

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2021

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

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

Board members absent:

Rita Hennessey (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. COVID-19 BUDGET UPDATE AND REVIEW OF FEDERAL AND STATE COVID GRANTS

Mr. Richetelli provided an update on the COVID-19 Budget revenue and expenditures and the available grants. A new grant, American Rescue Grant (ARP) was authorized two weeks ago which is also referred to as ESSER III.

He then reported, since the February report there have not been a lot of changes but rather shifting of dollars. Some shifts are directly related to returning to the classroom five days and the expectation of being in school five days a week through the end of the school year. A deficit of 1.3M is projected. Mr. Richetelli believes the district will be able to cover the deficit in the general budget. The budget freeze has been lifted now that we know the district will be getting additional grant money.

Dr Cutaia shared a brief presentation with the Board of the grants, criteria for expenditure and the funds disbursed to date. In summary, Milford has disbursed \$957,310 of the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), \$456,031 of the CARES/ ESSER I. ESSER II and III funds can be used for COVID expenses through September 2023. However, the disbursement of the funds has limitations. Funds can supplement the operational budget,

not supplant operational budget dollars.

III. MPS DISTRICT GOALS

Dr. Cutaia introduced Executive Director of Connecticut's State Education Resource Center (SERC) Mrs. Ingrid Canady to the Board who will be working with the district and the Board in developing its capacity around race, equity and social justice.

Mrs. Canady provided the Board with the background of SERC and its mission which is to provide resources, professional development, and a centralized library to educators, families, and community members in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education and other partners. Through its mission, SERC seeks equity and excellence in education for all.

Mrs. Canady then commended the Board on its recent action to address racism, equity and social justice and discussed future strategies that can help the Board be intentional in its work through deliberate actions. She highlighted the strong language used in the resolution.

Following the presentation, she paused and asked the Board to reflect. Some Board members expressed how privileged they felt.

Ms. Glennon thanked Mrs. Canady for her presentation.

The MPS Goals document will be discussed at the next workshop.

IV. BOARD POLICIES FOR A FIRST READING

Dr. Cutaia and Dr. Fedigan presented revisions to the following policies; 5145.13 Conducting Research in the Schools, 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment, 5145.15 Directory Information, 6162.51 Survey of Students, 6176 Career and Vocational Education. The Board offered some changes and posed some questions that would need advice from counsel. The administration will present the policies for approval after edits are made and counsel has responded to the questions.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske