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## **Milford Board of Education**

Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2014

### **Board members present:**

John DeRosa  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Laura Fucci  
Jennifer Federico  
Susan Glennon, Chair  
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin  
Anthony Piselli  
C. Robert Satti, Jr.  
Earl Whiskeyman

### **Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Michael Cummings  
Susan Kelleher  
Wendy Kopazna  
Jim Richetelli

### **Board members absent:**

Michael DeGrego

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the Business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room at the Parsons complex. She then led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **II. REPLACEMENT OF 3<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER**

Ms. Glennon announced Mr. Gensure has resigned from the Board. Mr. Robert Satti has been selected by the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats to serve out the remainder of Mr. Gensure's term. She then asked for a motion.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve C. Robert Satti, Jr. as the replacement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Democratic Board of Education member Mr. George Gensure. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. (Dr. Gold-Dworkin was not present for the vote).

City Clerk Joanne Rohrig was present to conduct the swearing in of Mr. Satti.

Mr. Satti was then seated to participate in the meeting.

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Place - Mr. Jagodzinski spoke out about the graduation rate scores being so low. He urged the Board to make changes that would help improve them.

Kathy Gage – 47 Pond Street – Mrs. Gage referred to two emails she recently sent to the Board. She expressed her concerns with the changes in education.

Robbie Silver – 55 Governor's Avenue – Mrs. Silver said she agrees with Mrs. Gage. She also feels the long range plan focuses on structures and not education.

Andrea Feher – 179 Rivercliff Drive – Mrs. Feher thanked Ms. Glennon for her letters to the Chief of Police and the Mayor about school opening and the safety of students. She then questioned the changes to the bus routes and feels too many stops were consolidated in her neighborhood.

#### **IV. CHAIRS REPORT**

Ms. Glennon announced Mrs. Federico will replace Mr. Gensure as the Democrat's representative on the Permanent Schools Facility Building Committee. A liaison is still needed for the Milford Education Foundation.

Ms. Glennon told the Board she has had conversations with both the Mayor and the Public Works director about sidewalk and street safety and sent a letters to the Mayor and Chief Mello.

Ms. Glennon also reported the Board continues to work through the recommendation made by the Long Range Planning Committee. There will be two public forums; one on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the other on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Board plans to approve a plan at the October 13<sup>th</sup> business meeting.

There were no liaison reports.

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

Dr. Feser reported the schools would be ready to open on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Some highlights of work done over the summer includes Meadowside offices were renovated to allow for a better flow; three major abatement projects were completed, and the artificial turf football field at Jonathan Law was replaced.

##### **Graduation Statistics Report**

Mr. Cummings spoke to the 2013-14 graduation statistics relative to the Board goal that was established in 2011. The goal, designed to increase student achievement, was to increase by 5% the number of students accepted into college, whether it be a two or four-year program, and by 5% the number accepted to top tier colleges using 2011 statistics as the baseline. He reported that 85% of the 2013-14 graduates have been accepted to a two or four year college, falling short of the goal of 88.2%. However, 78 students were accepted to a top tier college surpassing the goal of 49.

A discussion ensued around the goal. Dr. Feser reminded the Board that it was the Board that directed administration to establish the goal. Some Board members questioned the validity of the acceptance rate opposed to the attendance rate. Mr. Cummings explained economics could be a factor.

Mr. DeRosa made a request to review the goals. Mrs. Glennon indicated the Board would be updating the goals in the near future.

##### **Parent Survey**

Mrs. Bonetti and Mr. Scalice delivered the results from the parent survey that was administered in the spring of 2014. The survey is a follow up to the survey submitted to parents in 2013. The state mandates a survey be conducted on an annual basis. Key areas of focus were communication, instruction, leadership and

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culture, with an emphasis on areas that were of concern. The results of the survey were very positive, with most all of the percentages showing an increase.

In closing, Mr. Scalice underscored principal and teacher goals are linked to parent satisfaction and school improvement.

### **Update on Professional Educators' Evaluation Plans**

Mr. Cummings narrated a PowerPoint that highlighted the changes to both the teacher and administrator evaluation plans for the 2014-15 school year. The changes to the teacher evaluation plan are:

- That state chose not to use STATE assessment data in measuring the Student Learning Goal so this year the full percentage will be based on District assessments.
- Tenured teachers in the elementary and middle school levels who received effective or highly effective in the 2013-14 school year can receive professional development in lieu of an unannounced observation. In the alternative plan, those teachers qualifying will engage in collaborative lesson planning and lesson review. Peer collaboration will contribute to individual teacher growth and collective understanding of best instructional practice.
- Increase observations to 20 minutes from 15 minutes.

Dr. Feser reported out on the changes in the administrator evaluation plan. She told the Board a group of seven districts formed a committee to review the state's plan. The work produced a very elaborate rubric with a growth piece built into it, "inquiry cycles" to help administrators analyze and improve student growth. The state has given approval for the seven districts to use proposed plan. She then asked the Board to support the plans.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion approve the recommended revisions to the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation plans. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Enrollment Projection for 2014-15**

Mr. Cummings reported the enrollment numbers as of August 20, 2014. He will continue to monitor the numbers to ensure they are within the class size range set by the Board.

### **Human Resources Report**

Mrs. Kopazna reported 55 new teachers have been hired. The new teachers will replace those who have left the district through retirement or resignation.

Mrs. Fucci asked who will fill the position of Interim Supervisor for District Improvement while Mrs. Krois is the Interim Principal of Meadowside School as the work needs to continue. Dr. Feser said that they were in the process of interviewing and an interim would be named soon.

Mrs. Fucci asked what happens when long-term substitute positions or other positions aren't hired by the start of school. Mrs. Kopazna stated that positions are almost always filled and that there is a provision in the contract that the teacher can be retained for 30 days giving human resources time to fill the position appropriately.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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Mrs. Glennon asked there was any unfinished business.

Mr. DeRosa indicated he had a few questions and asked administration if vehicles used by employees have GPS units and how the vehicles are fueled. He was assured GPS units are being installed and the cars are refueled at the Public Works yard.

Mr. DeRosa then asked how materials are accounted for when they are no longer used and removed from a school. Mr. Richetelli explained there is a “disposal” policy in place that is followed.

### **VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2.

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
  - a. July 14, 2014 Business Meeting
  - b. July 28, 2014 Special Meeting
  - c. August 11, 2014 Special Meeting
  - d. August 14, 2014 Special Meeting

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Satti abstained).

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **IX. BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Glennon asked Dr. Feser to speak to the ways that students are assessed without using the SBAC.

Dr. Feser explained there are many resources that included the Advanced Placement report, bullying numbers versus allegations, discipline information, math units, nature projects etc. In addition, teachers use assessments in the classrooms constantly.

Mr. Cummings added NWEA testing, PreK and K counting assessments and referrals that are made by the student assistance team.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin thanked the administration for their work on the administrator evaluation plan.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

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Mrs. Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary

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Mrs. Laura Fucci  
Corresponding Secretary