

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2012

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
George Gensure
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
James Maroney
Beverley Pierson
Christopher Saley
Mark Stapleton
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
James Richetelli
Susan Kelleher

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a board meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. DISTRICT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Dr. Feser told the board that each March students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 take the CMT and CAPT state assessments respectively. The district then receives those results in the summer. Over the summer, the administrators and teachers analyze the results. They look for trends of improvement and concern. This exercise helps the district then to refine existing goals and action plans. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Cummings then narrated a PowerPoint (attached). He reported out on the scores and how they measured against the District Goals.

Mr. Gensure asked to be provided with the National numbers for the DRA.

Ms. Glennon asked how the K-2 structure is working. Has the focus been narrowed in the schools?

Mr. Cummings told her the teachers are now able to work together. Grades K-2 learning is about learning to read. Grades 3-5 learning is about reading to learn.

Mrs. Casey asked Mr. Cummings if the scores reflect what was to be expected.

Mr. Cummings told the board the forces are coalescing but administration wants to see more improvement. He did report that the CMT scores are higher than the state average. However, reading scores dipped in grades, 3, 4, 6 and 8. The CAPT scores exceeded the targets, except for writing. The presentation captured some strategies administration will use to increase the scores in all areas of concern. He reminded the board that the current CMT and CAPT testing assessments will be obsolete after 2014. The district will need to teach to the new assessments.

Mrs. Casey asked administration if there is anything, not already in place, that would help the district achieve the goal.

Mr. Cummings told her that the administration and the board will need to make some budgetary choices at some point. The staffing levels are at a good place. The literacy coach model was added this year. Some roles may need to be repurposed. Right now, the plan that has been put in place needs to be executed.

Mr. Cummings then announced that NCLB or No Child Left Behind no longer applies. The state will be implementing School Performance Index (SPI). The target will shift from proficient to goal. However, the target for the district has always been goal. SPI, and how the district will address the expectations, will be discussed at a future meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Biagone – 73 Sentinel Hill Road – Mrs. Biagone told the board that parents are disappointed in the education from Milford Public Schools. Those who attended the high schools have told her that their children were not prepared for college. From what has been reported, there are no special education students attending four year colleges. She did, however, learn that there is only one special education student attending a two year college. She encouraged the board to do more relative to college preparedness.

IV. BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Stapleton thanked administration for the presentation. He especially like the vertical scales scores slides.

Mrs. Pierson told the administration that she likes the way the district is moving. She believes that children should own their work! Milford will be setting the example.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Approved

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

James Maroney
Corresponding Secretary