

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

Regular Business Meeting

October 13, 2009

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
David Hourigan, Board Chair
Jim Quish
Joanne Rohrig, Minority Leader
Pamela Staneski
Greta Stanford, Majority Leader
David Steinlauf

Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent
Michael Cummings, Assistant Superintendent
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent
Susan Kelleher, Dir. of Pupil Personnel Services

Board members absent:

Cindy Kopazna
Jim Santa Barbara

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Board Chair David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a) Greta Stanford made a motion to accept the September 14, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Joanne Rohrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) Greta Stanford made a motion to accept the September 29, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Joanne Rohrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. C. Berni of 96 Centennial Drive – She thanked Mr. Cummings for the instructional update via email. It is a wonderful way to communicate to the public. However, she had heard that some parents did not receive the email blast.

Mr. Cummings told her that the list is generated from the current list in the ConnectEd system. He then reminded the public that it is very important for parents to make sure they provide the school secretaries with any changes to their contact information.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Board Chair David Hourigan called for the Liaison Reports.

Mr. Quish reported the Permanent Schools Building Committee had selected a contract for the Jonathan Law renovation.

Mrs. Rohrig reported the Foran Phase II project will be put out to bid.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports.

Bing Zheng reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Shenali Parikh and Dylan Leonard presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

2. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Polansky reminded the board members of the upcoming athletic events taking place at both high schools. He also noted the upcoming band performances at Jonathan Law and Joseph Foran. He encouraged the board to attend some.

Dr. Polansky then told the board the Dr. Gerry Tirozzi, from National Association of Secondary School Principals will be co-hosting a community forum on high school reform on October 26, 2009. Location to be announced.

He concluded his report by commenting on a recent article that mentioned the deplorable condition of East Shore. He explained the East Shore renovation falls within the Capital Improvement Plan. The plan is sent to the City which then determines how much funding to provide. Once the funding is provided, the Permanent Schools Building Committee then plans major work. He further said he is concerned other schools are in need of work also. There are roofs that need to be replaced, abatement work and other major projects on the radar.

3. Instructional Report

Enrollment Report

Mr. Cummings shared the Enrollment Report as of October 1, 2009 with the board. He recommended that current grade and school grade configurations remain in place for the 2010-2011 school year.

Update on Eighth Grade at the Academy

Mr. Cummings then told the board the attendance of the eighth grade class at The Academy has increased from last year at their respective middle school. He noted that one student's attendance rate went from 30% at the end of last year to 100% at The Academy. A report will be given at a future board meeting.

Chairman Hourigan asked for ten minute recess at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called back into order at 7:40 p.m.

4. Operational Report

a) Personnel Report

In Mrs. Kopazna's absence, Mr. Russell asked the board if there were any questions about the Personnel Report. There were none.

b) Budget Report for September

Mr. Russell presented the Budget Performance Report for September, as well as the Cash Disbursements Report. He reported 92% of the budget has been encumbered.

c) Athletic Financial Report

Mr. Russell shared a PowerPoint presentation with the board (attached). He began by explaining there are three accounts that are used for athletic funds. They are general funds, student activity account and the fundraising account. The athletic account budget is \$969,269. He then explained how the three accounts are spent throughout the year. General funds are used for athletics, transportation, coaches, trainers and insurance. Fundraising funds are used for part time staff, equipment, optional gear, supplies, uniforms, dues and fees etc. The fundraising funds are used by the specific teams.

Mr. Quish asked why the board had to kick in \$5,000 when there was a balance carried over in the fundraising funds. Mr. Russell told him operations are separate from the fundraising dollars.

Mr. Amendola also stated that the fundraising funds are in student accounts and cannot be used for operations expenses.

Mr. Russell continued navigating through the presentation which showed the budget vs. actual expenses.

Fundraising expenses are approved by the principal and are raised by the booster club.

Mrs. Staneski asked for clarification of "optional gear."

Mr. Vitelli said that an item could equate to a higher amount than what the students were allotted to spend. Optional gear could then be used to fund the remainder.

Mrs. Staneski said that the insurance should be included in the “cost per student by sport”. It should be separated. Then you would have a true cost.

Mr. Russell told her that he would divide the insurance up by sport.

Mrs. Staneski questioned why there are not more paid coaches for track. The amount of players is as high as football.

Mrs. Rohrig asked how football could cost \$842 per student and volleyball \$822.

Mr. Russell explained there are more students playing football than volleyball.

The board discussed the transportation costs and whether it should be included in the cost per student.

Mr. Amendola said it would be nice to have all the coaches stipends included in the report.

A question was asked about how the cost of the jackets is expended. Mr. Vitelli explained the athletic department pays 1/3, the booster club pays 1/3 and the parent pays 1/3. The total cost is \$105.

Mr. Luysterborghs said the cost of the jacket is \$68 and the school pays the entire cost. He said that he has been dealing with the same vendor for 20 years.

Mr. Amendola asked why one school is paying \$68 and the other paying \$105.

Mr. Vitelli said that he has tried to negotiate with Law’s vendor and did not get the same pricing.

Dr. Polansky said the real question is “why is one school funding \$68 and the other funding \$35?”

Mrs. Staneski said that each school should be paying the same amount.

Mrs. Casey said we should be able to negotiate if we are purchasing more.

Mr. Amendola said he believes that if we buy in bulk, we should get a better deal.

Mr. Vitelli said that there are two high schools. One schools needs are not the same at the other.

Mrs. Staneski said that she understands that the athletic director’s ensure equality by sport. The athletic director’s told her she was correct.

Mr. Amendola said that when the board has to transfer \$5,500 from another account to fund athletics it becomes the board’s problem.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

The consent agenda included several items this month. These were:

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. Overnight Conference: Administration recommends approval of the following staff overnight conference:
 1. NCTM Regional Conference in Boston, MA from October 21, 2009 to October 23, 2009
- c. Overnight Field Trips: Administration recommends approval of the following overnight field trips:
 1. Joseph A. Foran Band trip to Washington, DC from March 26 – March 29, 2010
 2. Joseph A. Foran Natural Helpers trip to Camp Hazen in Chester, CT from October 29, 2009 – October 31, 2009

3. Joseph A. Foran Journalism trip to Columbia University, NY from March 17, 2010 – March 19, 2010
4. Joseph A. Foran Choir trip to Boston, MA from March 26, 2010 – March 29, 2010
5. Joseph A. Foran Ski trip to Sunday River, ME from February 26 – February 28, 2009

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Mrs. Stanford made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as published. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Unfinished Business

Chairman Hourigan asked Mr. Russell for an update on the reverse auctions.

Mr. Russell told the board he contacted the superintendent of Region 13 specifically on the books and that deal fell through. He said the district does not have any bids that are big enough to benefit from.

Mrs. Staneski asked if they offered any explanation.

Dr. Polansky said he spoke with the publisher and they were less than cooperative.

Chairman Hourigan told the board that any questions that are not answered at a board meeting will appear on the agenda at the next meeting.

b. New Business

None

X. BOARD COMMENT:

Chair Hourigan asked the board members for any comments they may have relating to Board business.

Chairman Hourigan then read a prepared statement offering sincere remarks about the four members who have chosen to end their term on the Board of Education. Those board members are Jim Santa Barbara, Pam Staneski, Cindy Kopazna and Joanne Rohrig. He wished them all the best as they move forward in their life.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hourigan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Greta Stanford
Corresponding Secretary

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary