

## **Milford Board of Education**

### **Meeting Minutes**

December 14, 2015

**Board members present:**

Claire Casey  
Michael DeGrego  
Suzanne DiBiase  
Jennifer Federico  
Susan Glennon, Chair  
Jess Gregory  
Tom Jagodzinski  
Susan Krushinsky  
Earl Whiskeyman

**Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Jeffrey Burt  
Jim Richetelli  
Wendy Kopazna

**Board members absent:**

John DeRosa

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room, asking that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. She then said how saddened the Board is of the loss of a fellow Board member, John DeRosa. She asked for a moment of silence so everyone could remember John in their own way.

Ms. Glennon then introduced Mrs. Marcia Rizzotti, Director of Chorus at Jonathan Law. Mrs. Rizzotti led the Advanced Choral Ensemble in three holiday songs.

Ms. Glennon thanked the chorus and then called for the student reports.

#### **II. STUDENT REPORTS**

Lindsey Carlson and Joe Barton presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran. David Patrick and Emily Carroll presented the student report for Jonathan Law.

Ms. Glennon thanked the students for the update. She then read the Public Comment statement.

#### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Beckwith – 10 Butternut Lane – Mr. Beckwith is the Republican Town Committee Chairman; however, he stood up to speak about John DeRosa. He offered his sincere condolences for John DeRosa, a dear friend who was very passionate about education, and wanted the best for all children. He thanked the Board and administration for their support during his time of need.

#### **IV. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Glennon welcomed the new Board members. She provided them with the liaison appointments for the 2015-17 term. She also reminded the Board of meeting etiquette, as well as reminding them there would not be a Committee of the Whole meeting in December.

Ms. Glennon announced she attended the CABA conference with Mrs. Federico, Dr. Gregory, Mrs. Krushinsky, Mr. Jagodzinski and Dr. Feser. She suggested that if anyone wanted to share their experience, they could do so under Board Comment.

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mr. Whiskeyman told the Board he attended an ACES board meeting, and then shared holiday cards made by students who attend ACES. He also updated the Board on two rather large projects underway to promote some of the work being done at ACES.

Mrs. Federico reported that the East Shore Middle School project is near completion. The main outstanding item is the commissioning of the heating and air conditioning. The project should be finished in approximately two months. The committee is reviewing plans for the West Shore renovations. The roof for the four elementary schools is also in the works.

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### **Energy Conservation Update**

Mr. Whitaker narrated a PowerPoint presentation that provided an explanation of the history of energy conservation program. The vast majority of the program reductions are realized by behavioral changes such as turning off lights, shutting down computers, turning down the heat, reducing run time of fans, etc.

Mr. Richetelli shared there will be approximate savings of \$250,000 in costs associated with the expiration of the contract fees. The Board appropriated \$125,000 in the 2015-16 budget to purchase items that will allow for more energy conservation, i.e. lighting upgrades, etc. Mr. Bradbury explained these items and indicated administration will continue to explore energy savings from rebates and incentives from UI and other utilities.

Following the discussion, there were two items that needed further follow up; the Board be provided with an annual comparison of the actual energy consumption of electricity and natural gas, and that the Board also asked administration to indicate when there were specific events that would affect the consumption for that year, e.g., the East Shore project.

### **CABE Review of MPS Policies**

Dr. Feser explained the policies relating to the school system are in need of review. It has been a decade since this has been done in depth. She proposed having the Board use CABE's policy review services at a cost of \$14,000. CABE estimates a complete review of all policies will take two to three years. Dr. Feser suggested using \$5,000 from the current budget, and the remaining would come from the 2016-17 budget.

Ms. Glennon noted that for more generic mandated policies CABE will use a boiler plate language that has already been vetted by attorneys.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board approves contracting with CABE to conduct a thorough review of the Board of Education policies, and to pay CABE \$5000 from the current budget to enable CABE to begin the review process as soon as possible. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2016 Meeting Schedule**

Dr. Feser presented the 2016 Board of Education Meeting Schedule to the Board for approval. The Connecticut General Assembly requires boards to submit the meeting schedule to the City Clerk each year.

Ms. Glennon added that, once approved, these dates are considered the Board's regularly scheduled meetings.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board of Education approves the 2016 Board of Education Meeting Schedule. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Human Resources Report**

Mrs. Kopazna gave the human resources report. Included in the report were the various stipends for Team, mentors, advisors and coaches positions.

## **VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the consent agenda items:

- Disbursement Report
- Consideration of Minutes:
  - November 9, 2015 Business Meeting
  - November 23, 2015 Organizational Meeting
  - November 23, 2015 Special Meeting
  - November 30, 2015 Special Meeting

Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the Roof Replacement project at Calf Pen Meadow Elementary School and authorizes the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement

Approved

from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services – Office of School Construction Grants (SCG).

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Roof Replacement Project at Calf Pen Meadow Elementary School.

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the Roof Replacement project at Mathewson Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services – Office of School Construction Grants (SCG).

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Roof Replacement Project at Mathewson Elementary School.

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the Roof Replacement project at Orchard Hills Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services – Office of School Construction Grants (SCG).

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Roof Replacement Project at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the Roof Replacement project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services – Office of School Construction Grants (SCG).

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Roof Replacement Project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School.

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the Window Replacement project at Harborside Middle School and authorize the Superintendent to apply for State reimbursement from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services – Office of School Construction Grants (SCG).

That the Milford Board of Education approves the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Window Replacement Project at Harborside Middle School.

Mrs. Federico seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Glennon told the Board that questions arose last year about the Board's budget workshops not being televised. She reached out to Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) chairman, Mr. Al May about covering the workshops live. She was

## Approved

told there was no money in the MGAT budget to cover the Board's budget workshops. She was quoted a figure of \$1000 to cover the meetings based on the estimated cost of \$275 for one three hour meeting. A memorandum of understanding would be put in place.

Ms. Glennon asked the Board for their opinions.

Dr. Gregory asked if the cost would be reduced should the meetings not last that long. Ms. Glennon indicated the stated amount was a flat fee for all the meetings

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board of Education approves \$1,000 from the current budget to be used for MGAT Covering Live Three Budget Workshops. Mrs. Federico seconded.

Dr. Gregory asked that a clause be inserted stating that if the workshops run less the three hours, the fee be reduced to \$275 per workshop.

Ms. Glennon stated the commitment is \$1,000 for all three workshops. She asked for further discussion. Being none, she called for a vote.

By roll call 8-1 (Gregory), the motion passed.

## VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Jagodzinski made reference to a Pre-K article he read in New York magazine that he intends to send to Board members. The article questions the benefit of preschool by grades one or two.

Dr. Gregory offered a comment regarding that particular study stating that she did not believe samples were equally matched, as far as the socioeconomic status, which may affect who chose to enroll their child in the Pre-K programs they were studying.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board that prior Boards have had a lot of discussion about Pre-K, but that another Committee of the Whole workshop could be scheduled if the new Board desires.

Dr. Feser thanked Mr. Jagodzinski for sharing the article. She noted there is research that contradicts its findings but that the Board should be informed on different thinking around Pre-K.

Mr. DeGrego told the Board he visited a Crime and Punishment class this past week. He has been asked to return. He also reached out to Foran to see if they would be interested in having him volunteer in a class.

Mrs. Federico attended the CABA conference. She enjoyed the workshops and commented on two.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board of the holiday concert schedule that had been provided in the Friday Update.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss salaries for non-certified/non-union employees. Invited in were Dr. Feser, Mr. Richetelli and Mrs. Kopazna. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. RECONVENE**

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 9:42 p.m.

Ms. Dibiase made a motion that the Board approves the sum of \$62,353 to be used for salary increases for 2016-17 for non-union employees, at the discretion of the superintendent, as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Suzanne DiBiase