

Milford Board of Education

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2018

Board members present:

Ray Arnold
Claire Casey
Adam De Young (by phone)
Jennifer Federico
Rita Hennessey
Susan Glennon, Chair
Warren Pawlowski
Craig Zentkovich

Administration present:

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

Board member absent:

Scott Firmender
Una Petroske (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the committee of the whole meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room and noted Ms. Petroske was ill.

II. BOARD WORKSHOP: HOMEWORK AND RECESS IN MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Cutaia thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak to the board about the district's work around the areas of homework and recess. While the homework policy 6154 has not been revised since 1993, Administration has reviewed the content and supports the policy as written. She further said that the regulation will need to be updated. She then turned the meeting over to principal of Meadowside Elementary, Mrs. Krois.

Mrs. Krois assisted by fifth grade teacher Mr. Cicero shared ways in which homework helps students and teachers. She reinforced that homework is a partnership among students, teachers and parents. It is based on what the students' needs are and helps the teacher determine where the students' knowledge lies.

Mrs. Carlson and eighth grade teacher Ms. Buckley also reflected on the homework practices at the middle school level. Homework is a tool that teaches children to work independently; something that as the grades increase is necessary. Homework reinforces the concepts. Homework builds skills that all students need as they grow and mature.

Staff members responded to Board questions and emphasized if a student is struggling with homework the parent should discuss with the teacher.

Ms. Glennon reminded all that even though the homework policy wording seems appropriate, the policy should still be looked at and given a current date as the Board moves through its policy review.

Mrs. Marzinotto offered information on physical activity and recess. She started by asking the Board to do a movement exercise to help them identify with one of the many exercises that occur in the schools each day. She shared ways teachers implement movement breaks within the day, such as “GoNoodle.” Transitioning for bathroom breaks, lining up for lunch, going to specials, etc. are forms of movement. Formal physical education class also provides exercise. Recess is a form of physical activity that provides children with the social and emotional benefits of play. Milford Public Schools complies with Connecticut state law that each student is to receive twenty minutes of recess, and that denial of the recess cannot be used as a discipline.

Dr. Cutaia and staff shared some opinions on professional practice and highlights of initiatives we may see in the future related to more inquiry or play-based learning as a form of “recess.” Dr. Cutaia acknowledged board member concerns that recess has taken a back burner.

Ms. Glennon reminded Dr. Cutaia that the required language on recess relating to discipline seems to be missing from policy. She suggested administration look at CAFE’s model policies to determine where the language should be inserted.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Recording Secretary:

Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary:

Mrs. Jennifer Federico