

Approved

## **Milford Board of Education**

Workshop Minutes  
January 17, 2012

### **Board members present:**

Tracy Casey  
Suzanne DiBiase  
George Gensure  
Susan Glennon  
Dora Kubek  
James Maroney  
Beverley Pierson  
Christopher Saley  
Mark Stapleton  
Earl Whiskeyman

### **Administration present:**

Dr. Elizabeth Feser  
Sue Kelleher  
Wendy Kopazna  
James Richetelli

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Milford Board of Education held a budget workshop on Thursday, January 17, 2012, in the Board Room in the Parsons Complex. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

## **II. 2012-13 PROPOSED BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. Richetelli reviewed the questions and answers submitted by the board that were relative to the Operations Division (see attached questions 78 – 87).

Dr. Stapleton clarified that there is no increase in the 2012-13 budget for the transportation account.

Mrs. Casey corrected him by stating that the transportation account did increase by \$5,000.

Mr. Richetelli explained the regular education transportation account actually decreased.

Mr. Saley asked how many busses make the runs for the afterschool programs. He was told \$36,000 covers the expense for the late buses.

Mr. Saley told administration that he feels costs can be saved in transportation by thinking outside of the box, by being more creative and frugal. He mentioned “safe path”.

Ms. Glennon asked how many runs the buses make in a day.

Mr. Gensure suggested bus passes be offered to high school students. Many buses are only half filled.

Mr. Whiskeyman suggested offering students who opt to drive to school a parking space.

Mrs. Casey asked what the law requires the district to provide to students. Is there an opt out program? She explained the board would like administration to review different options that could save costs in the transportation program. The goal is to find inefficiencies that do not impact instruction.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lisa Biagioni – 73 Sentinel Hill Road – She sent all board members an email (on file) explaining the need to restore the five paraprofessional positions. The administration is proposing to add a behaviorist and a Special Education teacher. She disagrees with the proposal.

Joe Simoncek – 61 Governor’s Avenue – He congratulated the superintendent for not calling off school due to the inclement weather. He then expressed his concerns about the new programs being offered. He said the district is steering away from the core average student. He then said the he hopes when the board is looking at the transportation costs, safety is the priority.

### **IV. ACTION**

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve administration’s recommendation of the 2012-13 Proposed Education Operations Budget in the amount of \$ 87,022,363 and direct the administration to submit the budget to the Mayor, Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen. Dr. Stapleton seconded the motion.

Mr. Maroney then made an amendment to the motion to reduce account 5100, regular transportation by 200,000 to a new total of 2,002,002; to reduce account 3238 by 25,000 to 50,000; to reduce 1119 coaches and advisors by 5,000 to 568,479; and to restore 100,000 to 1000 accounts to positions in special education. Mrs. Kubek seconded the motion.

Dr. Stapleton said he was not clear where the recommendation came from. He doesn’t agree with the philosophy. The board should decide an amount or a percentage. The education professional’s should be in charge of the appropriation of funds.

Mrs. Glennon said that philosophically that may be correct. However, the board is following a parliamentary procedure.

Mrs. Casey repeated the motion on the floor.

Dr. Stapleton said administration should be allowed to manage the dollars.

Mrs. Casey called for a roll call.

By a roll call vote 7-3 (No-Stapleton, Glennon, DiBiase), the vote passed.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Approved

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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James Maroney  
Corresponding Secretary

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Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary