

**Milford Board of Education**

Workshop Minutes  
September 16, 2013

**Board members present:**

Tracy Casey  
Michael DeGrego  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Laura Fetter  
Susan Glennon  
Dora Kubek  
Earl Whiskeyman

**Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Michael Cummings  
James Richetelli  
Susan Kelleher

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Milford Board of Education held a Special Education Workshop on Monday, September 16, 2013 in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. SPECIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES REVIEW AND INITIAL RESPONSE PLAN**

Dr. Feser set a context for the presentation reminding the Board of how the audit came about. It was in late winter of 2012 when the Board approved moving forward with the audit. Following interviews, District Management Council was selected as the consultant to conduct the audit. DMC would provide three or four major opportunities for raising student achievement and controlling costs. Thus, the work began.

Dr. Feser then asked Mrs. Kelleher to describe the data collection component of the audit.

Mrs. Kelleher reported the Master Data Collection Spreadsheet included 17 components including such information as financial trends, out of district students, contracted services, remediation and intervention staffing and student achievement data. In addition, the Pupil Personnel Department scheduled for DMC staff observations of classes at all levels. DMC observed 40 different types of classes to see the full range of services provided in district. Interviews were arranged with 29 groups including administrators, central office staff, special education and general education teachers and parents. Surveys were sent to administrators, special education staff, general education teachers and parents of students with disabilities. A cost analysis was also conducted comparing out-of-district placements versus in-district programming. As of September 2013, the district currently has identified 872 students with disabilities. The number of students with autism and multiple disabilities continues to increase, thereby requiring additional supports. Even though the general education student population has declined, the special education numbers have remained relatively steady.

Mr. Cummings then spoke to the achievement levels of special education students compared to typical peers on CMT and CAPT. He highlighted the DMC findings both commendations and opportunities (recommendations). For each opportunity, Mr. Cummings addressed the work that has been completed or

Approved

the work in progress to address each area. The discussion concluded that this is not a special education issue, nor is it a regular education issue. Rather, it is a systemwide education issue. Changes need to occur to ensure special education and regular education students are receiving appropriate instruction with proper supports from expert teachers.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Glennon made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Ms. Susan Glennon  
Corresponding Secretary