

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2020

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Chair)
Rita Hennessey
Warren Pawlowski
Una Petroske
Betsy Ratner
Cynthia Twiss
Nicole Wasson
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Dr. Amy Fedigan
Jim Richetelli
Carole Swift

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all.

She then turned the meeting over the Dr. Cutaia for student recognition.

II. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Cutaia recognized the student leadership team from Meadowside Elementary School. While the team is comprised of fourth and fifth graders, the fifth grade students were in attendance to represent the group. The students who were recognized were Ayaan Ahmed, Jocelyn Larracuenta, Katie Wong and Tiana Rosiak.

Dr. Cutaia also recognized four eighth grade students from West Shore Middle School. The students participated in a peer-tutoring program that is being piloted at West Shore this year. Those students recognized were Cooper Fitzgerald, Vincent Vocal, Isabella Gecaj and Charvi Koniki.

The Board congratulated those recognized.

Ms. Glennon called for the student reports.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Lucas Burgard and Camilla Massey presented the report for Foran. Rohan Manohar and Ameila Mower presented the report for Law.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the working agreement between the Milford Board of Education and the School Security Guards – Union Local 1303-453, Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. She shared the budget workshop dates in January and noted the hope is to approve the budget at the January 22nd workshop. She reminded the board that Dr. Cutaia's presentation tonight is meant to be a broad overview of the budget. She reminded board members to send their questions to her and each will be addressed during the workshops when the board will take a deeper look at the details of the proposal. She noted each workshop will include time for public comment. At the current time, the Board of Finance has not released the date for its public hearing.

She also shared that CAFE will hold a legislative breakfast on January 29 at 7:30 a.m. in Derby and asked if any board member had interest in attending to see her after the meeting.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Cutaia for the Superintendent's Report.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Proposed 2020-21 Budget

Dr. Cutaia narrated a presentation that explained the rationale for her proposed budget which reflects an increase of 3.57% over the current year, at a total of \$98,472,780. She noted that education is a human capital industry and that salaries and benefits for retirees comprise the largest percent of the total budget (77.25%). She shared how the proposal supports the district focus on teaching and learning and the Board's Budget Priorities and Assumptions. She noted recent district accomplishments and progress that has been made. She shared proposed system improvements that will continue to expand the vision of improving the education of Milford students. High Quality Instruction (HQI) will continue to be the priority, elementary class size guidelines to reduce grades 3 through 5 class size from 25 to 23 maximum, expansion of World Language in PreK and grade 2, new science labs in the elementary school, flexible furniture, a program to better support social emotional learning, technology upgrades, curriculum revision, a new position to assist with the changing technology in the schools, replacement of music instruments, moving to one platform for employee services and more are some improvements. She then shared reductions totaling \$494,417 that will help offset the costs of some improvements, including reductions in the areas of staffing, workers compensation insurance, contracted services, utilities, gasoline, and other support.

Dr. Cutaia shared some test scores data that show the district has been flat for some time. Her goal is to achieve a higher impact on education by refining and prioritizing the work, which she believes will help Milford students grow exponentially.

2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Dr. Cutaia said that the recommended 2020-21 Academic Calendar would need one modification. The winter recess originally slated for Monday February 15 and Tuesday February 16 will change to Friday February 12 and Monday February 15. This will be in line with feedback received from the community after the calendar survey was conducted.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the 2020-21 Academic Calendar as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mr. Richetelli provided the human resources activity for December. To date, administration has received 12 certified staff retirements.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli provided the Board with the quarterly budget report and answered questions. He noted areas showing a deficit and areas with surpluses and, provided the rationale. He assured the Board the budget is monitored closely and is projected to balance at the year's end.

The Board is to be provided with the correct percentage expended for account 3304 Arch/Eng Services.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for December 2019 and answered questions. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:
Consideration of Minutes:

December 9, 2019 Board Business Meeting

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Morse - 107 Eastern Parkway – Ms. Morse has a son in third grade at JFK. She spoke in support of decreasing the class size from a maximum of 25 to a maximum of 23 in grades 3 through 5.

Laura Schultz - 80 Berkley Terrace – Ms. Schultz expressed her support of the proposed budget. She also spoke in support of the decrease in class sizes in grades 3 through 5.

Lynn Shipman – 6 Dogwood Place – She is excited and inspired by budget. She has a son in second grade at JFK. She told the Board JFK parents are passionate about class size reduction.

Kate O'Neill - 20 Granville Avenue – Ms. O'Neill has a child at JFK and at West Shore. She spoke in support of reducing class sizes. Lowering class size by two students makes a big difference.

Colleen Tuba - 82 Fairview Street – Ms. Tuba expressed her support in the reduction of class sizes in grades 3 through 5.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Adam De Young – He thanked Dr. Cutaia, Mrs. Carlson and Mr. Thompson for the visit to the learning commons at Law and East Shore to see the flexible furniture in action, being used by students and staff. He also shared with the Board he attended the open house for MGAT and thanked MGAT Chairperson Ms. Flannery, for her work making the meetings more accessible by television.

Ms. Boynton spoke about the Milford Suffrage Committee’s work to make the centennial year grand. There will be events to celebrate and educate people in civics throughout the year. She thanked administration for supporting student participation in the committee’s events.

Ms. Petroske echoed Adam’s comments. She was able to attend the visits to the learning commons as well as East Shore. It was amazing to see HQI in action with the flexible furniture.

Ms. Hennessey attended the school tours. She enjoyed seeing the student in action outside of the classroom setting.

Ms. Glennon attended the tours and attended Jonathan Law’s winter concert. She commended the high school principals on the work with their students and staff. She encouraged everyone to go to a concert.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske