

Milford Board of Education

Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2014

Board members present:

Michael DeGrego (left at 10:20PM)
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fucci
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin arrived at 8:10 p.m.
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
Susan Kelleher
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at City Hall. She announced that Dr. Gold-Dworkin would be listening from a cell phone device until she arrived. She then asked that everyone remain standing following the Pledge of Allegiance in remembrance of John Corsa, a Jonathan Law High School student who passed away Sunday after a battle with cancer.

She then led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for Student and Staff Recognition.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser announced the students who achieved Commended Scholar status with the National Merit Scholarship Program. High school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements. Statistically, only 2.2% of the 1.5 million students who take the exam are named Commended Scholars. The students who achieved Commended Scholar status are: Ming-Yeah Hu and Joshua Romano, from Law and Annie Jin, John Licitra and George Rusu, from Foran.

Dr. Feser then announced the Milford Public Schools students who achieved Advanced Placement scholar status. Milford ranked 1st in its District Reference Group, DRGD and 12th in the state out of 116 districts who offer Advanced Placement courses. There are four categories of AP scholars. She further said that the board goal of increasing by 12% the number of AP exams with scores of 3 or above using 2013 statistics as a baseline, had been surpassed. The number of students who took AP exams and scored a three or better has increased from 96 in 2013 to 141 in 2014.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Tyler Procello and Shaina Arsenault presented the report for Joseph A. Foran. Kelsey Kopazna and Sofya Calvin presented the report for Jonathan Law High School. The reports are on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski applauded the district for their work with the Advanced Placement. However, Milford continues to have low state assessment scores. The per pupil cost is much higher than surrounding districts. He urged the Board to reject the proposed plan to close a middle school, but instead close a middle and an elementary school, and redistrict all at one time. He also advised the Board to reject any plan of adding new programs until a definitive plan has been decided.

Karen Karpie 33 North Street – Ms. Karpie questioned when the decision was made to close Harborside. She reviewed all of the material from the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board. She understands it is for financial reasons. However, there needs to be a concrete plan before you close a middle school. She requested the decision to close Harborside be tabled.

Susan Krushinsky – 60 Crescent Drive - Mrs. Krushinsky expects the Board to fight for excellence in education. She quoted Board policies which focused on the Board's roles and responsibilities while keeping academic achievement its priority. The Board should foster partnerships with the parents. She urged the Board to make the decision for the best interest of the students.

Ron Berlin – 41 North Street – Mr. Berlin has been a Milford resident for many years. He graduated from Milford High School. The closing of Milford High School was a mistake. It divided the city. Closing Harborside will take away the neighborhood school concept. The city is slowly losing its charm. He does not support closing Harborside.

Mike Scagliarini – 18 Paddock Place – Mr. Scagliarini congratulated the AP scholars. He clarified that parents are involved. They watch meetings on television for various reasons. He has followed the long range planning process by reading the minutes. The closing of Harborside was not mentioned until recently. He recalls the recommendation was to make Harborside a K-8 elementary school.

Ray Vitali – 48 Founders Way – Mr. Vitali thanked the Board for their time and commitment to a long range planning process. He congratulated the AP Scholars. He then told the Board to carefully think about what they will be voting on 3 or 4 years out. The plan will cost money. He reminded the Board of the cut made by the Board of Aldermen of \$300,000 out of the current budget. This Board has spent \$80,000 on consultant fees then spent \$7,000 on more consultant fees.

Patricia Mulhall – 49 Crescent Drive – Mrs. Mulhall taught at Harborside from 2005 – 2013. Harborside is a wonderful community. She urged the Board to walk through the schools before making such a big decision to close a school. She reminded the Board Harborside is the highest performing school in the district. Harborside is a Blue Ribbon school with magic that continues to enhance students learning experiences. Why would you want to take that away? She further said the K-5 teachers should be invited into Harborside to see the magic. She requested the Board to table their vote.

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni congratulated the AP scholars. The long range plan took

Approved

two years and a lot of money was spent. She too urged the Board to walk through the schools before making their decision. Should the Board vote to close Harborside, they will be affecting the same group of students who were taken from Mathewson and sent to Pumpkin Delight for kindergarten. The focus needs to be on the children.

Chris Thomas - 8 Argyle Road – He told the Board parents are extremely upset with the K-2/3-5 elementary structure. He too has followed the minutes of the long range planning committee and the Board workshops consistently. He applauds the Board for making tough decisions. Past boards have not solved the issues, but instead prolonged them. He also commended the Board for staying on course and cautioned that people making comments should think about who they might be insulting by those comments.

Kathy Elison – 55 Cardinal Drive – Ms. Elison spoke about the perception of people not caring. In fact, people do care. They don't trust the elected officials. The committee made its recommendations; none of which included closing Harborside. Instead the Board has chosen to close Harborside. The low attendance at the Public Information Session was simply because the Board does not really seek the input from the community. The decisions have already been made.

Joe Prisco – 11 Riverdale Drive – Mr. Prisco spoke out against closing Harborside. He also noted the senior citizens vote at Harborside.

Remy Grunow – 4 Anchorage Drive – Ms. Grunow shared her concerns with the changes that have occurred over the last eight years with respect to her children. She pleaded with the Board not to make changes at the expense of the kids.

Unknown - He is happy to see the K-2/3-5 elementary configuration eliminated. He specializes in work with people who have sustained a brain injury and transitioning is very difficult. He feels that closing Harborside would increase the costs of bussing. He doesn't believe the savings is a worthwhile cause.

Carol Maurati - 165 Centennial Drive – Ms. Maurati is a parent of a child who has gone to school at Pumpkin Delight, Mathewson and now Meadowside. She asked the Board what their true motivation is; financial or for the betterment of the kids? She also commented on the rumor that parents are interested. Therefore, they don't attend meetings and/or speak out. It is because they feel as if their opinion doesn't matter. She urged the Board not to close Harborside.

Donna Iaffaldino – 45 Yankee Hollow Road – Mrs. Iaffaldino has followed the long range planning work from the beginning. She was very surprised to hear that Harborside was slated to close. Her wish is to keep Harborside open for the many reasons that have been stated. The Board delayed the redistricting and instead chose to bus 150 Mathewson kindergarteners to Pumpkin Delight; increasing transportation costs. Furthermore, parents pleaded with the Board not to do it. The inconsistency of the district has been very frustrating. The parents do care; however, they feel as if they are not being heard. She would like to see more thought put into the entire plan. The Board needs to communicate the plan before making the decision to close Harborside. She then applauded the students who achieved AP scholars. However, the administration needs to work on closing the achievement gap with the kids who are not achieving.

Bob Young – 111 Captains Walk – Mr. Young stated he was happy to hear that the district is returning to the K-5 elementary configuration. He then shared his frustration with the Board not delivering a plan to the

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public before making the decision to close Harborside. He has heard rumors that City Hall wants more downtown real estate. He questioned how this would benefit kids. He asked the Board to make their decision for the betterment of kids and not to make this political.

Joanne Poffenberger – 50 Green Street – Mrs. Poffenberger raised concerns with people not being properly informed. What she has heard is people care about what is happening in the schools. However, they don't feel they have a voice in the decisions. The news reported the Board is unanimous in their decision before the vote took place. She further said that she had a conversation with the Board Chair at which she now understands why it makes sense to close Harborside. However, resources will be taken away from teachers by closing an elementary school.

Kathy Gage – 47 Pond Street – She knows many people are concerned about the closing of Harborside. However, she urged the Board not to close an elementary school.

Jennifer Ju – 22 Saranac Road – Ms. Ju spoke about the Board's vision and how it should be shared with the public. Speakers echoed people don't care concerning seeming lack of vision.

Trista Simoncek – 61 Governors Avenue – Mrs. Simoncek too congratulated the AP Scholars. However, she then questioned how Milford is going to be a better school system with the closing of Harborside. It is irresponsible to do this without knowing the cost. Milford schools do not measure up to the expectations for the cost of housing. She also wants to know how the plan will support the vision of the Board.

James Maroney – 22 Saranac Road – Mr. Maroney congratulated the AP scholars. He told the Board a lot of speakers spoke about the closing of Harborside. He suggested the Board take more time before voting to close a school. Take the time to think about the vision. The goal is to have fewer transitions. The closing of Harborside would only add a transition.

Sherri Franzman – 46 Somerset Lane - Mrs. Franzman spoke about her concerns with the schools. She is still waiting to see the programs that were proposed four years ago. Parents feel as if the Board is not listening to them. The Board needs to be more transparent.

Tricia Wagner - 75 Nells Road – Ms. Wagner would like to hear more details about the West Shore renovations. Currently, there is not adequate parking at the school and there is a swamp on the side of the school. She doesn't think the amount of students will fit into the school.

Sandy Boehm – 148 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Boehm served on the Long Range Planning committee. She feels the time was completely wasted. Her voice did not mean anything. The committee never once mentioned the closing of Harborside. She is embarrassed to say that she was on the committee. This plan continues to move the children around, which is not in the best interest of the kids. She also expressed her contentment for the AP scholars to be afforded the opportunity to take the AP classes. However, the district is not helping all students.

Sarah Sawitsky – 30 Judith Drive – Ms. Sawitsky is a public educator. Her son is a student at Harborside Middle School. He has lost his faith in the Milford Public Schools and wants to look at Notre Dame and Fairfield Prep.

Approved

John Schuler – 16 Masters Lane – How is what you are doing going to double the amount of AP scholars we have. If it is not fiscally responsible, the Board cannot vote tonight.

Beth Salai – 81 Cheryl Ann Drive – Ms. Salai has a daughter in 3rd grade at Calf Pen Meadow. She started at Orange and now, will be going back to Orange Avenue. She should be going onto Harborside Middle School. Too many transitions. She also believes the consensus is not to close Harborside. The public has not been provided with the reasons why to close the school. Take the necessary time before making such a hasty decision. Include the parents in the process.

Ms. Glennon asked for a recess at 8:29 p.m.

Mr. DeRosa made a motion to recess. Mrs. Fucci seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 9:04 p.m.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon read a prepared statement that summarized the long range planning work that began in spring of 2012 with the charge of the study and followed with the naming of the committee in June 2013. The Board's work continues to be in alignment with the Board's vision. The Board hopes its plan will serve Milford for many years. She offered appreciation to the Board, parents, educators, community members and city officials for their work and support of the long range planning process. She emphasized that the Board's fundamental vision is and always has been the academic achievement for all students.

Ms. Glennon then indicated the Board would consider each piece of the long range plan separately following the order of the consensus agreements from the Long Range Planning workshops.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Glennon recognized Mrs. Fucci.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion WHERE AS the MBOE seeks to continuously strive to offer a quality education and improve student achievement for all of its students in environments that support student learning, that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to proceed with the reconfiguration of the elementary school to kindergarten through grade five effective with the 2015-16 school year. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Ms. Glennon asked for discussion.

Mr. DeRosa and Mrs. Fucci offered comment as to why each supported return to the K-5 elementary configuration noting a good majority of parents wanted this to happen and that parents' messages have been heard on the difficulties the K-2/3-5 configuration posed with regards to bussing schedules, family schedules, PTA involvement, etc.

Being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Glennon recognized Mrs. Fucci.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion WHERE AS the MBOE seeks to continuously strive to offer a quality education and improve student achievement for all of its students in environments that support student learning, that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to decentralize the current pre-kindergarten classes to a minimum of 3 schools effective with the 2015-16 school year. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Mr. DeRosa said the decentralization will bring parity to the system.

Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon recognized Mrs. Fucci.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion WHERE AS the MBOE seeks to continuously strive to offer a quality education and improve student achievement for all of its students in environments that support student learning, that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to take the necessary steps to redistrict the elementary school population in order to balance school enrollment. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Ms. Glennon asked for discussion.

Mrs. Fucci said the long range planning committee proposed redistricting to balance out the schools. Administration agrees with it. The Board of Education agrees with it.

Mr. DeRosa asked about the cost of \$44,000 to engage a consultant that had been discussed at a workshop.

Ms. Glennon told him that would be a separate motion.

Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon recognized Mrs. Fucci.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion WHERE AS the MBOE seeks to continuously strive to offer a quality education and improve student achievement for all of its students in environments that support student learning, that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to move forward with the necessary steps to ensure the construction of additional classrooms at West Shore Middle School, as needed to allow the Milford Board of Education to revisit in three years the anticipated closing of Harborside Middle School once the West Shore Middle School renovation and expansion is complete.

Mr. DeRosa indicated he would second but also had a desire to table the motion as he wished to add two other motions. Mrs. Glennon indicated there was a motion on the floor that needed to be seconded or not. Mr. DeRosa indicated he wanted to amend the motion. Mrs. Glennon indicated the motion still needed a second before discussion.

Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion.

Approved

Ms. Glennon offered the floor to Mr. DeRosa for his amendment. He first asked for clarification if this was the last motion that would be voted on. Ms. Glennon indicated it was not.

Mr. DeRosa requested to postpone the motion moving it to be the last vote. Mr. Piselli seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion on the motion to postpone. Mr. DeRosa explained the objective is his desire to have two other motions put forth before the said motion is acted upon.

Ms. Glennon called for a recess at 9:18 p.m.

Called back to order at 9:25 p.m.

Mr. DeRosa indicated his desire to withdraw his motion to postpone and asked for clarification of the language in the motion.

Mrs. Fucci repeated the motion on the floor.

Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.

Mr. DeRosa asked for clarification about the decision to close Harborside, that the decision would not tie the hands of a future board and that the decision to close Harborside was being put on a future board and that we would move forward with the additional classrooms at West Shore as administration sees fit.

Ms. Glennon offered her interpretation that this is a plan being voted on that includes the potential to consolidate the middle schools with the closing of Harborside once the renovation and expansion of West Shore Middle School is complete. She explained her opinion that this board does not have the power to close the school at this time because the Board is not closing the school at this time.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Richetelli if he had anything to add to the discussion. He offered information on the additional cost that would be involved at West Shore in order to facilitate the closing of Harborside down the road. Mr. Richetelli spoke first to the renovation plans for West Shore that have been on the city's Capital Improvement Plan for at least 5 years. This includes a new roof, all new windows, a dedicated art and music wing and general code updates and renovations similar to what was recently done at East Shore Middle School. The estimated cost of that work is \$19.5M. Mr. Richetelli indicated he has met with administration at West Shore along with Sue Kelleher, Mike Cummings and the architectural and engineering firm who worked on the Long Range Planning process to identify what would be needed to accommodate the needs of the students who would potentially go to West Shore from Harborside, taking into consideration special education needs and the needs of educational programming to give parity to East Shore and West Shore. The work would amount to an estimated additional cost of \$8M – \$10M and would include a net gain of 8 regular education and 3 special education classrooms plus an expansion of the gymnasium.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Richetelli to confirm there is an area at West Shore that was designed when originally built to accommodate a second floor and to confirm the estimated savings if Harborside were to close.

Mr. Richetelli confirmed the cafeteria at West Shore was built with the potential for second floor expansion in mind. He also explained renovations to Harborside currently on the city's Capital Improvement Plan include a new roof, new windows and other general improvements estimated to cost \$3.25M. This work would need to be done within 5 years. As part of the long range planning process the board also looked at the operating costs of each school and what the annual savings would be if a school was to close. The estimated net annual operational savings if a middle school were to close would be about \$750,000. The net annual savings would be less for an elementary school. He further explained the largest cost involved with running a school is in staff and it's expected most of the teachers from a closed school would be redeployed other schools as needed for enrollment.

Ms. DiBiase asked Mr. Richetelli if further renovations would need to occur at East Shore to accommodate more students. He responded there would not be need for additional work at East Shore. The current capacity at East Shore is 650 students. The projected middle school enrollment in 2018-19 is 1300 students.

Ms. Glennon clarified that the projected timeline the Board established puts the potential completion of West Shore work at 2018-19.

Mr. DeRosa asked for clarification of the capacity of the middle schools and the projected enrollment and whether the schools would be at full capacity at the start of the process if Harborside were to close. Mr. Richetelli explained the capacity at West Shore if additional classrooms were built would be 750 and reiterated the capacity at East Shore is 650. Mr. DeRosa suggested additional work at East Shore might need to be considered and questioned the validity of the enrollment projections going forward. Mr. Richetelli reiterated projections from Milone and MacBroom as well as NESDC put enrollment in 2018-19 around 1300 and it continues to decline from that point. Mr. DeRosa again questioned the figures and indicated the Board has not put forth any of the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Ms. Glennon indicated disagreement with Mr. DeRosa that the Board had not agreed to any of the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee. Returning to K-5, decentralizing Pre-K and redistricting were all recommendations of the committee that are moving forward. The Board is also expanding on the desire of the Long Range Planning Committee to initiate new programming options. She indicated confusion with Mr. DeRosa's comments as the Board undertook the workshop process over the summer to develop a plan and Mr. DeRosa did not bring up any of his issues during that time. Ms. Glennon disagrees with Mr. DeRosa's comment that the Board is not effectively planning with these decisions.

Mrs. Fucci asked for clarification on the enrollment on the east vs the west side of town and whether it is expected that enrollment will continue to be higher on the west side of town. Mr. Cummings indicated that was correct. Mr. Fucci asked if the 650 capacity at East Shore and the projected capacity of 750 capacity at West Shore would be sufficient to handle the projected middle school enrollment out to 2022. Mr. Cummings worked through the enrollment in 3 year groups, using the October 1st official enrollment figures, showing middle school enrollment would continue to decline to under 1300 through the 8th grade class of 2021 which is as far out as can be looked at using the current enrollment grid. He cautioned this projection simply follows the current cohort of students moving through the system with no other assumptions.

Mrs. Fucci pointed out the Board reviewed the K-8 Specialty School option over the summer and that option effectively eliminated Harborside as a middle school with most of the Harborside students going to East Shore and West Shore. The Board also discussed the specialty high school "school within a school" concept.

Approved

She thinks the focus of many board members was the desire look at the needs of all students from special education students to enrichment students and all those in between. The Board also discussed the desire to offer program enhancements to all students versus only some which is what she thinks led to putting aside the K-8 and specialty high school “school within a school” concepts.

Ms. DiBiase asked Mrs. Fucci to re-read the motion. Mrs. Fucci did so.

Mr. DeRosa commented he felt the elimination of the K-8 Specialty School option was used as an excuse to close Harborside. Ms. Glennon pointed out that there were several options discussed as part of the Long Range Planning process that included only two middle schools and that, for her personally, as the Board began to discuss potential future programming at the elementary level, such as science labs, the Board’s past discussions on Pre-K expansion, and other discussions that involved the need for more program space, her thinking began to shift. She pointed to the final report of the Long Range Planning Committee which shows the steepest decline in enrollment will now be at the middle school as the cohort of students’ moves through the system, and that, while decline at the elementary level does not stop, it does level off. This supports her thinking. She takes exception with the suggestion the Board casually changed its thinking.

Mrs. Federico expressed her opinion that previous boards’ decisions focused on one year out. She thinks the plan we are discussing has multiple components, some of which take place next year, some of which can happen several years out and that if we don’t plan ahead we will never achieve any real changes.

Ms. DiBiase asked for further clarification that we are voting tonight to give a board in three years to make a final decision on closing Harborside. Ms. Glennon offered her interpretation that the Board is putting a plan in place that includes the potential to consolidate to two middle schools in 4 – 5 years when the planned renovation and expansion to West Shore Middle School is complete. She further added it’s a plan, so if things change it needs to be revisited.

Mr. DeRosa suggested removing Harborside from the motion. He agrees the enrollment figures have been accurate to date, but still feels they can change and would rather see the Board proceed with the renovation at West Shore and revisit the decision in three years and redistrict at the same time in three years.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Richetelli to speak to the likelihood of the city agreeing to add additional classrooms to West Shore if the Board does not have a plan in place to consolidate our middle schools. He offered his guess based on past experience that there is consensus the renovations at West Shore should move forward. But any supplemental request would need to move through the process from the P&Z, the board of finance and the board of alderman. He would expect the question would be raised why we would build additional classrooms if not needed in the future. That question would have to be answered if there is not a concrete plan in place.

Mr. DeRosa offered final comment that he is not comfortable closing Harborside and feels we should move forward with the West Shore expansion and make it the same was East Shore is.

Mrs. Fucci moved to postpone the decision on the pending motion until the next business meeting, November 10th 2014. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon recognized Mrs. Fucci.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion WHERE AS the MBOE seeks to continuously strive to offer a quality education and improve student achievement for all of its students in environments that support student learning, that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to begin to explore and develop college and career pathway programming for the grade 6-12 continuum and to begin exploring enhanced programming for grades K-5. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Mrs. Fucci believes this focuses on the enhanced programming people have been asking for. She asked Dr. Feser or Mr. Cummings to speak to the types of programming being considered.

Dr. Feser shared K-5 concepts that involve dedicated science teachers and labs that will offer a more hands on experience and provide greater preparation for students as they going to middle school. At the middle school level the College Board program could offer a precursor to high school AP. Administration would like to hold a community forum in the spring to identify parents' preferences, for instance STEM, Theater Arts for grades 6-12.

Mr. Cummings added the idea is to develop core career pathways with concentration on grades 6-10, similar to majors or concentration of studies. Grades 11-12 could then be more experiential internship type programs where students can be in the community working with local businesses. Possibilities might include the health/medical field without current CNA program, potential for an EMT program, STEM, Theater, etc There are 15- 20 possible options that could be narrowed down with community input.

Mr. DeRosa asked for clarification of the motion whether it included programs for elementary, middle and high school. He was told it does. He asked what the commitment was for timing. Mrs. Glennon indicated timing was defined in the timeline and the motion directs administration to start the process.

Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Glennon recognized Mrs. Fucci.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to employ the firm of Milone and MacBroom to perform the consultative services required for school redistricting per their proposal dated October 10, 2014; and authorize that these services be paid for out of the Non-Lapsing Education Fund established for the purpose of off-setting the costs associated with reconfiguration in accordance with Board Policy P-3171. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Mr. DeRosa asked for clarification of the cost. Mr. Richetelli confirmed the firm has reduced their fee from \$50,000 to \$43,000. Mr. DeRosa asked if that could be bid out to get a lower price. Mr. Richetelli indicated timing is of concern. Budgeting for next year is already underway, we want parents to know schools by March. A full RFP process could take two months and would delay the beginning of the work.

Dr. Feser indicated she has been involved in redistricting in three previous districts and in all cases the consultant who worked through the planning also did the redistricting because they had already done the

Approved

extensive community research and knew it better than anyone else who would have to start from scratch. She has also heard from parents they want information sooner rather than later.

Mrs. Glennon asked administration to speak to the technical aspects of redistricting and why they think there is a need to use a consultant.

Dr. Feser pointed to Mr. DeRosa's previous comment that full redistricting has not been done in the district. 5 years ago only Simon Lake students were redistricted, then schools were paired. But there was no redistricting across the entire district. The redistricting that needs to occur will be much more complex.

Mr. Cummings added that the enrollment figures he mentioned earlier in the meeting only dealt with the students currently on hand and already in the system. This work needs to also take into account the students who are not yet in school and that is beyond the expertise of administration.

Mr. DeRosa questioned whether much of the necessary work has already been done as part of the long range planning process. Dr. Feser indicated one of the first things any consultant would do would be to meet with the Board to determine parameters and priorities in starting to draw lines. Any lines drawn as part of the long range planning work were only conceptual. The actual process will be much more exact and complex and will require expertise in that area.

Ms. Glennon added the scope of the work would include numerous iterations of potential lines and formal public presentations.

Mr. DeRosa again asked Mr. Richetelli if he could get Milone and MacBroom to go any lower on the price. Mr. Richetelli reiterated they have already come down on their price twice.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin pointed out that the work that has been done already should be the property of Milford Public Schools. She would like to see the project go out to bid.

Being no further discussion, by a roll call vote 9-1 (Gold-Dworkin), the motion passed.

Ms. Glennon then indicated a motion to close an elementary school would not be put forward and she offered Mr. DeRosa the opportunity to do so. Mr. DeRosa declined.

Ms. Glennon called for a recess at 10:20 p.m. while the audience cleared the gallery.

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 10:35 p.m.

She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the Superintendent's Report.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Division Update- Proposed Policy Changes to P5113

By way of introduction, Dr. Feser reminded the Board of changes made last year by the state department of education which redefined chronic absenteeism. Now the state will be collecting data from every school

district tied to this definition. She then introduced Mr. John Scalice who presented the rationale behind the need for changes to the policy. Mr. Scalice introduced Foran principal Max Berkowitz who spoke to concerns about high absenteeism and the need to send a clear message that students need to be in school to learn. Mr. Berkowitz offered data on absenteeism at Foran and its correlation to GPA. The proposed policy holds students accountable while also offering interventions to avoid loss of credit when possible. Law principal Fran Thompson echoed Mr. Berkowitz's comments and offered similar data.

Board members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. DeRosa requested to be provided with a copy of the policy with the red lined edits.

Mrs. Glennon reminded the Board this was a first read and the policy will be presented for a second read and possible action at the next business meeting.

October 1 Enrollment Report

Mr. Cummings reported the October 1st enrollment is the official enrollment used for state funding and to help guide budget planning in the district. He indicated there was nothing concerning in the data that diverges from the current understanding that enrollment continues to decline. He noted elementary enrollment seems to be reaching the point where the decline will level off but we will continue to see decreasing enrollment at the middle and high schools as students move through those levels.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli reported out on the quarterly budget report. All budgeted accounts are in alignment with the budget. The East Shore project required a lot of manpower causing overtime. Higher than usual retirements, as well as resignations and non-renewals offered savings in the teacher salary accounts. Special Education tuition and transportation will show in the red because we are awaiting state excess cost grant reimbursement.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported on the human resources activity over the last month. There remains a Spanish teacher opening at this time.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to move the minutes of the September 23, 2014 Special Meeting off the consent agenda onto to Unfinished Business. Mr. DeRosa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2.

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - September 8, 2014 Business Meeting
 - September 15, 2014 Special Meeting
 - September 22, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - September 29, 2014 Special Meeting
 - September 30, 2014 Special Meeting

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of Minutes for the September 23, 2014 Special Meeting.

Ms. Glennon noted that Mr. Caruso was in attendance at that meeting.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve the Minutes for the September 23, 2014 Special Meeting as amended. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeRosa requested to add the motion of closing of an elementary school to the next board meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary