

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Committee of the Whole Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2024

Board members present:

Meghan Doyle
Scott Firmender
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)
Tracey Irby
Loren Mahler
Una Petroske
Christina Prete
Una Petroske
Michael Smith
Cindy Wolfe-Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Steven Autieri
Sean Brennan
Louis Giancola
Wendy Kopazna
Jennifer Stewart

Board members absent:

Thomas Koba (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education room at Parsons. By a roll call, nine (9) Board members were present.

II. NEXT GENERATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Mr. Autieri gave a report on the 2022-23 Next Generation Accountability Report, which included the District Profile and Performance Report. He explained the purpose of the Next Generation Accountability System is to measure school and district success toward the goal of providing every student a quality education that prepares them for success. Each school receives a score calculated using a formula that incorporates the 12 system indicators (Academic achievement, academic growth, assessment participation rate, Chronic absenteeism, Preparation for postsecondary and career coursework and exams, Graduation 1) on track in ninth grade, 2) four-year adjusted cohort and, 3) six-year adjusted cohort, postsecondary entrance rate, physical fitness, and arts access). Performance on each indicator is measured against a state assigned goal/target. The Accountability Index is the percentage of points earned across all available indicators.

Mr. Autieri reviewed the district's scores on all 12 indicators. During his review, he also said the departments continue to discuss strategies for improvement. The District's score is 73.6% for the accountability index which is higher than the 69.3% state score. He also shared the District Profile and Performance Report with the Board.

A Board discussion ensued.

III. POLICIES FOR A FIRST READING

Dr. Cutaia presented four policies to the Board for review. Those policies included P-5118.1 Homeless, P-6146 Graduation Requirements, P-6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program and P-6172.6 Remote/Online Learning.

The policies will be changed as requested. They will be presented for approval at the next business meeting.

IV. 2024-25 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Brennan provided an overview of the Board of Finance's action on the budget, which resulted in a reduction of \$1,335,429 to the Board of Education's proposed budget of \$111,285,770. The Board of Aldermen will take up a discussion of the budget in April.

Dr. Cutaia told the Board the reduction will have a significant impact on the District. New initiatives will most likely have to be put on hold. She suggested the Board should begin those discussions soon and the Board agreed to include the topic on the April 8th business meeting and will schedule additional meetings as necessary.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridget Krauss – Mrs. Krauss expressed her shock at the Board of Finance's cut to the budget. She supports the full amount presented.

Chris Thomas – 8 Argyle Road – Mr. Thomas told the Board that the difference between the approved and the reduction made by the Board of Finance amounts to \$85 a year to each taxpayer. He encouraged the Board to be assertive and ask questions of the Board of Aldermen. He also reminded everyone of the campaign efforts of the sitting mayor.

Emmy Oake – 30 Darina Drive – Ms. Oake was horrified by the budget cut. There will be repercussions for the younger generations. She supports the Board's proposed budget.

Skye Cornell – 14 Bonseline Street – She said the community voice has not been heard. She thanked the Board for being fiscally responsible. She supports the budget as presented.

Kara Flannery – 41 North Street – Mrs. Flannery said this feels like last year all over. She reminded everyone of the efforts made by the community last year to support the Board of Education's budget. We learned that every voice counts.

Emmeline Harrigan – 107 Oronoque Road – Mrs. Harrigan shared disappointment in the Board of Finance reduction. She supports the Board of Education's budget as presented.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Firmender seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske