

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 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
Jeffrey Burt
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. She then welcomed Mr. Burt to Milford.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Satti for a motion to add an item to the agenda.

Mr. Satti made a motion to add to New Business, Approval of the Working Agreement between the Milford Board of Education and the Milford Association of School Administrators for the period commencing July 1, 2016 and ending through to and including June 30, 2019. Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon read the Public Comment statement.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

T. Jagodzinski – Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski directed the Board to the graduation statistics report. He asked the Board what is going to be done to raise Law's scores.

C. Thomas – 84 Thompson Street – Mrs. Thompson is pleased that the Board plans to review the walking distances for students.

B. Thomas – 84 Thompson Street – Mr. Thompson said it is a very good idea to review the walking routes.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon shared with the Board that she met with the Milford Education Foundation. She was provided an update on their plans for the upcoming year.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board members of the Opening Convocation that will be held at Law on Wednesday. She will not be in attendance, however, she will send a video message to staff.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the Superintendent's Report.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SRO Program Update

Dr. Feser introduced Milford Police Captain Brandon Marschner who would provide the Board an update on the School Resource Officer program.

Captain Marschner introduced the school resource officers to the Board. He then delivered a presentation that showcased the SRO program and how it had been implemented in the schools. The program has four full time school resources officers, one at each high school full time, and two officers shared between the three middle schools and The Academy. A recent survey that was administered to the school administrators revealed positive results, along with areas in need of improvement. Captain Marschner placed emphasis on the many relationships that have formed between the school administration and students, and the community. The Police department agrees there are areas that can be improved. Meetings with school administration will be a priority in the coming year. Comments were then offered by a student, principal, school resource officer and the superintendent; all about how the program has helped students and the climate in the schools.

Mr. DeGrego commented on the school resource officers' commitment to the schools they are assigned to. Having a school resource officer in the school frees up the regular patrol car.

Ms. Glennon asked Dr. Feser to explain how the SRO program helps student achievement.

Dr. Feser explained students need to feel safe. The social and emotional piece is essential for kids to learn.

Graduation Statistics

Mr. Burt gave a brief report on how the high schools report out on the two and four year college acceptance rates. In past years students who were accepted into multiple colleges were duplicated in the total number of students accepted. The process was changed with the report beginning with the 2014-15 year. With this change, the percentage of students' acceptance has risen.

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Mr. Burt also shared the students who have been accepted to top tier colleges. He noted that while the number of students accepted to top tier colleges is slightly higher than last year, the graduating class was also smaller. He then presented a slide that showcased some of the colleges Milford students are attending this year.

Dr. Feser emphasized the percentage increase in the four year college acceptances has raised by almost six percent. She applauded the high school administration for their efforts. A lot of emphasis has been on moving students from ninth grade to 10th. Data shows that students who complete ninth grade will go on to graduate.

Mr. Satti thanked the administration for the presentation. He also mentioned that finances can determine what college a student attends.

Mr. Whiskeyman asked to receive the total number of students who have applied at any two or four year school, and the numbers of who have been accepted. It would also be helpful to show the students who have not gone onto college.

Mr. Burt reminded the Board that the graduation statistics are only one indicator. Common core is aligned with preparing college and career ready students.

Dr. Feser said she will provide the Board with the number of students, and where they will go in the fall. She will also include students who are going onto technical schools and the military.

Mrs. Federico requested the percentages, with the total numbers of students enrolled to all schools, not just the top tier schools.

Mr. Burt then shared the state's four year graduation rate for Law and Foran, noting the data is one year behind and is shown for the 2014 graduations. He noted the "still in school rate" includes not only those students who did not graduate in four years, but also the special education students who are receiving services until age 21, and students who have been expelled.

Dr. Feser made reference to Mr. Jagodzinski's earlier comment about Law being seven points lower than Foran. The Federal government, or the specifically, the IDEA law permits special education students to remain in school until age 21. There are a number of special education students who have completed their high school requirements and are part of a transition program until they are 21. The Federal law calculates these students as not graduating in four years. Law has a higher percentage of special education students in this program. Dr. Feser stated that she has broached the conversation at the state level to no avail. She has even suggested that they be listed post grads, but was told no. She also noted that in years past, the state provided the special education numbers. That is no longer the case. It appears that the state penalizes districts if a student graduates in five years. Milford strives to get all students to graduate.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Feser updated the Board on the enrollment to date. The report is in line with the projections made by Milone and MacBroom during the elementary redistricting work. Since the May 26th report, three elementary sections have been added; one kindergarten at both Mathewson and Meadowside and a fourth grade at Pumpkin Delight. She also reminded the Board that nineteen and one half additional teachers were budgeted for. To date, only two positions have not been used. Administration will continue to monitor the enrollment daily. The official enrollment report will be provided at the October business meeting, however, the administration will update the Board on the enrollment at its September business meeting as well.

Reconfiguration/Redistricting Update

Dr. Feser provided details of the summer work that has taken place at the elementary schools relative to the reconfiguration of the eight elementary schools. She led the Board through each week of work that included the packing up of classrooms, moving furniture, cataloging library books and more. 9,000 boxes were moved. 1,200 pieces of technology were in the process of being moved. Confidential files were transferred to their new buildings. By August 10, seven of the eight elementary schools were opened to teachers.

Dr. Feser reported the schools will be ready for opening day.

Mrs. Federico asked if the parking lot project was completed at Meadowside. She was told yes.

Mrs. Federico thanked the administration for their work.

Food Services Report

Mrs. Faustich reported the year end financials for the Foodservice program. For the first time in years, the department had a loss of \$7,746. She reminded the Board the intent is not to make a profit, but rather to break even. However, lunch prices have not increased in years. This year, the lunch price will increase by .25 at the elementary and middle school levels. She also noted that at the middle school level breakfast is only served at West Shore. Haborside does not have the room. She is considering serving breakfast at East Shore.

Human Resources Report

Dr. Feser provided the report in the Mrs. Kopazna's absence. The district has hired 38 new teachers.

Mrs. Federico noted that the Team Leader Stipends for West Shore had not been included in the packet. Mrs. Griffin was asked to provide the Board with the information.

V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approved

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

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. July 13, 2015 Business Meeting
 - b. July 20, 2015 Special Meeting
 - c. July 22, 2015 Special Meeting

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

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to recess.

Mr. Satti made a motion to recess. Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (8:55 p.m.)

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 9:35 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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.