

Approved
Milford Board of Education

Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2014

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
James Richetelli
Michael Cummings

Board Members absent:

Michael DeGrego

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room at the Parsons complex. She then led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon announced Mr. DeGrego would not be present as he is still recuperating from his accident.

She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser, who turned the meeting over to Mr. Cummings for a presentation on district student achievement.

II. DISTRICT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cummings presented the 2013-2014 student performance results using a PowerPoint presentation for illustration. (See Materials for BOE meeting on 9/22/14 for full PowerPoint information) Shared was data on the following assessments: the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2) grades K-2, District Common Assessments grades 6 - 10, Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) grades K-8, CMT and CAPT Science grades 5, 8, 10, and the Advanced Placement results.

Mr. Cummings shared that the DRA 2 assessment will be replaced with another standardized measure beginning in 2014-15, and that this year in grades 6-8, the Fountas and Pinnel Benchmark Assessment will be introduced. In speaking about the District Common Assessments, Mr. Cummings indicated that these were given for the first time in 2013-14 in grades 6-10 and in elective introductory courses. Every District Common Assessment was scored on a four point rubric. Different rubrics were developed for each discipline and reflect department learning expectations. These assessments were given in fall, winter and spring. The results of many of the assessments were shared, broken down by the indicators on the rubric for that particular assessment.

In speaking to the NWEA, Mr. Cummings shared that this assessment measures students reading and math performance against the Common Core State Standards, is Computer Adaptive and measures student growth over time. Growth reflects direct instruction in subject areas. As students move into middle school the emphasis shifts to application of knowledge, so student growth appears to slow.

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Dr. Gold-Dworkin requested that the Board be provided with a comparison of Milford's CMT Science scores against its DRG.

Mrs. Fucci requested information that would have both the CMT Science scores lined up with the District Common Assessments.

On Advanced Placement, the district surpassed the Board's goals of increasing the number of students enrolled in AP courses by 15%, and increasing the number of AP exams receiving a score of 3 or better by 15%. Mr. Cummings reported the Equity and Excellence Ratio for Milford was 42%, which exceeded the nation's average by 22%. The district will continue its work to prepare students for AP courses by training pre-AP teachers, aligning curricula of courses that lead to AP courses, and continuing to strengthen the AP Summer Academy and school year course and exam preparation. It will also investigate the College Board's *Spring Board* program for middle school students.

Mr. Cummings concluded the presentation talking about the work that will need to be done in the coming year that will continue to focus on student achievement. For example, with the transition to the Smarter Balanced Assessments, there is a need to establish a fair and equitable baseline.

Mr. Satti asked if there was data that correlates AP course scores and colleges offering financial aid.

Dr. Feser shared that having an AP course on your transcript is beneficial for the applicant. However, some colleges have increased the score needed for college credit to a four or five.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Kruzinski – 60 Crescent Drive – Mrs. Kruzinski would like to see the data broken down by schools, and how it relates to the other schools. What is the district doing to improve the scores at a particular school?

Mr. Cummings explained the principals can break the data out by grade and by teacher. They use last year's scores when planning the work that needs to happen in the current year. Each school has a School Continuous Improvement Plan, which is aligned to the District Improvement Plan. However, demographics can play a factor in the disparity of schools' scores.

Dr. Feser added NWEA shows student growth which is much greater than some of the other assessment scores.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fucci a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin

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Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary