

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
October 27, 2008

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, October 27, 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
Chairman D. Hourigan
Mrs. C. Kopazna
Mr. J. Quish
Mrs. J. Rohrig
Mr. J. Santa Barbara
Mrs. P. Staneski
Mrs. G. Stanford

Absent

Mrs. T. Casey
Mr. D. Steinlauf

Chairman Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky.

Dr. Polansky told the board that earlier in the year, the board requested an audit of the athletics accounts. He then said that Mr. Russell would give a presentation explaining the recent Athletic Audit that was conducted by administration. (PowerPoint attached.)

Mr. Russell stated that Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Lyusterborgh, Mr. Bugyi and Mrs. Oakes, along with himself conducted the audit. He then reviewed the financial records. He told the board the general fund account is budgetary approved funds. The athletic account is revenue. 85% of the revenue is ticket sales. Fundraising equals \$184,053 while fundraising expenditures equals \$167,829.

Mr. Russell then said the budget for athletics was \$809,352. Of that, \$784,631 was expended. He then showed the board a slide which gave a breakdown of the athletic funds.

Mrs. Staneski asked for clarification of the expenditures. She did not understand how she could write a check for a particular item and then see it funded elsewhere in the budget. Mr. Russell explained fundraising is separate from the general budget.

Mr. Amendola and Mrs. Staneski said they have asked in the past for the "total cost" to run an event, ie. football game.

Mrs. Kopazna said that she thought there was a consensus from the board that ticket sales should not pay for the program. She also said that the board would

need to see the breakdown by sport to determine if a sport such as football is funding boys swimming.

Some board members agreed the ticket sales should be included in the program budget.

Dr. Polansky then said the “general fund” account covers the costs of the program. The “ticket sales” goes into the enrichment of the program.

Mr. Vitelli said that some districts do handle it differently.

Mrs. Staneski said the \$160.00 for lost uniforms reimbursement should be in the general fund account, not athletic fund revenue. It is not revenue.

There were some questions about the stipends for the following positions:

- Assistant Band Director
- Assistant Cheerleading Coach
- Interact Club Advisor
- Color Guard Advisor
- Winter Guard Advisor

Chairman Hourigan directed Dr. Polansky and the athletic directors to make a recommendation to the board.

Mr. Amendola said that he thought the new financial accounting system would show money going in and money going out.

Dr. Polansky told the board this was a first attempt. It is an evolving process. He then commended Mr. Russell and his team for putting this together.

Mr. Russell said he does have concern was on internal controls. He was very happy with the cash receipts process in place. He also said he is the last approval on the general fund.

Mrs. Kopazna thanked administration for their efforts. The report really showed a lot and it is very good.

Mr. Amendola asked if the people working the events have been background checked and was told yes.

Budget Assumptions and Priorities

Dr. Polansky then reviewed the list of budget assumptions and priorities with the board. He said he did not add anything new from last year.

Assumptions are as follows:

Safety, security and health standards will be maintained and supported through continued training of staff.

Salaries will increase based on commitments incurred through collective bargaining agreements.

Existing programs and services will be maintained or adjusted as the educational needs of students change.

Overall certified and classified staffing levels will be adjusted based on enrollment/programming/facility considerations.

Staff benefit costs will be based upon current health packages.

Purchased services and supply accounts will be adjusted based on documented prices and trends.

State and federal financial support of education will not keep pace with increased programming mandates.

Budgeted items that are bid will be based on budget history and inflation projections.

There will be efficient use of space and facilities district-wide. The annual Capital Improvement Plan will be transmitted to the city to request funds to meet long range facility and mandated improvements.

We all maintain open communication and cooperation with other municipal boards and the community throughout the budget process.

Priorities are as follows:

Provide funding to support diverse and unique academic programs.

Update all instructional materials for teachers and students as required through the curriculum renewal cycle.

Support funding to reduce or maintain class sizes at all levels of instruction.

Continue commitment to instructional programming, technology and academic improvement plans which includes a strong professional development initiative.

Provide adequate funding for maintenance and facilities projects.

Mrs. Kopazna asked why athletics was not put in as a priority. Dr. Polansky told her that it was not in last year's list.

The board agreed with the list of assumptions and priorities for the 2009-10 budget.

Chairman Hourigan then read the public comment statement.

Public Comment

J. Whitaker – Ardmore Road – In a Connecticut Post article from February of 2005, Mr. Russell is quoted as saying that a 7 year deal with Coca Cola a large percentage of proceeds must go to athletics. January 2005 Connecticut Post quoted Dr. Firn as saying that 85% of sales is water, sports drinks and juice; only 15% is coke. There should be approximately \$30,000 that came from Coca Cola. Where is the money?

Mr. Russell said the contract included scholarships and other things. Some money was used for a scoreboard. There was an issue with the original contract and renegotiated the contract. Since then, all that money has dried up.

M. Taylor – 340 Wolf Harbor Road – The decision previously when food services came in the other side was a fundraising restriction. Those dollars that you are looking at of the \$180,000, a large chunk of that is from candy sales.

Coke – the machines are not audited or they are not being filled properly. Every time he attends a game, the machines are empty. So who audits what is going in the machines. Something is a miss on the athletic machines.

Cost of other paid staff – it was not detailed. As a fan, who is collecting the money? There should be some kind of breakdown as to what the “other” staff is.

Board Comment

Mr. Amendola thanked administration for doing the report.

Dr. Polansky said he would ask Mr. Russell to audit the coke machines and report back to the board.

Mrs. Staneski echoed Mrs. Kopazna and Mr. Amendola's comments. She has been on the board for eight years and this is a good start.

Being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Rohrig and seconded by Mrs. Stanford. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Stanford
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin