

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2016

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Jess Gregory
Walter Hagedorn
Tom Jagodzinski
Susan Krushinsky
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
James Richetelli
Carole Swift
Wendy Kopazna

Board members absent:

Michael DeGrego

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Glennon noted for the record that Mr. DeGrego would not be in attendance due to a death in his family.

II. STAFF AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized Jacob Burns, a seventh grader at Harborside Middle School. Jacob has Tourette Syndrome. To make his classmates more informed about the disorder, he presented to the entire seventh grade class a video that he made. The video described the challenges kids who have the syndrome experience. Dr. Feser and the Board thanked Jacob for his courage.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Pierce Klein presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran. Jillian Bendlak and Tyler Chavez presented the student report for Jonathan Law.

Ms. Glennon read the Public Comment statement.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Vanchot – 858 New Haven Avenue – Mr. Vanchot suggested that civics be taught to students at all levels of schooling.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon announced Administration will present its recommended career pathway at the November Committee of the Whole meeting.

She will be attending the CABA conference later in the week with some Board members and Dr. Feser.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board of the conversation held at the July business meeting regarding financial reporting and the reports the Board receives from administration. She indicated her desire to ascertain the opinion of board members as to whether or not they wished to have scheduled further discussion on the topic. Ms. Glennon indicated she had spoken to Mr. DeGrego earlier and he is fine with the present reports and practices. She asked Mrs. Griffin to poll the other board members via a roll call. 6 board members indicated no desire to schedule further discussion. 4 (Hagedorn/Jagodzinski/Krushinsky/Whiskeyman) indicated they wanted further discussion. Therefore, the Board will stay with current practice for financial reporting.

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Dr. Jess Gregory reported on the Milford Education Foundation. They are beginning the mini grants process.

Mrs. Federico reported on the Permanent School Building Facilities Committee. The major summer projects are completed. The Committee discussed the West Shore Middle School project; still on schedule to start in the winter.

Mr. Whiskeyman reported on the recent calendar discussion at the ACES Board meeting. The Board voted for the District Calendar to start students on August 28, 2017 for the 2017-18 academic school year.

Mr. Jagodzinski reported on the recent Board of Health meeting. There is a movement to consider eliminating local Boards of Health and replacing them with regional boards. This could mean a financial burden to the city of 1.5% of its budget to support the regional boards. Regional boards would offer fewer services than the current local board does and would not provide school nurses as our local board of health does.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MPS Enrichment Program

Mrs. Shannan Carlson, Supervisor of District Improvement, introduced the five Enrichment teachers to the Board. Mr. Tom Stack, Elementary Enrichment teacher, spoke briefly about the current grade four and five enrichment curriculum. Two fifth grade students from Meadowside, Cain Carrol and Azra Bano, shared a snapshot of their current research projects and presentations from their first unit of study on "Mindsets," which focuses on defining and learning about the different components of Gardner's multiple intelligence theory and different learning styles.

Update of Summer Projects

Mr. Bradbury narrated a pictorial PowerPoint presentation (on file) that summarized the work that was done to the buildings and grounds over the summer. Large projects included four elementary and one middle school roof replacements and asbestos removal and tile replacement at Jonathan Law High School. All fourteen schools had work done based on the urgency of the project and safety factors.

Athletic Program Annual Financial Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the athletics financial report for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Milford offers 24 sports, all of which are sanctioned by the CIAC. Other athletic opportunities, such as Unified Sports, Powder Puff and a Fencing Club are also offered. Mr. Richetelli gave a breakdown of the funds, by sport. The funding comes from two accounts. The General Funds account covers the cost of coach salaries, transportation, trainers, insurance, equipment and supplies and uniforms. The Athletic Activities account covers game-day costs of officials, referees, and part-time staff such as ticket takers, announcers, police officers and security. Hockey is offered through a coop program with the costs covered by a combination of the board's operating budget and fees paid by the participating students. Mr. Richetelli explained that the student fees are less than what they were years ago, but have been stable in recent years. A question was raised as to whether consideration should be given to reducing the student fees further. Mr. Richetelli indicated that could be considered during the budget process.

Following the report, a Board member asked if the Unified Sports program is offered at all three middle schools. Administration will do research and report back to the Board.

Transportation Contract Extension

Mr. Richetelli provided the Board with a detailed summary of the proposed five year contract extension for Durham Bus Services. The duration of the contract is August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2022. Durham will continue to pay \$1.00 toward the cost of fuel. They will be responsible for the maintenance for the vehicles, including cameras. A Parent Bus Tracker App will be made available to guardians of students who ride the bus. Durham will provide MPS with the option to operate under a 2 or 3 tier system. Durham will replace, and/or purchase at least 10 new vehicles each year of the contract until all vehicles in the fleet are 10 years or newer.

Item #4 in the Addendum needed clarification. Following the discussion, the Board agreed to honor the contract if the words “*per year*” are added to item #4. The bullet will read as follows:

“If the average daily number of routes, mid-day runs, shuttles or after-school runs is changed by ten percent (10%) or more **per year** Durham shall have the right to request a renegotiation of rates and Milford Public Schools shall discuss the request in good faith.”

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Fourth Addendum to the Agreement for Transportation Services, as amended, and authorize Administration to enter into said agreement with Durham School Services, L.P. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies 5000s - Students

The Board began its review of the 5000 (Students) policies.

Discussion on policy 5131.8 Off School Grounds Misconduct - First paragraph on page one, language used, “which is seriously disruptive of the education process,” the law uses “material disruption.” Which should be used? The word “volatile” in the second paragraph should be changed to “in violation.” Page two, second paragraph, the word “reasonable” has been replaced with “strong.” Why? Please send the policy to the attorney for review.

5131.21 Threats or Acts of Violence – Administration should consider the addition on “Board of Education members” to be added to the first paragraph.

5144 Discipline – The board asked that the new language be reviewed by the attorney. Board members also expressed concern that the issues covered by the current policy “not be lost”. Dr. Feser explained a new policy covering use of physical restraint would be forthcoming and would be very detailed. A question was raised at to whether that policy would cover use of force by staff to, for instance, break up a fight. Dr. Feser indicated she would review that with the attorney.

Policies 5131.1, 5131.5, 5134 and 5145.124 will be submitted for 2nd reading and approval at the December business meeting.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported on the human resources activity for October.

Annual Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna provided the Board with the annual summary of human resources activity from October, 2015 through September, 2016. Included in the report were staffing, employee benefits, labor/employee relations, employee services, record keeping, research and reporting. She highlighted 40 teachers and two administrators were hired this year.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for October, 2016. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion on the consent agenda items.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda

1. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. October 10, 2016 Business Meeting
 - b. October 24, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Krushinsky attended the drama production at Law “Plaza Suite.” She also attended the Mental Health First Aid class sponsored by W.A.V.E., Milford Prevention Council and Bridges. She recommends everyone to attend the class if it is offered again.

Mr. Jagodzinski attended a focus group in Hartford where the State Department of Education is in the process of developing a five year comprehensive plan regarding education. The state is trying to be in line with the latest federal regulations.

Mr. Jagodzinski also expressed disappointment that Board members do not want better information about the budget. The Board should be embarrassed.

Dr. Gregory reminded the Board of the norms and how the members are to be treated. She found Mr. Jagodzinski's comments offensive.

Ms. Glennon reiterated the majority of Board members were okay with the current financial reporting practices.

X. ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Ms. Suzanne DiBiase