

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2023

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Jim Richetelli
Chris Brown
Wendy Kopazna

Board members absent:

Gary Peluchette (excused)

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, nine (9) Board members were present.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Venice Montanaro and Connor Nieman updated the Board on the activities at Joseph A. Foran. Skylar Johnson and Cole Pleimann updated the Board on the activities at Jonathan Law.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Demetrius Scudder – He son attends Harborside Middle School. He is experiencing racial bullying. He no longer wants to go to school. He is in the process of enrolling into homeschooling. Mr. Scudder asked for effort.

Name Unknown – He is a bilingual immigrant. They want to feel included and contribute to society.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon thanked the speakers for their comments. The Equity and Engagement supervisor will provide an update on that work at the May business meeting and the Board is committed to this work.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight: Next Generation Accountability Report and District Performance Report

Dr. Cutaia gave a report on the 2021-22 Next Generation Accountability Report and the District Profile and Performance Report. The Next Generation Accountability System helps 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. There is a tiered system of resources and supports for schools based on their score. She reminded the Board the district was still in a pandemic and students were still wearing masks until February 2022. Testing began in March. Some scores decreased from the 2018-19 school year to current. However, the overall district scores were at or above state averages.

Board Update on Elementary Instructional Coaching

Dr. Cutaia began with comments on how instructional coaching has been a key leadership move for the district. The PK-5 instructional coaching role was reformed from an interventionist to a coach. The interventionist focuses on remediation (waiting for a student to fail before intervening, which removes the child from the classroom), as opposed to a definitive plan of acceleration. She shared recommendations from the special education opportunities audit that was conducted in 2013, a 2017 Coherence study and a 2019 literacy program review which informed the decision to shift in the spring 2021 to instructional coaches in an effort to build teacher capacity. The instructional coaches are part of their respective schools. They collaborate with teachers to improve instructional practice and also provide support to struggling learners. Instructional coaches and teachers shared their experiences.

High School Graduation Dates

Dr. Cutaia proposed June 13, 2023 for Jonathan Law High School's graduation and, June 14, 2023 for Joseph A. Foran High School's graduation. Both graduations will be held at 5:15 p.m. at their respective schools.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education establishes graduation dates of Tuesday, June 13, 2023 and Wednesday, June 14, 2023 for the senior classes of Law and Foran High Schools respectively. Graduation ceremonies should begin at 5:15 p.m. for both high schools. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources

Ms. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report for March. The report included personnel changes, job postings, retirements, resignations/terminations, and stipend appointments. Five retirements have been submitted to date. Two more are expected to be submitted.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli pointed to the areas in the report that reflect cause for concerns and surpluses. The report shows a deficit of 1.2M is projected. Excess Cost Grant reimbursements will cover some of shortages in the special education accounts. Other measures have been put in place to ensure the budget will balance at the end of the year. This includes a 10% freeze on the instructional and non-instructional accounts.

Disbursements Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the Disbursement Report for March.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Consideration of Minutes:

- March 13, 2023 Business Meeting
- March 27, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- March 29, 2023 Special Meeting

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

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Board members, Mrs. Petroske, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. McDonough-Souza, Mr. De Young, Ms. Wolfe Boynton, Mrs. Irby, Mrs. Alling offered comments in support of the district’s work and the budget as presented and agreed the likely outcome of 1.8M reduction to the budget would be closing a school. The Board appreciates the community coming out to support the budget.

Mr. Fowler agreed that a school closure is the only way to absorb a 1.8M reduction.

Ms. Glennon thanked the Board members for their comments. She hopes the Board of Aldermen will do their due diligence and restore the 1.8M.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske