

Milford Board of Education

Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2014

Board members present:

Michael DeGrego
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fucci
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the auditorium at City Hall. She then asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized Nicole North and Matthew Wootton, both from East Shore Middle School, for their writing submissions in the Trumbull Arts Festival Writing Contest. Nicole placed 2nd in the fiction category and Matthew won an honorable mention.

The next recognition was given to Nadia Solati for being selected into the Haley Petit Violence Prevention Fellowship. Nadia was one of only four young women selected into the fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to understand injury and violence prevention from a public health perspective with a special focus on partner violence.

The final recognition of the evening was given to three Pumpkin Delight students for their posters on bullying. Pumpkin Delight participated in National Bullying Prevention Month in October learning all about bullying behaviors and how to stop it. One exercise was for the students to create posters depicting ways to stomp out mean behavior. Ashley Borecki, grade 3, Emma Aciri, grade 4 and Sydney Simpson, grade 5 were all commended for the their posters.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated all of the students recognized.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski expressed his concern with the Mayor not making public what the city plans to do with the Harborside property once the school is closed. He further said he has reviewed the Budget Priorities and Assumptions and the District Goals. He is concerned there is no reference to the Special Education Audit which reported 9M in savings could be found. Milford continues to be below average while spending more money, per pupil, in the state. The kids and the city deserve better.

Michael Brown – 67 Point Beach Drive – Mr. Brown pointed out a 2013 op-ed signed by all ten Republican candidates for Board of education titled “Stop the Shuffle”. They all ran on the ticket that we would keep neighborhood schools. Don’t close a school.

Mike Scagliarini – 18 Paddock Place – Mr. Scagliarini challenged the Board to leave politics out of their decision process. He encouraged the Board to listen with an open mind and vote for what is truly important to the students and tax payers. He said he was blindsided by talk of closing Harborside began. He reviewed the minutes of the August 22nd workshop, the closing of Harborside was not mentioned. He encouraged the Board to have two separate discussions about which school to close. He also told the Board to be cautious about closing Harborside.

Susan Krushinsky – 60 Crescent Drive – It is the BOE members sworn duty to place the education of students as your highest priority. She requested the Board table the two votes until the parents are advised and more details are provided. She mentioned Mr. Richetelli said that an addition could be built on top of the existing cafeteria. Can that still be done with the new building codes in place? She then asked the Board to put the politics aside and do what is best for the children of Milford.

Ron Berlin – 41 North Street – There are seven schools in Milford that are ranked by the District Performance Index. Six of them are ranked as transitioning. The only school that is ranked as progressing is Harborside. The Board has turned this into a political battle and it is a disgrace.

Joanne Poffenberger – 50 Green Street – Sent the Board an email – The public has heard from Mrs. Federico, Mrs. Fucci, Ms. Glennon and Mr. DeRosa. Now is the time to hear from the rest of the board. Refrain from adding classrooms to West Shore. We do not need the classrooms now. Enrollment is not an issue. Now is not the time to reduce resources. She closed by asking the Board to please keep our schools open.

Karen Karpie – 33 North Street – Ms. Karpie said she has not heard from anyone saying they were not blindsided by decision to close Harborside. It was revealed to the public in September. She encouraged the Board to step back. The community is charged up. We want to have a community where people will want to move to Milford. We don’t want people to move out of Milford because of our schools.

Jennifer Ju – 22 Saranac Road – Ms. Ju began by stating that on one hand we are equal partners. We, the community need to support our teachers and continue teaching at home. On the other hand, you are the

board. We are the shareholders. We need to see detailed reports of the state of education in Milford and the plan to support the vision of excellence in education. We need to see detailed reports of the cost savings from closing Harborside. She ~~then~~ questioned the extra transportation costs, parking and gymnasium sizes. She also questioned equity in the middle schools. Change is inevitable and necessary. Please take the time and honor your vision statement.

Peter Smith - 394 North Street – Mr. Smith told the Board he spoke to the Mayor about closing Harborside and he says he is not supportive of this option. While he does not have children in the system, his kids went to Harborside and then onto Foran. His children made friends with both Law and Foran kids. Should you close Harborside, you are going to divide the town. Harborside is the only school located in downtown and feels closing it will have economic development consequences.

Ray Vitali – 48 Founders Way – Mr. Vitali expressed that he would hate to see Live Oaks and Harborside close. He noted that he was a principal at both schools. He cautioned the Board they are looking to something with the commitment of a future board of education with the current Board's assumptions. People have good points that need to be addressed. He suggested the possibility of a referendum if the board can't make a decision. It should be non-partisan. He too feels the separation of the two sides of town (east and west) is not a good idea. He liked the idea of a K-8 at Harborside. It would reduce the population at East Shore and West Shore. New renovations would not be necessary. As a member of the Board of Aldermen, he will have a difficult time, if this situation persists, in getting bonding for West Shore renovations. It is somewhere around 32M. He too feels the Board would do the community a disservice by closing Harborside.

Dominic Cotton – 60 Corona Drive He has sent emails to the Board. He then said the Board has made the right decision to go back to the K-5. He thinks this decision should be left to another Board. The time is not right to close a school. It is not a political decision. He mentioned the turnover that is occurring in the city. He said if we take away Harborside which is in the middle of the 5th district that school is gone forever.

Deb McKenna – 94 Seaside Avenue – Ms. McKenna has heard a lot about where the community stands on this topic. She mentioned the Board's vision statement and that we should advocate for the children and what is best for the education of our students. What you have heard is parents begging you to not close a school. What is the plan to move the schools ahead? She asked the Board to put forth the education plan.

Elias Larkin – 23 Bird Lane – Mr. Larkin moved to Milford from Stamford 33 years ago. The older people are selling their houses and young people are moving in. He hear from a friend that of 19 students who took the mastery test at Housatonic only two passed. What happened?

Trista Simoncek – 61 Governors Avenue – Mrs. Simoncek recalled five years ago when she pleaded with the Board not to lose the schools. She then brought attention to 43 teacher resignations posted in the Human Resources Report. She feels the number is high. She questioned the efforts of recruiting and retaining the best teachers. Are teachers given exit interviews and surveys? The Long Range Planning needs to more than just about shuffling kids around. It has to be about our programs to make it better for the children to be prepared for college and higher level learning.

Bridget Lawless – 44 Court Street – She told the Board 5 years ago the parents begged the board not wait on reconfiguration. The Board did not listen. She said the community is in agreement of the redistricting and in

going back to K-5. However, it feels that we may be biting off more than we should all at the same time. She encouraged the Board to take the necessary time to do it right.

Bridget Fawcett - 513 Popes Island Road – She has not heard any discussion about children. She has heard about the hundreds of thousands of dollars to be spent but none of it is about the children.

Jonathan Salinsky – 32 Todd Drive – You have a community that doesn't trust the Board. He has heard a lot about the vision and the long range planning. Foran's presentation talked about why it's better than a private school rather than why it's a great school on its own. Take advantage of the people in the room. Track students here instead of the students who are leaving. Hope you listen to the community.

Seth Larkin – 23 Bird Lane – Mr. Larkin grew up in Milford. He attended K-8. He moved away and came back. His children attend school in Milford. His children are bussed across town to attend school due to the K-2/3-5 configuration. He doesn't support sending the children across town when they live within walking distance. It appears the money hasn't been very well spent. He asked the Board to engage the community and not make a decision.

Laura Fetter – 150 Acorn Lane – Mrs. Fetter has been reviewing the data. She referenced the March data published by Milone and MacBroom. Those numbers are not in alignment with the 2 year old Strategic School Profile. She thinks 445 students are missing in two years. She challenges the numbers and how the Board is making decisions on numbers that have not been validated. She questioned the tax revenue that might be lost if you affect students in her neighborhood. She also reviewed the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) website and the population appears to be flat. She cautioned the Board to validate the information.

Ms. Glennon closed Public Comment at 8:15 p.m.

Ms. Glennon called for a recess at 8:15 p.m.

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 8:29 p.m.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mr. Whiskeyman updated the Board on a tour that he took at ACES. He noted that 37 Milford residents attend ACES schools. He then provided a report to the board secretary.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin updated the Board on a Milford Education Foundation meeting she attended. Mini grants to teachers will be made again as well as Minds in Motion and involvement with Connecticut Invention Convention.

Ms. Glennon updated the Board on the PTA Council meeting she attended. Redistricting was discussed. The PTAs recognize they can help their schools with the transitions and also that they may need to put off their elections by a month or so. She also noted the Council is very appreciative of Dr. Feser hosting monthly meetings with the PTA presidents.

Ms. Glennon made reference to the Long Range Planning criteria that was established by the Board. She asked the Board members to begin thinking about prioritizing them using the 3-2-1 weighting that was used at the Long Range Planning workshops. She will look at dates to set up a meeting for the Board to discuss them.

Ms. Glennon then offered the following comments.

“We have on our agenda tonight important business that relates to the final pieces of the long range plan. The charge of the study was based on declining enrollment that was put together by a prior Board. To recap our decisions from last month for the benefit of the board and the public:

- We will return to K-5 configuration for September 2015
- We will decentralize Pre-K in no fewer than 3 schools
- We will redistrict to balance enrollment
- We direct admin to begin planning for college and career pathway programming for the **6-12** continuum as well as exploring new options for Elementary School (This includes MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMMING and the fact that middle school students will be able to earn up to 3 credits towards HS graduation)

We’ve had at our disposal volumes of data that has supported the LRP discussion on many levels for the past two years: data derived from our consultant through focus groups with school staff, demographic data, educational trends, school configurations, financials and more. 10 months of review, discussion and deliberation occurred with the LRPC which included members of the community, school staff and parents. The makeup of the committee was ½ parents. For the past 5 months, the board has analyzed, discussed, and deliberated over ALL of the information in a workshop format, with a commitment that open and honest conversation would occur within those workshops. Beyond that, much of the groundwork was intertwined among the general work of the board on an ongoing basis. We have the data we need to complete this business tonight and finalize the components of our plan.

This board has been thoughtful and worked hard over the past months, as a continuation of the work started by the LRPC, and our work does not end with this vote, no matter how it turns out. We will apply the same thoughtful approach as we oversee these transitions and the work that lies before us.

As a Board we agree to our governing principles and I would suggest each and every one of you take the time over the next week or so to review GP2 and GP8. Specifically, our Board Member Code of Conduct, speaks to our commitment to:

- make decisions based upon the best interests of students, and
- represent ALL school district constituents honestly and equally while refusing to surrender our responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups. We represent ALL school district constituents, not just the ones we agree with or who elected us.

Once our decision is made, no matter what that decision is, we have our ONE VOICE COMMITMENT (GP10), which is universal in nature, and NOT unique to Milford. As a board we behave as a single unit, and we conduct our business in that manner, no differently than any other board. This is not to imply unanimous agreement in opinion or lack of diversity – but as discussions occur and votes are taken the entire board supports the decision in manner and communication, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels. (such as “I didn’t vote in favor of that action, but the board has made a decision and I support it”). That is the One Voice Commitment. In closing, I will make independent decisions tonight, without surrendering to individuals, special interests or personal agendas, and I encourage my fellow board members to do the same. Over the past few months the interference and intimidation from the politicians in this City, on both sides, has been

intolerable and most disturbing. So I call on you all, my fellow board members, to keep in mind the FACTS and the DATA that we have reviewed and to make the decision you feel is in the best interest of our students.”

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Glennon moved to the Unfinished Business item, “Motion of Closing an Elementary School as requested by Mr. John DeRosa at the October 13th board of education meeting.” She then gave Mr. DeRosa the floor.

Mr. DeRosa began to speak to his reasoning. Ms. Glennon told him the agenda item is in the form of a motion (a motion of closing an elementary school), therefore, she asked him to make a motion.

Mr. DeRosa offered to second the motion.

Ms. Glennon indicated Mr. DeRosa needed to make the motion. He asked it be put on the agenda he is the one who needs to make the motion.

Mr. DeRosa said he did not like the wording of the agenda item. He then made a motion to discuss the closing of an elementary school.

Ms. Glennon indicated the wording on the agenda is exactly as he requested. Mr. DeRosa disputed that and Ms. Glennon indicated it was verbatim that “the motion of closing an elementary school be placed on the agenda.” Ms. Glennon explained to Mr. DeRosa if he wants to discuss it he must first make a motion to close an elementary school.

Mr. DeRosa repeated his motion to discuss closing of an elementary school.

Ms. Glennon reiterated the rules of order need to be followed. The Board will not discuss closing an elementary school until a motion to close an elementary school has been made and seconded.

Mr. DeRosa made a motion to close an elementary school. Ms. DiBiase seconded.

Ms. Glennon gave Mr. DeRosa the floor.

Mr. DeRosa made an amendment to change the wording from closing an elementary school to discussing the closing of an elementary school.

Ms. Glennon told him that was not an appropriate motion. Discussion could be held under Board Comment. Discussions are held in workshops. This is the business meeting where we take action. The Board has had five months of deliberation and discussion on the said topic. It’s time to act. The motion is the closing of an elementary school, which is what Mr. DeRosa asked be placed on the agenda. The motion should be made and then discussion will occur.

Mr. DeRosa made a motion to table the closing of an elementary school for a future discussion. Mr. Piselli seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Mrs. Fucci made a point of inquiry. She asked if a second motion could be added with the original motion on the floor.

Ms. Glennon confirmed the motion to table is in order.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin made the request that the Board receive the elementary schedule of programs for all eight elementary schools.

Ms. Glennon redirected Dr. Gold-Dworkin to the motion on the floor. She asked that she keep her comments related to tabling the motion and that she could make requests during board comment.

Mrs. Federico said that she would not support a motion to table the closing of an elementary school. The school system needs to move forward with its work of moving the schools back to the K-5 and any further delay could jeopardize it.

Ms. Glennon called for a vote.

By a roll call vote, Y-DeGrego/DeRosa/DiBiase/Gold-Dworkin/Piselli
N-Federico/Fucci/Satti/Whiskeyman/Glennon. The motion failed.

Ms. Glennon returned to the original motion “to close an elementary school.” She asked if there was further discussion. Being none she called for a vote.

Mr. DeGrego asked for a recess.

The Board recessed at 8:42 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order 8:47 p.m.

Ms. Glennon called for a roll call vote.

By a roll call vote, N-DeGrego/Federico/Fucci/Piselli/Satti/Whiskeyman/Gold-Dworkin/Glennon
Y-DeRosa, DiBiase. The motion failed.

Ms. Glennon moved to the next order of business which was the action item in the form of a motion:
“Motion to direct 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.”

She noted the motion was postponed from the October 13, 2014 business meeting.

Mrs. Fucci remarked that since the postponed motion reflected language “to revisit in three years the anticipated closing of Harborside”, which was inserted into the language by the minority leader, and since he no longer wants to be part of the motion, she offered the following substitute motion.

“I move that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to move forward with the necessary steps toward construction of additional classrooms at West Shore Middle School, as needed, to allow the Milford Board of Education to close Harborside Middle School once the West Shore Middle School renovation and expansion is complete, but no sooner than September 2018.” Mrs. Federico seconded.

Ms. Glennon informed the Board the substitute motion can be debated. If the substitute motion does not pass, then the Board would go back to the original motion.

Mrs. Fucci offered the following comments read from a prepared statement.

“I support this motion because I believe that Milford should provide the best public education possible for all of our students. It meets the entire criterion that the BOE agreed upon for our decision-making. Projections show the steepest decline in enrollment will now occur at the middle school level. Keeping all 3 middle schools open would eventually lead to East Shore and Harborside operating below 60% capacity by 2021. The consultant indicated the target capacity of a middle school is typically around 90%.

Declining enrollment in the middle schools has led to split teams. Consolidation to two middle schools will enable teachers the benefit of teaching one team of students instead of two, giving students the benefit of a team of teachers who work only with them, allowing for a greater degree of connections and mentoring between students and teachers.

Administration has indicated many of the HSMS teachers will relocate to ESMS and WSMS. This plan allows for direct feeders from elementary through high school which the LRPC supported. Transitions through each level will be more consistent.

A new state law allows middle school children to earn up to 3 credits towards high school graduation. It makes sense to have two middle schools that align with two high schools. With larger student pools to draw from, extra-curricular activities and after school sports programs could potentially expand and increase, also supported by the LRPC.

Providing updated and equitable facilities at both ESMS and WSMS with the capacity to house all of our middle school students is a responsible long term plan and an excellent investment in our school infrastructure and programming.”

Mr. Satti thanked the public speakers for their comments. He asked them to listen to the Board as the discussion goes forward as the Board has listened to them. He noted minutes of a meeting do not reflect every comment made at a meeting but are a summary. After all the discussion, he supports the closing of Harborside. It is not a plan of one political party. As of September 30, 2014 it had been a bipartisan decision. He then told the Board he supports the decision.

Mr. DeRosa admitted he changed his mind. He didn't appreciate that there was almost a year's worth of time spent by a Long Range Planning Committee, multiple options were recommended. There were only

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two members from the current Board that served on the committee. With that in mind, the current Board had to work through the alternatives given to them. As of the August timeframe, there were two solutions as recommendations. Both solutions had to do with the closing of an elementary school. One option kept six open, closing two. The other option kept seven open and closed one. We did have discussion on a K-8 option with repurposing Harborside as that option. As a Board we chose to table the option. He then recapped the August workshop. He referenced the minutes as only being brief. However, the Board Chair informed the Board that she had a conversation with the Mayor to review K-6 schools. The Board was told they would be spending \$3,500 to hire a consultant to look at the option. The assumption was the decision had been made. There wasn't an opportunity to say no. When we left the workshops, Mr. DeRosa said he was the one who suggested to look at another option besides closing Harborside. That is why he voted yes to closing an elementary school. After listening to public comment, he has been swayed. He wrestled with the decision "Why close Harborside?" During Board meetings he has questioned the closing of Harborside. He then reviewed the middle school building capacities. Eight elementary schools are currently open with excess capacity in the buildings. He also shared with the Board he is an educator and has taught for a Division I university for 13 years.

Ms. Glennon asked him to keep his comments related to the motion. He told her his comments will help substantiate the reasoning why he had come to his conclusion.

He further said, this should not be about facilities but education. He then reviewed the CIP published in May 2014. 59M is going to be spent over the next five years. There are buckets of numbers for athletic fields for security systems without detail.

Ms. Glennon told him to keep his comments related to the motion.

Mr. DeRosa said closing Harborside and renovating West Shore should not be done at the same time. They should be done independently. He suggested looking at a plan 10 to 12 years out. Choose an elementary school in the north end of the city. Move the students to two other schools. Build a brand new elementary school that can hold 600-800 students. When each building is complete, move to the other side of town and do the same thing. Closing an elementary school or Harborside in 3-5 years is not the right thing to do. There is no proof education is not still an education issue.

Mr. DeRosa believes we should not close Harborside at this time.

Ms. Glennon offered a point of clarification. During a workshop, she informed the Board of a meeting she had with Mayor Blake. She indicated his request that the Board consider looking at a K-6 option. She asked the Board if there were any objections to looking at that option. There were none. She asked the board if it was okay to have Milone and MacBroom run the numbers. No one objected. She made reference to the workshop minutes. The Board spent over 30 hours of deliberation in seven workshops over the summer. At the June 23rd meeting, Board members were asked if there were any other options that should be reviewed. There were none. She further said to have an option brought up tonight at this meeting, is not appropriate.

Mrs. Federico offered the following remarks in support of the closing of Harborside. She wants to see the district move forward and support the middle schools. Looking forward in three years, we will have the middle schools at 60% capacity. She has been looking at the numbers for a long time. There will always be

turnover in neighborhoods, but overall the enrollment will stay the same. This plan is being proactive. She also spoke about how adding to the middle schools would be easier with having two middle schools opposed to three. She cannot support spending money on three middle schools when the enrollment is flat.

She then offered comments about the previous changes i.e. moving Mathewson kindergarten to Pumpkin and the K-2/3-5 change that were done. The problem was not resolved. The current plan looks at moving the schools forward. If the decision is delayed by two years, West Shore would suffer. She stressed that the Board has taken the time needed to make a decision. The plan can be implemented over time. However, a decision is needed to move forward. As a parent, she has heard other parents since the K-2/3-5 began, talking about merging the PTAs. She is glad the district is moving back to a K-5 configuration. It seems the school system has been in limbo since 2010. She closed by stating that everyone deserves an answer as to where we are going next.

Mr. DeGrego thanked the parents that came out. He assured them he had listened to their comments. He then recalled the events that have taken place since May. The Board knew there would be workshops over the summer. CABE assisted with the facilitation of the workshops and to help the Board move forward. The Board was divided into working groups. The Board heard from teachers, administrators and the community. K-6 was proposed but could not be supported. Then, the closing of Harborside was put on the table. He felt this was not discussed. He felt as if he had been betrayed.

Mrs. Federico has heard people talking about the educational benefits of having two middle schools opposed to three. She then asked Mr. Richetelli about the work done at East Shore.

Mr. Richetelli shared the work that has been done to East Shore, which included dedicated art and music rooms, security upgrades, eight additional classrooms, safety upgrades including a new driving pattern. He then told the Board the reimbursement rate for school renovations is currently at 55% with approximately 80% of the work as being reimbursable.

Ms. Glennon circled back to Mr. DeGrego's comments of feeling betrayed. She reminded him of the norms that were agreed upon by the Board at the beginning of their workshops.

- Be attentive positive supportive and respectful

- Be open and honest conversations within the workshop

She also reminded Mr. DeGrego he was absent from the workshop when the board discussed the closing of Harborside. He was not in attendance at the workshop when the K-8 plan with two middle schools was discussed. It was early on when Mayor Blake asked us to look at K-6 option. It was determined in the middle of the process that it would not work. However, that plan had included two middle schools. Then, it was onto the discussion of elementary programs, where conversations occurred with administration and focus groups with teachers and administrators. Then it was discussed if there was a way two middle schools could work with a K-5 plan. Ms. Glennon indicate for her personally it became clear that we had an opportunity to keep the elementary schools open. We would start to see the decline at the middle school level. If the two middle school's option would work, then we would have two newly renovated facilities on either side of town. She feels the plan makes sense. She also mentioned numerous school districts across the state have put in place long term plans that that include renovations or new building and then the closing of a school down the road.

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Mr. Piselli said the changed proposal had nothing to do with what was discussed in the workshops. It wasn't until the very end of the workshops when the closing of Harborside was discussed. He then recommended that it be discussed at another time. He made clear that he knows that West Shore Middle School is in need of renovations. However, the motion should not be linked with West Shore renovation.

Ms. Glennon clarified that the West Shore renovation is separate. The only piece that is tied to the plan is the need to add classrooms.

Mr. DeRosa referred to the minutes of October 13th. "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 asked Ms. Glennon to clarify the meaning behind those words.

Ms. Glennon told him there is no dispute that we would need additional classrooms if we move forward with the plan of closing Harborside. She reiterated there are many communities across the state where building may occur and then down the road a building would be turned back over to the city. There are steps in a plan that need to be in place.

Mr. DeRosa understood the comments to mean that without closing Harborside the additional classroom will not be added. He then shifted to the East Shore renovations.

Mr. Richetelli spoke to the plans of the renovations at East Shore. There was not discussion about closing a school at the time the renovations were put in the plan. He then clarified his comments made at the October 13th Board meeting. The question was asked of him "could we go forward with the renovations of West Shore Middle School with the additional classrooms addition and then come back when that project is complete and revisit the Harborside issue." He answered why would we put money in to a classroom addition if we do not know if we will need it. He believes the decision makers would want to know there is a plan in place before approving the funding.

Mr. DeRosa then made reference to the 9M needed for renovations at West Shore. To add more classrooms right now, hoping we make that decision is the wrong approach.

Mr. Richetelli reminded him that the CIP plan had been approved by the Board in May of 2014 which includes a 19.5M renovation project for West Shore Middle School.

Mr. DeRosa asked if the 8-10M in renovations for West Shore is in the plan. He was told no.

Ms. Glennon explained the motion on the table directs administration to pursue those dollars if we move forward with the plan. The plan will be based on the school system's needs. The dollars from the Capital Improvement Plan are a separate issue.

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Mr. DeRosa then said that he can't support that decision unless he has more details listing of how the dollars are to be spent. He then reminded the Board of the East Shore renovations cost increases.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Richetelli to briefly speak to the East Shore renovation and process took to derive at the 8-10M.

Mr. Richetelli explained the East Shore project arrived on the CIP nearly 10 years ago. At that time, it was very small project. However, the scope then changed dramatically when it was turned over the Permanent Schools Facilities Building Committee. It wasn't just a new media center. Eight new classrooms and an art and music wing were added. It was not that the project was under budgeted, but rather the scope had changed significantly. With regard to the plans for West Shore, when the board was considering the need for additional classroom space, he met with the principal and various department heads and the architect. The number of students that would need to be served was reviewed. This identified the additional classroom needs and an expansion of the gymnasium. This would necessitate additional work to the parking lot and playing field. The architect then determined the costs would be 8-10M. Mr. Richetelli further said that he believes the estimates given regarding West Shore are accurate.

Mr. DeRosa asked again how the East Shore project rose from 12M to 24M.

Mr. Richetelli told him he already answered the question.

Mrs. Fucci asked Mr. Richetelli if a new kitchen and cafeteria were built onto East Shore. He told her the kitchen was built new. However, the cafeteria was upgraded.

Mrs. Fucci moved to call the question.

Ms. Glennon announced the move to call the question will need a second and is not debatable.

Mr. Whiskeyman seconded.

Ms. Glennon clarified that calling the question meant moving to stop discussion and to vote on the motion. That we were not voting on the actual motion here.

She then called for the vote.

Mr. DeGrego told the public that he was absent from the workshops due to an accident that he had over the summer.

By a vote of 10-0, the motion passed.

Mrs. Griffin reread the motion on the floor.

"Move that the Milford Board of Education directs administration to move forward with the necessary steps toward construction of additional classrooms at West Shore Middle School, as needed, to allow the Milford Board of Education to close Harborside Middle School once the West Shore Middle School renovation and expansion is complete, but no sooner than September 2018." Mrs. Federico seconded.

By a roll call vote, 5-YFucci/Federico/Satti/Whiskeyman/Glennon-5-NDeGrego/DeRosa/DiBiase/Gold-Dworkin/Piselli, the motion failed.

Ms. Glennon then reread the original motion.

The motion is to direct 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.

Mrs. Fucci moved to strike the words **to revisit in three years the anticipated closing of – the amended motion to read,**

Motion to direct 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 close Harborside Middle School once the West Shore Middle School renovation and expansion is complete.

Mrs. Federico seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, Y-Federico/Fucci/Satti/Whiskeyman/Glennon N-DeGrego/DeRosa/DiBiase/Gold-Dworkin/Piselli, the motion failed.

Ms. Glennon explained, since the two prior motions had failed, parliamentary rules require the board to now consider the original motion which had been postponed. She repeated the main motion on the floor.

Motion to direct 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.

By roll call vote, N-DeGrego/DeRosa/DiBiase/Federico/Fucci/Gold-Dworkin/Piselli/Satti/Whiskeyman/Glennon, the motion failed.

Ms. Glennon reiterated the Board will move forward with redistricting to balance enrollment, decentralize PreK and direct administration to prepare for the college and career pathway programming.

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Proposed Budget Priorities and Assumptions

Dr. Feser explained the Budget Priorities and Assumptions are being brought forth for adoption.

Ms. Glennon asked Mrs. Fucci to make a motion.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion that the Board of Education approve the Budget Priorities and Assumptions. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Mr. DeRosa questioned the commitment for paying the costs for the School Resource Officers.

Unapproved

Dr. Feser explained the commitment is to pay ½ of the costs associated with the School Resource Officers. The district currently has four dedicated SROs.

Mr. DeRosa asked about the possibility of adding SROs to the elementary level.

Dr. Feser told him administration has not reached the point of building the budget. The priorities and assumptions are used as a tool to begin the conversation.

Mrs. Fucci moved to amend the main motion to change the language in the first bullet “to specify 8 elementary schools” in the Assumptions document. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin moved to amend the main motion to change language in the first bullet “to specify Preschool will be offered in 6 or 8 buildings.” Mr. Satti seconded.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin told the Board the idea is to decentralize PreK. State funding is available and the district could be getting more funding. The intent is to expand the preschool options. Every building would have a PreK opportunity.

Ms. Glennon suggested the language be changed to “Preschool will be offered in no fewer than 3 buildings.”

Dr. Feser feels comfortable with “no fewer.” However, she would have a real concern if Preschool would be added to all of the elementary schools. It could create isolation of classrooms. Having no fewer than three would protect the district should they not receive the state funding.

Mr. DeRosa referred to language used during the Long Range Planning workshops as “at least three buildings.”

Mrs. Fucci offered some thoughts on the value of having the preschool classes in the same building. Mr. Cummings agreed.

Ms. Glennon repeated the motion made by the Board during the previous meeting.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin agreed the language should mirror the language that was voted on at the October business meeting.

The language was changed to “at least three buildings.”

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin made a motion to change the language in the 2nd bullet in the Priorities document to enhancing and “all students achieving their full academic potential.” Mr. Piselli seconded.

Mrs. Fucci asked administration for clarification.

Dr. Feser explained the language was written specific to the Special Education audit. There is a significant large achievement gap with respect to special education and regular education students. However, she is comfortable with the language change.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin asked to change the 5th bullet in the Priorities document and added the words (in bold)

Revising and implementing Pk-12 curriculum, aligned with the Common Core State Standards **and the Connecticut emphasized Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**, and measured by district-developed, rigorous common and assessments.

Ms. Glennon asked if administration had any concerns with adding the language.

Mr. Cummings told the Board the state has not yet adopted the NGSS. He further said that the district is developing the common assessments to align to the NGSS. However, the state and the federal government have not moved forward at this time.

Dr. Feser told the Board there is a goal tied to the CMT and CAPT. However, the common assessments will align to the NGSS.

Ms. Glennon asked if the language would be better said take them into consideration as we do the work for the coming year.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin suggested the Connecticut emphasized Next Generation Science Standards.

Mrs. Federico asked if that would push us farther away from the focus on CMT and CAPT.

Mr. Cummings agreed.

Mr. DeGrego left at 10:20 p.m.

Mr. DeRosa supports the language since it is only for one year.

Mrs. Fucci is comfortable with the existing language.

Ms. Glennon asked Dr. Feser if she was comfortable with the language proposed. Dr. Feser responded she is comfortable.

Being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeRosa asked for clarification of the Assumptions bullet #2.

Returning to the K-5 structure will result in the loss of staffing “economy of scale” and will likely mean more classroom teachers will be needed.

Unapproved

Dr. Feser explained that there may need to be more teachers based on the number of classes needed, as students will be spread among eight K-5 elementary schools. This will be more evident when the redistricting occurs.

Ms. Glennon suggested the language be changed to “loss of economy of scale related to staffing.” However, this is a housekeeping item; therefore it doesn’t need to be voted on if there are no objections.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin made a motion to change the language in the 3rd bullet in the assumptions document to read “Supporting expanding summer learning opportunities, and extended day, within our schools for all students.” Mr. Satti seconded.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin clarified the overall goal would be to increase the learning time for all students.

Mrs. Fucci asked Dr. Gold-Dworkin if it was being proposed in all of the schools. She was told yes.

Dr. Feser asked that the language not be changed for next year as the focus will be put on moving to a K-5 structure. She feels the Board may want to understand the before and aftercare programs before making the changes.

Ms. Glennon recalled the Preschool workshop that was held. Some classes were able to be implemented because of grant funds. This should be a discussion sometime in the next year.

Mr. DeRosa agreed.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin asked to table the motion for another time.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin made motion to change the language in the 10th bullet in the Assumptions document. By adding “and the state or federal government” after UI. Mr. DeRosa seconded.

Ms. Glennon asked if there were any further questions.

Being none, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Fucci then made a motion to approve the amended 2015-16 Budget Priorities and Assumptions. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed BOE/District Goals

Dr. Feser presented the Board with the District Goals for the 2015 year. She shared the rationale for setting one-year goals is because the district does not have any state assessment data. 1) The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) field test administered in the spring of 2014 was a field test, the results of which are not to be used as baseline data. 2) The Diagnostic Reading Assessment will no longer be administered after this school year. A new literacy measure will be selected, one that will provide a more complete literacy profile. 3) The District Common Assessments 6-12 have been administered only once. These assessments were created by our staff. Changes to them were made over the summer, and further changes to them will be made subsequent to the second year of administration. 4) The elementary grade re-

organization will prompt changes in populations in schools, and therefore, baseline data for the individual schools will change in the 2015-16 school year.

Dr. Feser spoke to the priorities and goals that were established. Priorities are defined as givens and the goals are the objectives. The initiatives speak to work that must be pursued to achieve the priorities and goals. She then reviewed the priorities, goals and initiatives with the Board.

Following the discussion, the Board asked Dr. Feser to list which priority each initiatives is tied to. The Goals will be brought to the Board at the December business meeting for a second read and approval.

With respect to the time of the night, Dr. Feser recommended the Annual Human Resources Report and the Human Resources Report be postponed.

Mr. DeRosa made a motion to postpone the Annual Human Resources Summary and the Human Resources Report until the December business meeting. Mrs. Fucci seconded. The 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
 - October 13, 2014 Business Meeting
 - October 27, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - October 29, 2014 Special Meeting
 - November 3, 2014 Special Meeting

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Satti asked to abstain from the November 3rd minutes. Ms. Glennon explained he would need to abstain from the entire set of Consent Agenda items. He then agreed to keep his vote on the Consent Agenda items.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Gold-Dworkin made the request that the Board receive the current use of building information for each of the elementary schools.

Mr. DeRosa believes it will be useful for historical purposes.

Mrs. Fucci said she believes it would be more appropriate to know the information when the changes have occurred. Mrs. Glennon asked if there was support from the Board to obtain this information. Five members showed interest, therefore administration will provide it.

Mrs. Fucci read the statement below.

My focus and commitment to all of the students of Milford Public Schools have never wavered. The politically safe tact to take tonight would have been to put off any decisions about HSMS to a future date. I didn't do that.

I made my decisions based on the agreed upon Criterion from the LRPC and the BOE. Throughout this entire process, I stated that my standard for supporting a proposal was that it must allocate the resources fairly so that we will meet the needs of all of our students and provide programs for all students to achieve a 21st century education. I stated that redistricting to ensure school and class size balance was necessary. Parity among the schools and the fair distribution of resources were paramount to me.

I applaud parents for advocating for their children. I welcome community input and considered all points of view. As a BOE member, I need to advocate for all of the students' needs and make decisions based on what's best for all of them, not just some.

The long range plan that I supported intended to address declining enrollment and the responsible use of tax dollars allocated to the education budget. The BOE is not guaranteed approval of any budget we propose. My intention was to be proactive in

1. Meeting the needs of all of our students
2. Utilizing finite resources in the best way possible
3. Moving our school system forward into the 21st century.

As a BOE whose constituents 1st and foremost are the students, all of the students, I believe the plan I voted for meets the criterion responsibly and with planning for the future.

I hope that the outcome of the vote tonight does not hinder the CIP for WSMS and that the bonding for the renovation moves forward in February.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary

Unapproved