

Milford Board of Education

**Business Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2017**

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Michael DeGrego
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico (arrived 7:05)
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Jess Gregory
Walter Hagedorn
Tom Jagodzinski
Susan Krushinsky
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
James Richetelli
Carole Swift

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser recognized Foran High School senior, Brett Huber. Brett has broken the State football record, set in 1970, for “number of receptions in a single season.” In addition, Brett broke the State record for “career receptions.” Brett was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

The Foran High School Girls Swim team was the next recognition. The swim team has won four state championships. Congratulations were given to the team, and also, to Coach Skuches for being named a “2016 Southern Connecticut Conference Division II Coach of the Year.” Recognized were:

Sarah Fitzgerald, Grade 11	Emily Sportini, Grade 11
Ava Corsi, Grade 11	Emma Longley, Grade 11
Jordan MacDonald, Grade 9	

The final recognition of the evening was presented to Jonathan Law’s United Sports program. The team was recently named a “Unified Champion Banner School”, a national award sponsored by Special Olympics International. To be selected, you must have teams that participate in at least two sports seasons, must demonstrate inclusive youth leadership, demonstrate whole school engagement and must ensure the sustainability of these components. Coach Pat Daniels, along with Hunter Cain, Slade Broga and Atul Joseph were recognized for this accomplishment.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated the recipients.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Pierce Klein presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran. Jillian Bendlak and Tyler Chavez presented the student report for Jonathan Law.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon noted the upcoming workshops and meetings. There will be a public hearing where residents can speak about the budget on February 2nd at 7:00 at City Hall. The Board will present its budget to the Board of Finance on February 15th at 6:30 in Conference Room B. There will be an executive session on January 23rd for the Superintendents mid-year evaluation. She then advised the Board of the changes made to the Board Meeting Planner by Board leadership.

February Business meeting will have a Security Update

February Committee of the Whole meeting will have the Mid-year Assessments Check In

March Committee of the Whole meeting will focus on the Review of the DMC Special Education Recommendations

April Committee of the Whole meeting will be dedicated to Social/Emotional Curriculum and a Parent Involvement Report

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Dr. Gregory stated the Invention Convention will be held on March 11th. More information can found on the Milford Education Foundation's website.

Ms. Glennon reported on the recent PTA Council meeting. The Budget and Academic Calendar were some topics of discussion. In addition, a representative from the Health Department was present to talk to the group about food guidelines.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight: The Academy

Dr. Feser turned the meeting over to Mr. Burt.

Mr. Burt introduced Mrs. Scionti, principal of The Academy. Mrs. Scionti provided the Board with a background of the program, noting The Academy is a choice program for students. The primary goal of the program is to build independence and guide students to become independent citizens beyond school age. Students are offered opportunities through project based learning, problem solving from the classroom to real life experiences. Mrs. Scionti provided an example of the Marine Science Aquaponics student led project. The program also offers courses that students need in order to meet graduation requirements and credit recovery. Internship opportunities are offered to some students in the program. Upon completion of the program, twelfth grade students complete an exit portfolio. In addition, the program highlight included

a current twelfth grade student who shared her personal experience at The Academy, and a team driven drumming session led by music teacher, Ms. Voss.

Superintendent's Proposed 2017-18 Budget

Dr. Feser presented her proposed 2017-18 Budget to the Board. The proposal is for \$92,366,582, which is less than a 1% increase. The PowerPoint presentation is on file. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions.

A discussion ensued around the roll out of the new science standards and use of the chromebooks vs textbooks.

Board members were also reminded that questions submitted in writing will be addressed during the budget workshops.

2017-2018 Academic Calendar

Dr. Feser presented the 2017-18 Academic Calendar for a second reading and approval. At the December Board meeting it was requested that the vacation and the professional development days not be outlined, only shaded. Those changes were made.

A Board discussion ensued around the half days and conference days, and its impact on parents and students.

Following the discussion, Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Board of Education approves the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar as amended. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The duration for weather delays in the 2017-18 school year will be discussed at the February meeting.

Policies

Dr. Feser presented the revised Transportation Policy 3541 to the Board for a second reading and approval.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Transportation Policy 3541 with the recommended changes. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed 9-0 (Mrs. Krushinsky not present).

Dr. Feser presented the Homeless Policy 5118.1 for a second reading and approval. She said the language in the Administrative Regulation which references "trailer parks" is in the recommendation by CABE. Mr. Burt added the language is directly from state legislation.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Homeless Students 5118.1. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Feser then presented five policies for a first reading.

P 5114

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

P 5131.111	Video Surveillance
P 5131.6	Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances)
P 5145.11	Police in Schools
P 5145.12	Search and Seizure

Following the discussion, the Board requested the following:

- P-5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process – Under A. Definitions #15 Dangerous Instruments – Have an attorney review the word usage for a knife.

Under D Suspension and Expulsion I. “facsimile” Should we add the words “*a realistic facsimile?*”
Seek legal advice.

Under F #3 Change “Board” to “Superintendent.”

Under H. Expulsion Procedures – Look at the word use of “Board.”

Under H #3 “Three members of the Board of Ed shall constitute a quorum for an expulsion hearing.” Six members of MBOE constitute a quorum. Which is correct according to the law?

In the policy add “*or a hearing officer designated by the Board*” wherever it references “Board.”

- AR-5131.111 – Video Surveillance - Under Requests to View Video Surveillance #8 – “Video recordings will remain the property of the District and may be reproduced only in accordance with the law, including applicable Board policy and regulations.”

Under Student Records #1 “Video recordings may become a part of a student’s educational record.”

Those two statements can be contradictory. Send to an attorney for clarification.

- P-5131.6 – Under Inhalant Abuse – CO2 Cartridge does not belong with Nitrous Oxide. Use correct acronym.
- P-5145.11 Police in Schools – See legal advice for the first paragraph.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli reported on the quarterly budget report stating the budget is on target for the mid-year point. There is a deficit in the Special Education tuition account (5601) which is typical. The district receives reimbursement dollars for this account through the State Excess Cost Grant, a state grant. The grant dollars come into the city and are disbursed to the school district as needed. Due to the state’s fiscal situation there has been talk that this grant could be reduced. Mr. Richetelli indicated that they will closely follow these developments.

In addition, the state has indicated it will be scaling back on the Education Cost Sharing Grant, by about \$382,000, and another city grant (LOSIF) by about \$330,000. The Mayor has asked all department heads to

implement cost savings measures. In a good faith effort, the district will follow the similar guidelines, i.e. overtime will need to be approved by Mr. Richetelli in advance, there is a freeze on new hires, and non-essential vacancies will not be staffed. The 10% freeze account in the Educational Supplies account will not be released this year. In addition, the district will continue its efforts to limit the number of in-service days that teachers are pulled out of classrooms in a continuing effort to reduce the amount spent on substitute teachers. The district also expects a surplus in teacher substitutes and transportation. Near the end of the school year, administration and the Board will review the year end budget and possible surpluses. The Board can then choose to release funds back to the city in an effort to assist with the burden put on them from the state.

Human Resources Report

In Mrs. Kopazna's absence, Dr. Feser reported on the human resources activity for the month of December. She confirmed that only essential positions will be filled.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for December, 2016. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion on the consent agenda items.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda

1. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. December 12, 2016 Business Meeting

Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeGrego stated that he led a finger printing class at the WAVE afterschool program at West Shore. He was thrilled by the excitement of the students' interest.

Being no further Board Comment, Ms. Glennon called for a motion to adjourn.

X. ADJOURN

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Approved

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Ms. Suzanne DiBiase