

# **Milford Board of Education**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Regular Business Meeting**

### **December 14, 2009**

#### **Board members present:**

David Amendola  
Tracy Casey  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Diane Kruger-Carroll  
Josip Jukic  
Greg Oliver  
Mark Stapleton  
Jay Tranquilli  
Robert White

#### **Administrators present:**

Michael Cummings, Acting Superintendent  
Philip Russell, Deputy Superintendent

#### **Board members absent:**

Jack O'Connell

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Milford Board of Education held a regular business meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009, in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Chairman Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

Dr. Stapleton introduced Ms. Jean Kovacs and the Jonathan Law Choir. The choir delighted the board by singing a few holiday songs.

## **II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION**

Mr. Cummings began by recognizing the Jonathan Law Volleyball team. The team won the 2009 Southern Connecticut Conference championship title. The team defeated East Haven and Mercy-Middletown before beating Cheshire High School in the final.

Recognized were:	Meghan Abbott (team captain)
	Casey Dulin (team captain)
	Caitlin Stapleton (team captain)
	Pat Simon (assistant coach)
	Stacy Loch (head coach)

Mr. Cummings then congratulated 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Jonathan Law student, Preetam Dutta. Preetam was selected as a regional finalist in this year's "2009 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology". This competition was held at MIT in November. The Siemens competition has become the most challenging and prestigious research-based high school science contest in the country. Entries are judged at the regional level by esteemed scientists at six leading research universities which host the regional competitions. As the regional finalist, Preetam received a 1,000 scholarship.

The final recognition of the evening was given to Christine Bouchard for being selected as Milford's 2009 District Teacher of the Year. Every year, the Teacher of the Year Program recognizes and honors teacher excellence. Christine is a dedicated, professional and highly motivated individual who is admired by both staff and students. She was selected as Jonathan Law's Teacher of the Year and won the title of Milford's 2009 Teacher of the Year.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a) Mr. White made a motion to accept the November 9, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) Mr. White made a motion to accept the November 15, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) Mr. White made a motion to accept the November 17, 2009 meeting minutes as approved. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. C. Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni asked if the Budget Workshops were going to be added to the 2010 Board Meeting Schedule. She would like the budget meetings published as soon as possible so people will participate in them.

Mrs. K. Boath – 91 Hickory Avenue – Parent of two Pumpkin Delight students and co-president of Pumpkin Delight PTA. Mrs. Boath spoke about installing a new elevator at Pumpkin Delight. She insisted it should be a priority for many reasons. She stated the current enrollment is 310 with four students in wheelchairs. Pumpkin has the highest amount of students in wheelchairs. The schedule for students in wheelchairs gets shuffled every year because there isn't an elevator. She further explained that if a student gets a leg injury, they need to be helped up the stairs. They are then required to stay up stairs for the entire day missing out on art, lunch room and other activities. This seems very cruel.

Mrs. Boath said that the elevator project has been on and off the Capital Improvement Plan for years. She presented the board with a petition containing over 52 signatures.

Ms. S. Glennon – 99 Carlson Drive – Ms. Glennon is the One Voice PTA president. She asked for support for the next phase renovation for the high schools.

Mrs. P. Taylor – She was asked to speak for Mrs. J. Stebbins who is a parent of a student at Pumpkin Delight. Her son injured his knee and was impaired for eight weeks. The teachers had to scramble to modify his schedule. It created a lot of extra work and time on everyone involved. The only answer is to get an elevator.

Ms. S. Schultz – 44 Noble Avenue – She is a paraprofessional at Pumpkin Delight. This year, she assists one student upstairs and one downstairs. One student has cerebral palsy and while they have modified her schedule, it is horrendous. Fire drills are a safety concern. She would like to see the elevator installed.

Mrs. A. Arnold – 50 Herbert Street – She said that many eighth grade parents are upset about the cancellation of graduation. She supports graduation and feels they should be able to wear caps and gowns.

Mrs. Novak – 46 Oakridge Lane – She has two older kids that had an eighth grade graduation. She reported that there is a survey circulating that will show how many parents are interested in having the graduation. A decision should be made after the results are in.

Mrs. R. Thacker – Lookout Hill – She is in support of the eighth grade graduation.

### V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Board Chairman Mark Stapleton announced the following board liaison appointments:

Board of Aldermen – Suzanne DiBiase

Planning and Zoning – Jay Tranquilli

Department of Health – Diane Kruger-Carroll

PTA Council – Greg Oliver

ACES – Jack O'Connell

Permanent Schools Facility Building Committee – Tracy Casey & Robert White

The Chairman then announced that the board will hold its first retreat on December 21<sup>st</sup> at the Corporate Crown Campus. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss board common goals and objectives. He then asked for the liaison reports.

Robert White reported out for the Permanent Schools Facility Building Committee. The two key points that were reported were: the Law Phase III is underway. It is running two weeks ahead of plan with a target completion date of July 2, 2010, and the Foran Phase III is out to bid. Bids are expected to be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

## **VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **1. Student Reports.**

Bing Zheng reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Shenali Parikh and Dylan Leonard presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

### **2. Instructional Report**

#### **Professional Development Update**

Mr. Cummings said the district has had four ½ day professional development days. He then reported the instructional plan is being brought to life by accommodating the ½ day schedule. The teachers, as a whole, are able to collaborate together. The half days will equate to 30 hours which is almost 5 days of added meeting time. He also stated that having the meeting in the middle of the day is more productive than the end of the day when people are tired.

The elementary teachers have been working in data teams, grade level teams of teachers working to identify expected learning outcomes are for students and then developing assessments to measure the student progress.

The middle and high school teachers have been working at the department level to develop unit plans.

Mrs. Garagliano said she has been working with the Social Studies department. The conversations have been very rich and enlightening. The conversations are leading to some very good decisions about what is important for the children to learn. The tasks that they are coming up with are meaningful tasks. It also enhances the critical thinking skills.

It is the third year for high school and the first for both the elementary and middle school levels.

Mr. Cummings told the board there are approximately five school districts that share the same structure for the professional development meetings.

Mrs. Kruger-Carroll asked if the other schools were using the time to pull themselves out of a certain situation. Mr. Cummings told her they were using the time to bring them further along.

Dr. Stapleton asked if it would be a monumental effort to change a contract. For example, extending the school day or school year and he was told yes.

### **3. Operational Report**

#### **a) Personnel Report**

Mrs. Kopazna reported there are currently nine openings. The department continues to hire paraprofessionals and substitute teachers to cover the day to day absences that occur.

#### **b) Budget Report for September**

Mr. Russell presented the Budget Performance Report for November 30, 2009, as well as the Cash Disbursements Report. He explained the report and the series of accounts to the board. He told the board he is currently paying close attention to the legal and tuition accounts. He reported 92% of the budget has been encumbered.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. 2010 Board of Education Meeting Schedule: Administration recommends approval of the 2010 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

- c. Field Trip Request: Administration recommends approval of the Jonathan Law Choir trip to the Music Festival at Boston University from April 22 – 24, 2010.
- d. Joseph A. Foran High School Phase II: The Milford Board of Education accepts the Joseph A. Foran High School Phase II (Science Room Renovations) 084-0174 A/EC Project as complete.

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

Mr. White made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as published. Mr. Amendola seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Unfinished Business  
None

- b. New Business  
Chairman Stapleton asked for a motion to accept the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Years 2010/11-2014/15 as presented by administration and forward the plan to the Mayor for consideration. Mr. Amendola seconded.

Mr. Russell told the board the CIP is not in the operating budget. He asked the board if they had any questions.

Being none, the motion passed unanimously.

## **X. BOARD COMMENT:**

Chairman Stapleton asked the board members for any comments they may have relating to Board business.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Stapleton asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Amendola. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Robert White  
Corresponding Secretary

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Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary