

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
January 22, 2008

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, January 22, 2008 in the Board of Education Meeting Room of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Members Present

Mr. D. Amendola  
Mrs. T. Casey  
Chairman D. Hourigan  
Mr. J. Quish  
Mrs. J. Rohrig  
Mr. J. Santa Barbara  
Mrs. P. Staneski  
Mrs. G. Stanford  
Mr. D. Steinlauf

Absent

Mrs. C. Kopazna

Chairman Hourigan announced Mrs. C. Kopazna will not be in attendance due to a work conflict.

He then asked for a motion to move the Board Discussion to Action on the agenda.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mr. SantaBarbara seconded a motion to move Board Discussion item on the agenda under (III) to Action item on the agenda under (V). Motion passed.

Chairman Hourigan then turned the meeting over the Dr. Polansky.

Dr. Polansky reported that 10.1 million dollars was cut from the budget before it was presented to the board. He said this system needs what has been presented to carry on the excellence the school system has come to know.

He then asked Mr. Cummings to speak.

Mr. Cummings stated the ultimate goal of the district is "learning for kids." He believes that every child in the school system should have equity. Programs have been cut over the last two years which have put the district even further behind.

He concluded by saying "if the City does not pay, the kids are going to pay."

Chairman Hourigan then read the public comment statement.

### Public Comment

Nancy Seltzer – 74 Camden Street – She spoke at a previous board meeting about State reimbursement opportunities. She has since then met with Mrs. Kelleher to discuss opportunities the Board of Education may have with State agencies.

Chairman Hourigan then asked for a motion to approve the 2008-09 Education Operations budget.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mr. Amendola seconded a motion to approve administration's recommendation of the 2008-09 Proposed Education Operations Budget in the amount of \$82,891,869 and direct the administration to submit the budget to the Mayor, Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen.

Mr. SantaBarbara asked for an amendment to be made with a reduction of \$492,659.

Mr. SantaBarbara then thanked Dr. Polansky and administration for putting the budget together. He then explained the following cuts that amount to the \$492,659. They are as follows:

Acct 1111 \$146,659 – Alternative Education

Acct 1111 by \$240,000 – There are too many teachers at Parsons. Teachers should be placed in schools. This plan would eliminate 3 computer teachers, 1 professional development, and 2 special education.

Acct 1129 College and Career Aides \$25,000 – There are other staff certified to assist. Roles may need to be redefined.

Acct 6422 – Testing - \$81,000 – This would cut \$81,000 from the non-mandated testing. Children are being over tested. The proposal is up 36%.

Mrs. Staneski stated if the professional development position is eliminated, the district will move backwards with “No Child Left Behind”. She also said that there are not enough special education teachers.

Mrs. Staneski questioned the comment related to College and Career Ed. She recalled during past contract negotiations with the MEA, Mr. SantaBarbara being an officer of the union, saying that teachers should charge for writing a letter of recommendation. Specialty teachers should teach their specialty, not in what career a child is going to pursue after high school. Furthermore, this would not save the district money because the teachers would be working more hours.

Mrs. Staneski said she does agree with Mr. SantaBarbara regarding the testing.

She concluded by stating her dissatisfaction with Mr. SantaBarbara's proposed amendment. She said that he did not speak about the unfunded mandates that he voted for through public comment, referring to the Trumbull VoAg program.

Chairman Hourigan asked Mrs. Staneski to speak to the amendment on the table.

Mrs. Staneski continued by stating she does not understand why anyone would want to give money to another district before taking care of their own. Again, referring to the Trumbull VoAg program.

Chairman Hourigan asked if there was a second to amend the main motion.

Mr. Quish seconded the motion to amend the main motion.

Mr. SantaBarbara said that he believes the Trumbull VoAg program is a good program.

Mr. SantaBarbara then said that he thought job shuffling could be done by attrition. Past history has shown 15 to 18 people will retire at the end of the school year.

Chairman Hourigan then moved to accept the amendment to reduce the proposed budget to 82,891,869 by \$492,659.

By a roll call vote of 6-No 2-yes (Quish/SantaBarbara), the motion failed.

Chairman Hourigan repeated the original motion on the floor.

Mrs. Casey motioned for an amendment to move \$18,000 from Acct 8100 "dues and fees" that has been allocated for CABA, to Acct 8201 "student athletics", and split the funds equally between the two high schools.

This decision was made to focus on the safety of our students. CABA would help develop the board. However, athletics is more important and listening to the information recently presented at public comment made it more evident.

Mr. Amendola seconded the motion.

Mrs. Staneski thanked Mrs. Casey. She said she has learned a lot from CABA. However, she supports the amendment.

Mrs. Rohrig stated that she too supports the amendment.

Mrs. Stanford repeated the amendment to move \$18,000 from Acct 8111 "dues and fees" to Acct 8201 "athletics".

Chairman Hourigan asked for a roll call vote.

By a roll call vote of 8-Yes 0-No, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hourigan then asked the Majority Leader to read the main motion with the amendment.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve administration's recommendation of the 2008-09 proposed education operations budget in the amount of \$82,891,869 and direct the administration to submit the budget to the Mayor, Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen with the amendment added of moving \$18,000 from Account 8111 to Account 8201, splitting the funds equally between the two high schools. Mr. Amendola seconded the motion.

Mrs. Staneski stated she can not support the budget with the addition of VoAg. The state gives Trumbull \$3,000 for the students who attend the program. Milford then has to give Trumbull tuition. The decision to "not participate" in the Trumbull VoAg program was voted on by the board last year. She reiterated there is not a mandate in place at this time.

Mr. SantaBarbara said that he supports the Trumbull VoAg program.

By a roll call vote 6-yes 2-no (Rohrig/Staneski), the motion passed.

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Mr. Amendola made and Mrs. Stanford seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel. Dr. Polansky was invited into the session. Motion passed at 7:30 p.m.

The board reconvened in public session at 7:57 p.m.

Being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Stanford and seconded by Mrs. Rohrig. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Stanford  
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin