

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2020

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Chair)
Rita Hennessey
Emily McDonough Souza
Warren Pawlowski
Betsy Ratner
Nicole Wasson
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Dr. Amy Fedigan
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli
Chris Brown

Board members absent:

Una Petroske (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the virtual board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. By a roll call, nine Board members were present. Ms. Glennon then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Ben Carlson and Daniya Chopra offered a report from Foran. Angel Santiago and Alexis Broderick offered a report from Law.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board there will not be a committee of the whole in December and wished everyone a happy holiday. The Superintendent will present the budget for 2021-22 at the January business meeting on January 11th, followed by three budget workshops, January 13, 14 and possible vote on January 20th. The Board is also asked to hold January 21st if needed. The committee of the whole meeting scheduled for January 25th may be cancelled.

Ms. Glennon told the Board efforts are underway to have public comment added to the virtual meetings beginning in January.

Ms. Glennon called for liaison reports.

Ms. Glennon attended the PTA Council meeting where she informed the council of the budget workshop dates.

Board Resolution on Race, Equity and Social Justice

Ms. Glennon said she designated an ad hoc committee at the October business meeting to draft a resolution to support the district's work on race, equity and social justice. She said the first reading of the resolution was discussed at the November committee of the whole meeting. The Board made some edits and those changes have been made, including "efforts of student leaders raising their voices to advocate for systemic change, as well as" to the second to the last paragraph to recognize the student's efforts as Mr. De Young suggested. Ms. Glennon asked for a motion.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the resolution on race, equity and social justice as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded.

Mr. De Young said he appreciates the addition of the language he suggested.

By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Fowler offered a liaison report for the Permanent School Building Facilities Committee. The committee has narrowed its search for the Pumpkin Delight renovations to one architectural firm.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight: Dr. Fedigan and Mr. Sean Smyth, instructional supervisor of student development and wellness, narrated a presentation on early childhood education in MPS, what the district currently offers as well as results from a district study and the plans to strengthen the programs. She began by sharing an exercise using Legos that depicted an executive function activity. The executive function skills used included listening, working memory, following directions, flexible thinking, and maintaining focus. Research shows that executive function helps support learning. During the presentation, Mr. Smyth explained how children play today opposed to past years. Dr. Fedigan reviewed the commendations and recommendations of the study. She concluded the presentation by sharing the next steps the district will take to strengthen early childhood education in MPS. The presentation can be found online.

Ms. Glennon thanked the Administration for the presentation. She believes the shift will have a positive impact on early childhood education and beyond.

Mr. De Young echoed Ms. Glennon's sentiments.

Ms. Wasson reiterated the importance of executive functioning. She works with college students and executive functioning is so important at that age too.

Board Policies Second Reading

Dr. Cutaia told the Board the Administration continues its review of policies. Five policies were presented and discussed at the November committee of the board meeting. There were some changes recommended by the Board. Those changes have been made and the policies are being presented for approval.

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Fowler to read the motions for each policy.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy, 4000.1 Title IX as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy, 4118.11 Nondiscrimination as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy, 4118.14 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy 4118.112 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy 4118.231 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Proposed 2021-22 Academic Calendar for First Reading

Dr. Cutaia presented the 2021-22 Academic Calendar to the Board as a first reading. The state statute requires the Board to approve a school calendar with 180 days in session. Milford has designated 181 student days; 185 for teachers. The first day for students is scheduled to be September 1, 2021.

Administration will present the calendar for approval at the January Board meeting.

2021 Board of Education Schedule of Meetings

The Board is required to submit its annual meeting schedule to the Connecticut Secretary of State for the following calendar year. The 2021 Board of Education Schedule of Meetings was presented.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion to approve the 2021 Board of Education Schedule of Meetings.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the 2021 Board of Education Schedule of Meetings as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report for December. Included in the report were the personnel changes as well as stipend appointments.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the Disbursement Report for the month of November. The report continues to highlight COVID related expenses in yellow.

V. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSION OF SALARIES FOR NON-CERTIFIED/NON-UNION EXPENSES

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education adjourn to executive session for discussion of salaries for non-certified/non-union employees. Invited into the session are: Dr. Cutaia, Mr. Richetelli and Ms. Kopazna. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed. (8:46 p.m.)

Ms. Glennon reconvened to public session at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the sum of \$103,783 to be used for salary increases for non-union employees at the discretion of the Superintendent for 2021-22 as discussed in executive session. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 8-0 (B. Ratner absent for the vote), the motion passed.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

November 9, 2020 Business Meeting

November 23, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mr. Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

None.

VIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-YEAR

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. Fowler for a motion to adjourn to executive session.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year. Invited into the session is Dr. Cutaia. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. By a roll call vote, 9-0, the motion passed. (9:20 p.m.)

Ms. Glennon reconvened the meeting to public session at 10:05. She asked for a motion to adjourn.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Approved

Mr. Fowler made a motion adjourn. Mr. Pawlowski. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mr. Fowler