

Milford Board of Education Minutes for the Regular Business Meeting: November 10, 2008

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
David Hourigan, Chair
James Quish
Joanne Rohrig
James Santa Barbara
Pam Staneski
Greta Stanford
David Steinlauf

Board members absent:

Cindy Kopazna

Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent
Michael Cummings, Asst. Superintendent
Wendy Kopazna, Dir. of Human Resources
Susan Kelleher, Dir. of Pupil Personnel Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Monday, November 10, 2008 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. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

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

Dr. Polansky recognized the Foran High School Physics Club, under the direction of advisor George Benedetti, for their performance in the 2008 Yale Physics Olympics. The Foran team placed 3rd (out of 50 teams) in the Estimation Challenge category, and placed 2nd (out of 50 teams) in the Synchronization Challenge. Members of the Foran Physics team include Tim DeGennaro, Joe Tylutki, Nishant Patel, Mike Casey, Meryam Joobeur, Gina Massari, Robert Cummings, Nikilesh Timakondou and John Galin.

Dr. Polansky then recognized student participants in the local Scary Story Contest, sponsored by Collected Stories Bookstore in Milford. Store owner Susan Shaw said the quality of work was exceptional and decreed all participants as winners this year. Students began the writing process at Harborside Middle School in their classes, supported by Miss Lindsay Ferrara, Mrs. Shirley Flesher, and Mrs. Pat Mulhall – all teachers at the school. Student winners were also required to read their stories at an event sponsored by the store on October 24th. Recognized student writers were Stephen Furda, Michael Giuntoli, Winter Kornfield, Kelsey Meise, Liam Oliver, Ana Peruzzi and Andre Waller.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2008 Regular Business Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Hourigan asked for Public Comment. There was none.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hourigan distributed Mr. Santa Barbara's report regarding his attendance at a recent committee meeting at ACES. Mr. Santa Barbara stated he could provide more detail on any of the items, if needed.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Student Reports: Student representatives from both high schools were in attendance and presented their activity reports. Copies of these reports are on file with the Board Secretary.

2. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Polansky began his discussion with a request of the Chair to move the previously tabled item (Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy 5131.6 Revision) to tonight's business, under Informational Items. Mr. Hourigan called for the motion.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to move Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy 5131.6 Revision from the table to Informational Items in order to enable discussion. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Polansky reported he had discussed the process relating to the policy revision amongst the Board members and administration with Dr. Dennis Cheesebrow. Dr. Cheesebrow recommended the item be brought forth as a First Read in its amended form, with a Second Read (and subsequent vote) to take place the following month.

Dr. Polansky and Mr. Cummings reviewed the recommended changes to the policy with the board. Janet Garagliano, (Principal, Jonathan Law High School) and John Barile, (Principal, Joseph A. Foran High School) were in attendance and were also asked to participate in the discussion so they could provide additional information based on school experience.

Discussion followed amongst board members and administration.

After abundant discussion, it became clear there were two issues that were central to the recommended policy revision, those being

- a) the number of days for a violation (recommended as 10)
- b) the timing of when assistance and support would become available to the student

Chairman Hourigan suggested that the Board provide their thoughts on these two items, in the form of a consensus. He then called for a 5-minute caucus recess.

Upon their return, Board members offered support as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| David Steinlauf: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension
b) Services begin on Day 1 |
| Tracy Casey: | a) supports 10-day out of school (or in-school) suspension
b) Support services begin on Day 1 |
| James Santa Barbara: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension
b) Support services begin on Day 1 |
| David Amendola: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension
b) Support services begin on Day 1 |
| Greta Stanford: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension
b) Services begin on Day 1 |
| James Quish: | a) supports 10-day suspension with an option of five days;
prefers in-school suspension
b) Services begin on Day 1 |
| Pam Staneski: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension
b) Services begin on Day 1 |
| Joanne Rohrig: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension (with
reservation)
b) Services begin on Day 1 |
| David Hourigan: | a) supports 10-day out of school suspension
b) Services begin on Day 1 |

The issue will appear on next month's business meeting agenda as a Second Read and subsequent vote. Mrs. Casey asked administration to provide the policy with revisions highlighted for ease of discussion next month. Administration agreed.

3. Instructional Division: Mr. Cummings offered two items for discussion.

- a. **Strategic School Profile:** Mr. Cummings provided information on the recently received Strategic School Profile for the Milford school district. Using a Powerpoint presentation, Mr. Cummings provided additional information, as it related to our comparison in our DRG, as well as statewide.
- b. **Instructional Goals Update:** Mr. Cummings provided an overview of the updated Instructional Goals in order to show progress and areas of continued emphasis. The plan carries out through 2012. He pointed to the many items included in the initial rollout that have been completed, while other items will always be ongoing.

Dr. Polansky added that the topic of Instructional Goals will be discussed in greater depth during the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

4. Operational Division Report

a. Personnel Report: Mrs. Wendy Kopazna presented the Human Resources Update, including a current listing of all job openings and personnel changes for the past month. Mrs. Kopazna pointed to the many listings for substitute personnel; she further explained they conduct an annual 'housecleaning' of all personnel in this temporary role. Individuals who no longer wish to be on the substitute list are deleted at this time (and are appearing on this month's submittal).

b. Budget Report: Dr. Polansky offered to answer questions relating to the October 31, 2008 Budget Report, due to Mr. Russell's absence during this meeting. There were no questions.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.

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

- a. Voucher list (disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. Overnight Field Trip: Administration recommends approval of the following overnight trip: JAF High School and Chorus trip to Boston from March 27-29, 2008.
- c. 2009 Board of Education Meeting Schedule: Administration recommends approval of the 2009 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

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

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

VIII. ACTION ITEMS: There were no items needing action (Unfinished and/or New business) at this meeting.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

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

Mrs. Staneski addressed several items. She wanted more information about PATH for Success; Mrs. Garagliano explained it was a program that was conducted with 9th graders that asked them to do career planning, placement and other forward-thinking exercises regarding course selection and planning. Mrs. Staneski wanted to know if Naviance was still being used. Mr. Cummings confirmed that all students and staff use Naviance to some degree and he knows that each year an additional component or feature is added for expanded student use. Mrs. Staneski wanted to know how much money had been expended for sports physicals and how much we were being charged per exam. Dr. Polansky said he would find out and let the board know. Lastly, Mrs. Staneski mentioned she had been hearing Joseph A. Foran students singing recently with the words “Strive and Thrive” woven into the lyrics! She wanted administration to know that it looks like the message is definitely being incorporated into the student body.

X. 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 9:53 p.m.

Greta Stanford
Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Bonetti
Substitute Recording Secretary