

**Milford Board of Education**

**Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube**

**Meeting Minutes**

September 27, 2021

**Board members present:**

Adam De Young  
Meghan Doyle  
Andrew Fowler  
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)  
Rita Hennessey  
Emily McDonough Souza  
Warren Pawlowski  
Una Petroske  
Betsy Ratner  
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

**Administration present:**

Dr. Anna Cutaia  
Dr. Amy Fedigan  
Jim Richetelli

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. By a roll call, ten Board members were present. Ms. Glennon then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Shelly Eisenhandler - 74 Masters Lane - Her son has been placed in quarantine twice missing 10 in person instructional days of school. She asked the Board to look into a better solution for students who are remote learners during the quarantine process.

Peter Berube - 11 Bertrose Avenue - Mr. Berube urged the Board to include parents when making decisions on education.

Amanda Kemp – 3 Kinloch Street - She encouraged the Board to continue to fully support an equitable environment for all students.

Matt Paterna - Address Unknown - Dr. Paterna urged the Board to use critical thinking. The vaccination should be an individual's decision.

Justine ? - Munson Street - She is in agreement with the requirement of staff being

vaccinated and masks. On the proposed 2022-22 Budget Priorities and Assumptions, she would like to see an increase in FTE in media with special attention to the arts and supports play based learning.

Halina Chodzińska - Address Unknown - Ms. Chodzinska told the Board that equity is very important. She gave some examples of inequity.

Patrick Barrett - 60 South Broad Street - Ms. Barrett offered comments about how important RESJ is and said the social studies curriculum has not been revised in 8 years. Only got one side when he was at Foran. The district has the opportunity to teach the children better.

Sarah Barrett - 5 Greenwich Way - Mr. Bennett offered her support of RESJ. She applauds the Board supporting the work.

Kimberly Dunne - Address Unknown – Former Foran student. Ms. Dunne wholeheartedly supports the mask mandate, social and emotional focus and RESJ.

Bill Doyle - 529 Plains Road - Mr. Doyle thanked the Board for following the COVID vaccination mandate for staff.

Terri Smith - Snowapple Lane - Ms. Smith said there is lack of transparency with regard to social and emotional learning. Her biggest concern is that no one knew what was happening. There has been no parent voice.

Bruce Barrett - 47 Point Beach Road - Mr. Barrett thanked the Board for the work they are doing on RESJ. Discussion of race was taboo when he was in school.

Laura Fucci - 418 Anderson Avenue - Mrs. Fucci believes the district focuses on teaching critical thinking skills and the process for teaching equity means fairness. She applauded the Board for their work on RESJ.

Corrine Fucci - 418 Anderson Avenue - Ms. Fucci offered her comments in support of RESJ.

Erin Coyle - Address Unknown - Ms. Coyle said the district should focus on stronger academics not divisive racial studies. She is tired of selling out the kids for funding. It is all about money.

Tara Galbo - Address Unknown - She is concerned about her son seeing people for who they are. Too much attention is being spent on RESJ. Scale it back to a chapter not a whole unit.

Theresa Eke - 47 Point Beach Dr. - She is in support of RESJ. There is nothing that takes away from anyone else. Only adds. We need to model bravery.

Sarah Bromley - 27 Norway Street - thanked the Board for being critical thinkers. She supports the current curriculum that teaches deeper thinking so kids can form own opinions.

Nicole ? - Address Unknown - Lifelong Milfordite. She does not support the kids being taught constantly about race. She provided stats from an unknown source that said kids are not dying from COVID. Please unmask the children.

Theresa Vanwelden - 41 Regent Terrace – Teacher in Bridgeport. She is against wearing masks in school, however, is in support of RESJ.

Erin Pinsince - Address Unknown - Ms. Pinsince is in support of social and emotional learning which is best for kids

Carl Moore - 72 Snowapple Lane - He thanked the Board for the RESJ work. It is a small step forward.

Barry Bonnessi - Address Unknown - Mr. Bonnessi invited people to attend an open forum to discuss the BOE doings over the past year.

Phineas Lattanzi - Address Unknown - Mr. Lattanzi is an 8th grader at Harborside. He told the Board the masks are not working.

Mr. Lattanzi - Address Unknown - Mr. Lattanzi is against keeping the kids in masks. He wants a virtual option for students who are in quarantine.

Lauren Mahler - 33 Norway Street – Parent of 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. She agrees we all want what is best for the kids. Kids must understand all of it warts and all. She supports the proposed budget priorities.

Renee Casey - 31 Riverside Drive - She told the Board they should be transparent. Everyone is struggling. The priority should be the students.

Rebecca Lattanzi - 17 Rogers Avenue – Parent of 2 students. Son and husband spoke earlier. Pointed to nonsensical discussion and finger pointing.

Ruth Arnold - Zurko Farm Road - read a statement from a JLHS student Rafer (last name unknown) who supports districts work, masks and vaccines.

Ms. Glennon thanked the speakers for their comments.

### **III. 2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET PRIORITIES AND ASSUMPTIONS**

Dr. Cutaia presented the 2022-23 proposed priorities to the Board for discussion. Some items that were previously taken out due to the COVID pandemic have been placed back in to continue the district's work to meet its commitments and goals. The board asked questions, provided feedback and discussed some language changes. The priorities will be presented for a second read and approval at the October business meeting.

Mr. Richetelli reviewed the 2022-23 assumptions. The assumptions provide some financial forecasting, constraints, and other factors that may impact the budget. The assumptions are made based on the best information available today for a budget year that is 18 months out. Some items include the pandemic, enrollment, staffing, salaries, special education, transportation, etc. The board discussed and provided feedback. The assumptions will be brought back to the October business meeting for approval.

### **IV. BOARD POLICIES FOR A FIRST READING**

In light of the time of the evening, Ms. Glennon moved the 4118.239 COVID Vaccines policy ahead of the other policies for discussion.

Dr. Cutaia presented four policies, all of which are required by law.  
4118.239 - Required COVID-19 Vaccinations by staff needs to be in place by September 27, 2021. The district is complying with the Governor's executive order. Procedures and implications for vaccinated and unvaccinated staff are outlined in the policy. While there is an election in November, the district is required to follow the mandates currently in place. The Board recommended a few language changes and asked the Administration to verify the use of "Board vs District."

4118.232 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace replaces includes more language relative to CBD usage. It will replace Board policy 4118.231. The Board asked the Administration to be clear with the language in "prohibitive behavior" and "prescription drugs". Some tweaks were also recommended with placement of bullets.

4118.231/5141.231 - Psychotropic Drug Use - This policy currently resides in the 5000

series and is also needed in the 4000s.

6141.323 - Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering - The Board asked the Administration to review the filtering section of the policy to make sure it is clear and succinct.

All four policies will be presented for approval at the October business meeting.

Due to the time, Ms. Glennon asked that the Transportation report be moved to another meeting. All Board members agreed.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion to adjourn.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Una Petroske