 year. Minor price adjustments will be made to the a la carte items.

Chair Kopazna asked the Majority Leader to read the motions.

Mrs. Staneski made a motion and Mr. Amendola seconded the motion to approve that the Milford Public Schools will not participate in the Connecticut Healthy Food program from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Mrs. Staneski asked that the program be revisited in January.

Motion passed.

Mrs. Staneski made and Mr. Amendola seconded the motion for approval of Consent Agenda Items 1 through 6.

- 1) Textbook Approval – Recommended second read and approval of the following textbooks: (EL-14)
 - a. World Language: Spanish 2, Level 3
 - b. Business: Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Level 2
- 2) Textbook Approval – Administration recommends first read and approval of the following textbook: (EL-14)
 - a. Successful Business Planning for Entrepreneurs: Grade 12
- 3) Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- 4) Mentor Approval – Administration recommends approval of Milford teachers to become mentors for beginning teachers.
- 5) Certified Resolution – Administration recommends authorization of Mr. Philip Russell to sign the Certified Resolution for Housatonic Community College
- 6) The Milford Board of Education authorizes Dr. Harvey Polansky and Mr. Philip Russell to be the authorized signatories for the child nutrition program.

Motion passed.

Board Comment

Mrs. Staneski told the Board she is working with state legislators to come to Milford to help people understand state funding. October has been slated for this visit.

Mrs. Staneski presented Mr. Schaefer with a gift from the Board. She thanked him for all of his dedicated work. The Board will miss him.

Chair Kopazna asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Mrs. Staneski made a motion and Mr. Amendola seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to pending litigation. She invited in Mr. Dugas, Dr. Polansky, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Schaefer. Motion passed.

The Board reconvened into public session at 9:45 P.M.

Being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Amendola and seconded by Mr. Cavallaro. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Staneski
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin