

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Meghan Doyle
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)
Emily McDonough Souza
Holly Mulrenan
Una Petroske
Betsy Ratner
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

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

Board members absent:

Rita Hennessey (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Jonathan Law auditorium. By a roll call, nine (9) Board members were present.

Ms. Glennon reviewed housekeeping which included wearing masks at all times while inside a school building and during public comment.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Jackson Wartens and Aidan King presented the report for Law. David Gaetano and Arezoo Ghazagh presented the report for Foran.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Glennon read the public comment statement.

The community members below shared comments in support of making mask wearing optional in the school setting.

Mason – (student)
Terri Smith - 90 Snowapple Lane
Holden Orr (student)
Kathy Biven - 85 Jepson Drive
Madeline Paterna (student)
Miles Paterna (student)
Delaney Morin (student)
Deanna Morin -7 Greer Circle
Donna Lorenzo - 166 Snowapple Lane

Name Unknown - 106 Burnt Plains Road
Scarlett Kuba (student)
Chad Van Vlieden - 41 Recent Place
Jennifer Murphy - 708 East Broadway
Julia Hilthouse - 30 Hilldale Court
Tanya Unger - 21 Summner Avenue
Mr. Unger - 21 Summner Avenue
Charles Pritchard - 91 Jepson Drive
Raquel Bonessi - 83 Beach Avenue
Erin Coyle - 55 Commodore Place
Daniel Lagasse - 959 New Haven Avenue
Matthew Paterna -
Athena Blude - Meadowside Road
Ms. Vanderwoude - 92 Dale Drive
Christine Valiquette - 10 Seaview Avenue

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon thanked the speakers for their comments. She said there are many moving pieces that involve the State Department of Education and the State Health Department. She then told the Board she received Mrs. Hennessey's resignation citing health reasons. Per regulations, her fourth district party will nominate her replacement to be voted on by the remaining board members.

She called for liaison reports.

Mr. Fowler said the Permanent Schools Committee met twice regarding the Pumpkin Delight additions and renovations. The architect will share a presentation with the Board tonight.

Mrs. Ratner shared an update on the Milford Prevention Council. The Council is expanding community partnerships and continue to fight the opioid crisis.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cutaia thanked the speakers for their comments. There are a series of state meetings that will provide Superintendents with guidance in making the mask decisions. She assured the Board and the public that the district will be doing its due diligence before reaching a decision.

Instructional Highlight: Student Support Services

Mr. Brown narrated a presentation that demonstrated how the district is handling student support services. The ultimate goal of the district is to prepare the students for success post graduation. He shared there are two types of support services: physical development and social and emotional development. Physical development includes occupational therapy, physical, speech and hearing while social and emotional services include school psychology, social work, school counseling and speech and language therapy. Mr. Brown gave details of how the district is responding to the spike in mental health needs. All services support students through prevention, evaluation and intervention across all developmental areas.

Approval of the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Pumpkin Delight Project

Mr. Richetelli introduced Mr. Widofsky from Tecton who shared a brief presentation on Pumpkin Delight renovations and additions to bring the school up to current standards. The project includes construction of a new cafeteria/gym, a dedicated media center and a Science lab/classroom. The project will also include general alterations, improvements and code compliance. A secured vestibule will be constructed at the front entrance.

Approval of the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Expansion and Alterations Project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School from the Board is a requirement to obtain reimbursement from the State.

Mrs. Peroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the final drawings, project manuals and professional cost estimate in the Uniformat II format for the Expansion and Alterations Project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School (State Project #084-0213 E/A). Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

School Safety and Security Report

Coordinator of School Safety and Security Mr. Nielsen narrated a presentation that highlighted school security, and safety upgrades that have been done. Additionally, Mr. Nielsen included new procedures that have been added that respond to the increase in the mental health needs. Those supports include crisis response teams, mental health screenings and teamwork with the goal of developing positive relationships with peers and adults. Captain Delmonte of the Milford Police Dept provided an overview of the school resource officers and emphasized the strong relationships they have with the students.

Human Resources Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the Human Resources Report for January. Included in the report were the personnel changes. Ten retirements have been received to date.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the Disbursement Report for the month of January. COVID related expenses continue to be highlighted in yellow.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

- January 10, 2022 Business Meeting
- January 12, 2022 Budget Workshop
- January 13, 2022 Budget Workshop
- January 19, 2022 Budget Workshop

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. By a roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. De Young thanked the public for their comments. He is confident that the Administration will do

due diligence.

Mr. Fowler echoed Mr. De Young's comments. He hopes that the students will return to some normalcy.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske