

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Special Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2023

Board members present:

Katherine Alling
Adam De Young
Meghan Doyle
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)
Tracey Irby
Emily McDonough Souza
Gary Peluchette
Una Petroske
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Jim Richetelli
Chris Brown
Wendy Kopazna

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room at Parsons. By a roll call, all ten (10) Board members were present.

Ms. Glennon reminded participants that the Board was continuing the discussion from Monday on the best way to offset the significant \$1.8 million budget reduction made by the Board of Finance. She encouraged people to review the video from Monday to understand what has already been discussed.

II. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Dr. Cutaia gave a brief overview of Monday's presentation. The Board then continued its budget discussion and reviewed the remainder of the list of suggested reductions.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Ratner – 1423 Windward Road – Mrs. Ratner is saddened to hear the budget is being cut. The expertise that the counselor can give is life skills that last forever. She believes in giving the children all that they need.

Jessica DeYoung – 74 Oriole Lane - She shared some comments from her neighbor. She thanked the Board for their work on the budget. She recapped how everything stopped three years ago due to COVID. She supports the budget.

Ted Boynton – 30 Whalley Street – Mr. Boynton is the president of the paraprofessional union. He is a lifelong resident who has seen many changes in the school system. All of the changes have been for the betterment of the children. The budget cuts are a travesty for kids, staff and BOE. Doing this is not progress.

Kara Flannery – 41 North Street – Ms. Flannery did an analysis of the mill rate with the proposed increase.

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Milford has one of the lowest mill rates in the region. The change in the mill rate equals an increase of \$42 a year for a homeowner with a median home valued at \$400,000. We need 10 courageous aldermen to vote to reinstate the money.

Mary Ellen Coloski – 326 Main Street – Dr. Coloski is the president of the teachers union. She encouraged everyone to go to their alderman for support.

Chris Thomas – 8 Argyle Road - He is a parent. The Board and Administration have been doing a good job for the city of Milford. He said the Board of Finance has made a mistake. Milford has exceptional public services, education, and housing. He called on everyone to go to the Board of Aldermen meeting and speak the truth.

Terri Smith – 90 Snowapple Lane – Ms. Smith has a background in facility management. Milford has years and years of problems and she feels constituents have been lied to about the city's financial condition. This has been about politics. The kids are important and should be the focus. She appreciates the Board's effort. She is concerned that the district has significant contract obligations that can't be met without this increase. Closing a school is a significant change for our kids. Maybe we can get creative with redistricting and/or build new buildings.

Sara Bromley – 27 Norway – She doesn't believe that Milford does not have the money to cover the budget. We need to invest in our schools. The Board could save money by replacing SROs with social workers.

Cassandra Schull - 445 High Street - She is a member of the community serving various volunteer roles. She supports the budget as presented by the Board. She moved to Milford to provide a good education for her son. Making life the best quality for children should be the priority. The things we offer in Milford are what brings people here.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peluchette made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske