

## **Milford Board of Education**

### **Meeting Minutes**

September 28, 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  
John DeRosa

**Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Jeffrey Burt  
Jim Richetelli

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the 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 thanked Foran students Gabby Benoit and Casey Glennon, who would be taping the meeting to be televised at a later time.

She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser.

#### **II. DISTRICT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT**

Dr. Feser told the Board that the administration reports out on the assessment scores annually, and provides a mid-year update in the spring. This year, Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) replaces the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT).

Mr. Burt delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the district assessments results for DRA2 and NWEA, and state assessment results for SBA and CMT/CAPT (Science) and how they are aligned to the Board goals.

A number of questions were posed by the Board.

Mr. DeRosa asked if the district is aiming for a normative rate on the NWEA. Mr. Burt told him that ideally all students would be at 100%. However, the important piece is seeing a bell curve. He reminded the Board the NWEA is only one indicator.

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Mrs. Federico asked when the administration would report back to the Board with the analysis review. The goal is to increase by 10% but the district decreased by 15%.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board the administration presents a mid-year update in the spring.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin asked if a comparison of last year's data could be provided.

Mr. Burt told the Board the reporting systems would not allow him to extract the data and he is looking into that. Dr. Feser noted that the principals have cohort data from last year but now the schools have changed and their populations are not the same.

Ms. Glennon reminded the administration the Board is presented district data; therefore the reconfiguration should not make a difference when referencing last year's data for the Board.

Mr. Burt reported the SBA was piloted as a field test two years ago. Those scores were never provided to the district. These scores, being provided for the first time, will be used as the benchmark.

Mr. Burt then reviewed the Advanced Placement courses offered, exams taken, how the students scored, and AP Scholar information.

Mr. DeRosa asked if administration has checked with universities with what score they will accept. He wants to make sure students are being taught properly. He has heard that college students are struggling in college.

Mr. Burt explained all guidance counselors have the information of which college accepts AP for credit, and has the discussion with the students before they take an AP course. He also emphasized there is merit to challenging yourself. The district wants to give all children the opportunity. He also reminded the Board of the AP academy that is offered over the summer to prepare students for the course.

Dr. Feser explained five years ago, the district limited who could take the course. Statistics have shown that the percentage of students who take only one course exponentially increases their chances of graduating from college.

Mr. DeRosa wants the district to produce the best well rounded student.

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Ms. Glennon commented the district goes to great lengths to offer all students a lot of opportunity and is very supportive of all of the disciplines.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin asked if Calculus BC was offered to students.

Mr. Satti noted the numbers of exams taken and students scoring a 3 or better differs in the presentation from the packet.

Board members were told the information from both questions would be looked into and provided to them.

Looking ahead, as a directive by the Governor, the SAT will be administered to 11th graders. With the implementation of the Standards Based Report Card, the elementary reconfiguration and the departmentalization of grades four and five, the district has elected to use the DRA2 as a means of assessing kindergarten through grade 5 students for the 2015-16 school year. However, administration will be reviewing the continuation of DRA2 for next year.

Mrs. Federico questioned the amount of time students spend on standardized testing.

Mr. Burt explained the district has to take a look at the assessments and what value they hold. He then cautioned the Board not to lump all assessments into one grouping. They have a wide variety of purposes and uses. The role of the district is to work with them to ensure they support the teachers and students.

He concluded his presentation by sharing all of the assessment data side by side to show how the percentage scores varied.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin asked Mr. Burt to speak to the achievement gap in the science scores.

Dr. Feser said district is working on the achievement gap. It is getting far greater attention and there has been positive growth seen.

Ms. Glennon thanked the administration. She then read the Public Comment statement.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni told the Board it is essential for students to have good study skills. The district should offer its students “S4 Study Skills.” It is a very helpful program. She further stated that she agrees with Mr. DeRosa about the Advanced Placement courses. In New Haven, they have partnerships with colleges

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because the AP status does not carry the weight that is used to with colleges. She cautioned administration not to put the sole focus on AP.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Satti made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Piselli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Robert Satti, Jr.