

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Business Meeting  
October 14, 2008

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 in the Board of Education Meeting Room of the Parsons Complex. Board Chairman, David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Members Present

Mr. D. Amendola  
Mrs. T. Casey  
Chairman D. Hourigan  
Mrs. C. Kopazna  
Mr. J. Quish  
Mrs. J. Rohrig  
Mrs. P. Staneski  
Mrs. G. Stanford  
Mr. D. Steinlauf

Absent

Mr. Santa Barbara

Chairman Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for student and staff recognition.

Dr. Polansky recognized Ms. Amy Pinto, a reading teacher at Simon Lake for her efforts in receipt of the Target grant (\$1,000). The grant will help fund the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Each child in the program will receive two books for a wide selection.

Dr. Polansky then recognized Mr. Don Busca, principal of Simon Lake. Simon Lake was awarded the “Early Reading Success Grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education” worth \$75,000 due to Mr. Busca’s efforts. The program supports the implementation of a reading plan that improves reading skills and reading competency for grades K-3.

Chairman then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2008 Business Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion passed.

Chairman Hourigan then read the public comment statement.

Public Comment

C. Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni asked if anyone was aware of the Samuel document (video). The document focuses on “inclusion”. She recommended that all administrators see it.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to move consent agenda items b to V. on the agenda.

DRAFT – NOT APPROVED

Dr. Polansky told the board that Mr. Silver of Silver Petrucelli was present and would be able to discuss the East Shore portable plans in more detail and he could answer questions presented by the board.

Mr. Amendola said the consent agenda item c should be moved forward also.

Mrs. Rohrig withdrew her second, Mrs. Stanford removed her motion.

Motion was then made by Mrs. Stanford, and seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to move consent agenda items b. education specifications and c. East Shore modular's to V (Chair's Report). Motion passed.

Mr. Silver began explaining how the modular's would be designed. He noted the covered awning would protect against rain and snow but not wind. He began to discuss other specifications of the modular's.

Mr. Amendola asked if he could make a motion to go into executive session to discuss security.

Motion was made by Mr. Amendola, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to go into executive session regarding security. Chairman Hourigan invited Mr. Silver, Dr. Polansky, Mr. Russell and Mr. Cummings in the session. Motion passed (7:20 p.m.).

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to reconvene into public session. Motion passed (7:36 p.m.).

Mrs. Staneski asked why the costs were so much higher than originally planned. She said that when it was first proposed to the board, the costs were estimated to be one half of what is currently being presented.

Mr. Silver told her the amount is "soft costs" and bids will need to come in. With the economy in this current state, the bids could very well come in a lot lower than expected. He noted that two years ago, Trumbull's modular was \$721,000. That was a different economy.

Dr. Polansky asked Mr. Silver to explain the secondary unit.

Mr. Silver said there are used portables that could be installed and they would be considerably less. However, they would need to be modified to meet state standards.

Mrs. Kopazna asked if any of the project was reimbursable by the state and Mr. Russell told her the reimbursement rate was 38.39%.

Mr. Steinlauf asked how much of a difference would the cost be by using a used portable compared to a brand new unit. He was told \$100,000.

Mrs. Casey said she has concerns with the costs being so high.

Mrs. Stanford said she, along with Mr. Hourigan and Mrs. Rohrig had just visited East Shore and the conditions are much too be desired. Not too mention the safety problems. The building simply cannot accommodate the amount of children. Portables will ease the overcrowded problem.

Mrs. Kopazna asked for the capacity number for East Shore.

DRAFT – NOT APPROVED

Dr. Polansky told her it is 500. As the enrollment declines over the next 5 years, the student count will drop to 494.

Dr. Polansky told the board the initial discussion regarding portables with a local vendor was in the \$500,000 range. He recommended the board wait and see what the bids come in at. The action item tonight is to approve administration to file the grant paperwork with the state.

Mrs. Rohrig asked if the modular's could be moved, and was told yes.

Mrs. Staneski said East Shore was built as an elementary school. The plan to use modular's is a short term plan. She would like to see the money spent building a permanent structure onto East Shore. This would solve many problems such as music and the cafeteria. This plan seems to be more long term.

Dr. Polansky told her the portables would free up 4 classrooms. The plan that Mrs. Staneski wants would come from capital funding. Right now, the high schools are the priority in the capital improvement plan and they need to be finished.

Chairman Hourigan directed the superintendent to bring the bids back to the board for both new and used portables for East Shore.

Chairman Hourigan then waived his report.

Student Reports

Student representatives from both high schools were present and gave the student reports.

Instructional Report

Mr. Cummings shared the enrollment report with the board.

Operations Report

Mr. Russell told the board Mrs. Kopazna was at a conference. He presented the human resources update to the board.

Mrs. Rohrig asked what the total number of stipends for the district was and Mr. Russell told her he thought is was 120 to 130.

Mr. Russell then reported on the budget report as of September 30, 2008. He told the board the district is one quarter through the year with over 90% encumbered or spent.

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to approve Consent Agenda Items a & d.

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. Overnight Field Trips: Administration recommends approval of the following overnight field trips (based on the 7/15/08 changes made to the Overnight Field Trip procedure):

DRAFT – NOT APPROVED

1. Joseph A. Foran High School Journalism group trip to Columbia University, New York from March 18, 2009 – March 20, 2009
2. Jonathan Law High School French Club trip to Quebec City, Quebec from May 22, 2009 to May 25, 2009

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to move agenda item V. Education Specifications and East Shore Modular's to New Business. Motion passed.

Mr. Cummings then reviewed the changes to the Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco policy 5131.6. He told the board the changes were consistent with the state mandated changes.

There was a board discussion about approval of the administrative policy changes and whether or not the board should be approving policy changes.

Mrs. Kopazna told board members that Policy Governance gives administration the approval authority over administrative policy changes. She told the board it is against board policy, according to Policy Governance, which is how the board runs to approve administrative policies. It is defined in GP4.

Dr. Polansky told the board that according to policy governance, a superintendent can elect to have board approval for a policy. He feels this is a policy that warrants board approval.

A discussion ensued.

Chairman Hourigan asked to have the policy tabled until the board could get clarification on GP4.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to table the Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy #5131.6. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to approve c. Education Specifications and d. East Shore Modular's. By a roll call vote (7-2 no Kopazna/Staneski), the motion passed.

- c. Education Specifications: Administration recommends approval of the final plans and specifications for East Shore Middle School portable classroom project.
- d. East Shore Modular's: Approval for submission of grant application to the State and approval.

Board Comment

Mrs. Casey reminded the board of Plugged In and Tuned Out to be held at City Hall on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Rohrig told the board she attended battle of the bands. Accolades go out to Mr. Paul Marino.

Mrs. Staneski reported that the dance at Foran took place. Breathalyzers were used and things seemed to go smoothly.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stanford, seconded by Mrs. Rohrig to adjourn. Motion passed (9:00).

---

Greta Stanford  
Corresponding Secretary

---

Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary