

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2015

Board members present:

Michael DeGrego
John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Laura Fucci
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Michael Cummings
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli
Susan Kelleher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room at the Parsons Government Complex. She then asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for recognition.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

The first recognition was given to Fiona Noyes, an 11th grader at Foran student. Fiona served on the High School Nutmeg Book Award Selection Committee from January to October 2014 where she attended meetings, and read between 80-90 books during that time. After reading the assigned books, lively debates would take place amongst the group at the meetings. At their last meeting the committee chose 10 books for the coming year. Fiona was instrumental in the selection of excellent books for her classmates and other teens to read. Fiona did all of this while keeping up with her regular schoolwork.

Dr. Feser then recognized a group of students, and two very committed parents, who started FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). FIRST aspires to transform culture by making science, math, engineering and technology fun. Parents, Lori and Kris Seluga, made a presentation to Orchard Hills' PTA which explained how the program would work and received overwhelming support. Eight students committed to an after school club and built a Lego robot. When the robot was complete, the team then competed at local and regional events. The team eventually placed 9th at the state level.

The final recognition was given to Rachel Martinich, technical engineering and computer teacher. Rachel was named one of the top 100 computer science teacher in the country by National Science Foundation.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated all of the recipients.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Sofya Calvin and Kelsey Kopazna presented the report for Jonathan Law. Tyler Porcello and Shaina Arsenault presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Federico provided an update on the Permanent Schools and Facilities Building Committee meeting she attended reporting the East Shore renovation project is 98% complete.

Mr. Whiskeyman shared a video from ACES that gave a sample of the programs offered.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the Superintendent's report.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Division Highlight

Dr. Feser informed the Board that every month the administration will provide a presentation showcasing work, projects or programs that are happening in the school district. This month, Math Investigations, a math curriculum that Milford is in the process of implementing will be presented.

Mr. Cummings introduced Sara Kaminski (Math Coach), Pam Ward (Grade 2 teacher), Lisa Swanson (Supervisor) and Principal Marzonotti of Live Oaks Elementary School. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Kaminski conducted a math lesson with a group of students using a Smart Board. The Smart Board displayed how technology has progressed. The students' work exhibited the merits of the program and the changes in strategies of how math is taught.

Ms. Glennon thanked the group for their presentation.

Proposed 2015-16 Budget

Dr. Feser narrated a PowerPoint which gave the rationalization for the proposed budget increase of 2.19% for 2015-16 (on file). She explained the school system will undergo significant changes in the coming year. The costs associated with those changes have been factored into the proposed budget. She provided the Board with the guiding principles used in the development of the budget, student learning and high achievement being the priority. She concluded her presentation by asking that questions relative to the budget be submitted as soon as possible so administration could do the research and be prepared to discuss them at the workshop.

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Following the presentation, there were a few questions of the Board. The questions that were not answered and needed further follow-up were:

Roles of Teacher Leaders vs. Principals

Show the class sizes in the elementary level if you implemented multi-age classes in all of the schools

Provide more information on the literacy coaches

Provide the detail of the \$20,000 for MIS network wiring

Provide districts that have assigned security coordinators

Enrollment numbers as of January 2015

Mr. DeRosa expressed the desire to have the school resource officers at the elementary level. However, the request is for the middle school level.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board the school resource officer role is not for security. Their function relates more to school climate where they become part of the school community and may help with things like truancy and troubled students. They are also a resource to staff.

Ms. Glennon told the Board the budget will be discussed in detail at the workshop on January 15th.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli gave the quarterly budget report to the Board. He assured them there would be a balanced budget at the end of the year. The teachers' salaries account is running a surplus due to the number of retirements received. However, the budget put forth has a \$60,000 salary as a baseline for replacement teachers.

Concussion Policy

Mr. Scalice presented the Board with a newly created policy on concussions to be in alignment with Public Act 14-166 that was passed in 2014. The policy was drafted using state guidelines and language from the CIAC. The policy is based on state mandates. The policy is being presented as a first reading. It will be presented at the February business meeting for approval.

A discussion ensued.

Following the discussion, Ms. Glennon recommended that the policy be organized to allow a better flow.

Human Resources Report – December

Mrs. Kopazna reported on Human Resources Report for December.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items:

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 2. December 8, 2014 Business Meeting
 3. December 15, 2014 Special Meeting

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeGrego stated that he taught a forensics class at Jonathan Law.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fucci asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary