

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2012

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
George Gensure
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
James Maroney
Christopher Saley
Mark Stapleton
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
James Richetelli
Wendy Kopazna

Board members absent:

Beverley Pierson

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a board meeting on Monday, December 10, 2012 in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MUSIC PRESENTATION

The Foran Choral Ensemble, led by Ms. Voss, delighted the public by singing some holiday songs.

III. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser introduced Ms. Carlson as the new Assistant Principal of Haborside Middle School Mrs. Carlson was formerly a social studies teacher at Harborside. She has worked for Milford for 13 years. The board congratulated Mrs. Carlson.

Dr. Feser then recognized the TV Production Class at Jonathan Law for holding a telethon to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Students from the class came up the idea while school was out. They didn't have a lot of time to plan it, but it went well! The event took place on November 9th at Law. The students interviewed guests throughout the day while people dropped off canned goods, clothes, toiletries and more. The students raised approximately \$7,500 in goods. Student representatives recognized were:

Tarah Kelly	12 th grade, Jonathan Law High School
Kyle Kandetzki	12 th grade, Jonathan Law High School
Christopher Thiel	12 th grade, Jonathan Law High School

Mr. Thompson, principal of Jonathan Law and Mr. Kulenych, teacher of the production class were in attendance.

The final recognition was given to physics students who represented Jonathan Law at the 2012 Yale Physics Olympics. On October 15th Law sent four students from Mr. Stanton's physics class to participate in the

event. The team competed in five events throughout the competition, placing 1st in the Pendulum Event. The group had to build a pendulum out of a ball and sticks and make it swing for “only” two seconds. Law’s team swung the pendulum for 1.999 seconds. The team consisted of the following students:

Ryan Dennis, 12th grade, Jonathan Law High School

Ratan Manohar, 12th grade, Jonathan Law High School

Jake Markham, 12th grade, Jonathan Law High School

Bhavani Jaladanki, 12 grade, Jonathan Law High School

Dr. Feser congratulated them for their hard work.

IV. STUDENT REPORTS

Ratan Manohar & Hayley Soulier reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Hamsa Ganapathi and Alexandra Corsi presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. CHAIR’S REPORT

Mrs. Casey announced that Mrs. Pierson was absent because of a previous commitment. The senior bus trip to Jonathan Law Winter Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 12th. The bus will depart from Parsons at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Casey concluded her report by telling the board that she attended the CABA Annual Conference with Ms. Kubek and Dr. Feser. Something stuck with her that a former special needs student said during a panel at the conference. The former student indicated that she was a special education student who received many services, eventually testing out. Her teachers threw her a party when she tested out. However, she was disappointed. A party was not needed at all. She felt very strongly about students who need services, should receive them. All students who attend school should be treated the same, whether they receive services or not.

Mrs. Casey then congratulated Mr. Barile on his new role in Bethany as the Superintendent. She thanked him for the many years he has given to Milford.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

Dr. Feser explained that Policy 6146 (Graduation Requirements) was being presented as a second read. The policy was brought forward as a first read at the November meeting. The new credit requirement would affect the incoming 2013 freshmen. The credit requirement will change from 22.4 to 25. Math will be one of the added credits. The administration will review the other additional credits and report back to the board in the summer of 2013.

Mrs. Casey is concerned about the other grades. Especially, with the change in the schedule for the freshmen.

A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Casey asked that the policy language be changed to reflect the incoming freshmen – 2009 should be changed to 2013. She would also like to see more credits offered to the sophomores and juniors.

Dr. Feser told the board the policy change is the first step. The approval is needed to increase the credits. A more definitive plan will be presented to the board in the summer.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to accept Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements with change recommended by Mrs. Casey. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2013 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Mr. Maroney made a motion to accept the 2013 Board of Education Meeting Schedule. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

District Continuous Improvement Plan

Mr. Cummings narrated a PowerPoint presentation (on file) which explained eight milestones which will serve as the benchmarks for the District Improvement Continuous Plan. The plan itself is tied to the board goals. Those milestones are:

1. Instructional Framework
2. Curriculum Alignment
3. Understanding by Design
4. Teacher Leadership
5. Aligned Literacy Instruction
6. Math Investigations
7. Credits & Graduation
8. Parent Survey

Transportation Update

Dr. Feser told the board she wanted to clear up a misunderstanding from comments made at the previous board meeting. At the meeting, Mr. Richetelli reported on the order of saving the district \$200,000 in transportation costs. In the conversation, a remark was made that spoke about ways to capture savings with the elimination bus runs where children can walk to school. Basically, the students are within walking distance according the guidelines. It was misconstrued as something that could be done instantaneously. She further explained more research would need to be done. She told the board there is no group of buses that transport children who can walk. There are buses that may contain children that could be considered walkers. Further, they are not breaking policy because the policy states “safety” as being one of the reasons for transporting students. Mileage guidelines would then be bypassed. She told the board administration will do further investigation. However, determining transportation takes time; months to be exact.

Dr. Feser concluded by telling the board that administration will be bringing a revised transportation policy to the board at a later time.

Mr. Saley asked how many children were affected by the \$160,000 savings. Mr. Richetelli could not give him a number. Mr. Saley asked if bringing in a consultant to conduct an audit would help administration. Mr. Richetelli told the board it would be helpful. He has done some research in the recent days and found three firms that would be suited for the district. He also said that a procedure like this has not been done in many years. While administration continues to review the bus runs every year, it would be helpful. The cost range is between \$10,000 and \$20,000 depending on what the needs are.

Mr. Maroney asked Mr. Richetelli what was the average savings from the school districts he researched.

Ms. Kubek asked if the district was to realize a savings from the Durham bus move. She understood the savings would come from an existing gas tank at the site.

Mr. Richetelli explained that was the hope. However, environmental laws are prohibiting that from happening. Administration will continue to research a savings relative to the tank, but it is not probable.

Mrs. Casey asked if the administration is recommending an audit be conducted. If so, when would it be done?

Dr. Feser told her that the administration feels there is merit to having an audit conducted.

Mrs. Casey told the administration there is not a lot of time to seek approval from the board. The audit would need to be done and changes would need to be made before the new school year.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported the Human Resources Report.

Mrs. Casey asked if the Mr. Hoggatt being hired as the Assistant Basketball Coach is the same person who is the Athletic Director. She was told yes. Mrs. Casey told the administration she is confused. Two weeks prior administration pleaded for assistance to be given to the Athletic Director's because their of their huge workload. How can he possibly take on this role?

Dr. Feser told the board that it is a contradiction of what was indicated two weeks prior. Possibly the position could be posted again.

Mrs. Kopazna will consult with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hoggatt prior to the appointment.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-3.

1. Disbursement Report
2. Acceptance of JFK Elementary School Hazardous Material Abatement Project
3. Consideration of Minutes – November 13, 2012 & November 26, 2012

Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Saley told the administration that he is happy to hear that they will look at transportation costs fundamentally. He thanked administration for the savings they found last year. However, looking at transportation holistically can save even more money.

Mr. Whiskeyman told the board that every student should have a personal development plan. A plan that helps them come together with their interests. It would be the foundation and as students move through the system, they begin to make choices. He believes the board should begin discussions about it.

Mrs. Casey told him that in middle and high school, advisory does just that.

XI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Maroney made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss salaries for non-certified/non-union employees. He invited Dr. Feser, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Richetelli and Mrs. Kopazna into the session. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (8:58 PM)

Mr. Maroney made a motion to go back into Public Session. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed. (9:20 PM).

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve the sum of \$47,026 to be used for the salary increases for non-unionized employees at the discretion of the superintendent based on performance. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

James Maroney

Approved

Corresponding Secretary