

Milford Board of Education

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2018

Board members present:

Ray Arnold
Claire Casey
Adam De Young
Jennifer Federico
Rita Hennessey
Susan Glennon, Chair
Warren Pawlowski

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Dr. Amy Fedigan
Christine Kennedy
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli

Board member absent:

Scott Firmender (excused)
Craig Zentkovich

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board of Education Room.

II. MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS' COMMUNICATION PLAN PRESENTATION

Dr. Cutaia gave a presentation on how a communication audit would benefit the district. She provided background on an audit that was conducted in 2004. With the findings from the audit, the district was able to use the various strategies to highlight the school district among the many stakeholders. However, since 2004, many new and innovative tools have developed. Some are smartphones, technology, social media and more. An audit would evaluate current methods and modes of communication with the community, identify pathways for improvement, ensure focus and consistency in existing methods, and provide suggestions for overall effectiveness.

After receiving two proposals, the administration has selected Cooperative Educational Services (CES) to conduct the audit. The cost is estimated to be between \$12,000 - \$15,000. The audit should be completed by December/January. The administration hopes to share the report with the Board in January.

III. REVISION TO BOARD OF EDUCATION GOVERNANCE PROCESS FIRST READING

Ms. Glennon provided the Board with the background on two governance policies that were presented as a first reading. The first, Executive Limitation EL-17.13, had out of date language and was unclear in its expectation. The new language aligns with what has been board practice for many years relating to state assessments.

There were no requested changes to the revision. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the November business meeting.

Ms. Glennon explained the requested changes to GP11.4 and the related subsections. The changes will align this governance process with state statute. She explained state statute differentiates between school accommodation hearings and other hearings, such as for a grievance. Being there were no changes to the revision, the policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the November business meeting.

IV. POLICIES FOR A FIRST READING

Dr. Cutaia presented two policies for a first reading.

Transgender P5145.53 – She explained it is a proactive approach establishing a policy for transgender. The policy is boilerplate language from the Connecticut Board of Associations of Education (CABE) in consultation with legal counsel. The district is currently working with CABE to ensure the district’s policies are compliant with state and federal laws. This particular policy protects transgender and non-conforming students from discrimination and provide a safe learning environment for all students. It fulfills Public Act 11-55.

A Board discussion ensued.

The Board offered some suggestions which will be incorporated into the policy for the second reading.

Field Trips 6153 – Dr. Cutaia shared the new Field Trip policy, which serves as a replacement to the current policy. It includes language from the current policy, but also defines the types of trips the district supports as well as the approval levels and emphasizes safety precautions.

Both policies will be presented for approval at the November business meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Jennifer Federico