

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2016

Board members present:

Claire Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Jess Gregory (by phone)
Walter Hagedorn
Tom Jagodzinski
Susan Krushinsky
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
Jim Richetelli
Susan Kelleher
Wendy Kopazna

Board members absent:

Michael DeGrego

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. She announced Dr. Gregory would attend by phone and Mr. DeGrego was ill.

Ms. Glennon turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for Student/Staff Recognition.

II. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser noted the recognition was rescheduled from the February business meeting and thus, some students are not able to attend.

Dr. Feser offered recognition to four Foran students for their participation in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) essay contest. Each year students in grades nine through 12 write an essay on the same topic and submit them to be judged at the state level. The students who were recognized were:

Michael Sciuto, 11th grade, 1st place
John Lickteig, 11th grade, 2nd place
Gino Esposito, 11th grade, 3rd place
Ashlinn Casey, 11th grade, honorable mention

Ashlinn was the only student able to attend.

Dr. Feser read a prepared congratulatory statement for the fifth year vocation education students. They were not able to attend the meeting. The students received recognition for a community service award received for their work with the CEO of IT Recovery, Jonathan Lynch. These nine students also run Parsons Perks. Last fall the students began working with Mr. Lynch through a mentoring program at IT Recovery. Four days a week the students worked with Mr. Lynch to learn real world experiences. At completion of the

Approved

program, Mr. Lynch gave each student a laptop computer. Dr. Feser congratulated the students, Mr. Lynch and Ms. Joanne Barrett, who oversees the transition program. Students recognized were:

Dakota Callahan, Emma Grace, Mathew Toole, Jon Delgado, Ryan Riordan, Christian Sheridan, Jack Shepero, Giovanni Volturno and Joshua Worzel.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Lindsey Carlson and Joe Barton presented the student report for Joseph A. Foran. David Patrick and Emily Carroll presented the student report for Jonathan Law.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Skopp – 272 West River Street - Mr. Skopp expressed concern about the medical marijuana facility opening on West River Street.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon removed the February 8, 2016 minutes from the Consent Agenda.

The minutes from this March 14th board meeting will be placed on the March Committee of the Whole meeting for approval in order to allow Mr. Richetelli to expedite paperwork on the Consent Agenda items to the State.

The Board of Aldermen Public Hearing on the budget will be held on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. The Board of Education will present its budget to the Board of Aldermen on April 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board to be mindful of meeting etiquette and hold their questions until natural breaks in the presentations.

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Federico reported on the Permanent Schools Building Facilities Committee. The committee discussed the asbestos abatement work that will be done at Law over the summer, as well as lighting replacements to improve energy usage, mostly to meet code compliance. Four school elementary school roofs and Harborside are to be replaced over the summer. Plans to put parking behind West Shore have been put on hold. Committee members have asked the architect to look at an alternate plan after hearing concerns raised by neighbors.

Ms. DiBiase told the Board that Mr. DeGrego attended the Milford Prevention Council meeting. The Council is very concerned about the medical marijuana dispensaries being placed in Milford.

Ms. Glennon reported on PTA Council. Both she and Mr. Jagodzinski attended the meeting. They filled them in on issues the Board discussed at its February meeting, as well as the calendar to be approved at the March business meeting.

VI. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Mid-Year Assessment Update

Before the presentation, Dr. Feser explained that a complete report on data assessments is given to the Board in the fall. The intent of the presentation tonight is to give the Board a mid-year check-in on the key assessments.

Mr. Burt provided the Board with an update of the DRA2, NWEA, PSAT and SAT scores for the district. The DRA2 results are based on data from the fall to winter; NWEA from fall to winter, PSAT fall results and a five year comparison of the SAT.

The PowerPoint is on file.

The Board asked to be provided with the amount of time spent on testing, by test, and for a future follow up on findings regarding challenges with 5th grade Math.

Next Generation Accountability Report

Mr. Burt provided the Board with information on the State Department of Education's new accountability report. This new report provides a more holistic, multifactor viewpoint of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time. It replaces the former School Strategic Profile. The PowerPoint is on file.

2016-17 Academic Calendar

Dr. Feser presented the 2016-17 Academic Calendar for approval. Recommendations made by the Board at its February meeting were incorporated.

Ms. Glennon presented a modification, suggested in an email from a parent, to move the Professional Learning day from February 8, 2017 to Friday February 17th or Wednesday February 22nd. The parent noted that student athletes had limited ability to go away over the December and April breaks because of sports schedules and this would allow families an additional day for vacations. This would also be less disruptive to the month of February. She noted the district is closed on Monday and Tuesday, February 20th and 21st.

Ms. Glennon made a motion to move the Professional Learning Day from February 8, 2017 to February 17, 2017. Ms. DiBiase seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

The Board requested the Professional Learning Day be shaded out on the calendar to show that school is not in session on that day.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion to approve the calendar.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to approve the 2016-17 Academic Calendar as amended. Mrs. Federico seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

Food Services Financial Report

Mrs. Faustich provided the food service financial report, explaining the food services department is self-supporting and is not included in the Board of Education budget. The report is on file.

Healthy Foods Certification

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education will participate in the Healthy Foods Certification and certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under out jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises whether or not school sponsored. Mrs. Federico seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion that the Milford Board of Education will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or not on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Mrs. Federico seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

Revision to Policy 5117

Dr. Feser presented a proposed revision to Policy 5117, School Attendance Areas, as a first reading. She explained that school attendance areas are determined by the Board of Education. The current policy, put in place in 1995, states students must attend the school in the attendance area they reside in. It has been interpreted differently over the years, resulting in inconsistency of practice which have prompted concerns. During the reconfiguration and redistricting of the elementary schools the Board developed criteria with the desire to balance enrollment to ensure parity in available resources across schools. The Board has been committed to equity across the district with regard to academic, extra-curricular programs, staffing and resources. Dr. Feser indicated administration believes the current policy needs to be revised in order to honor these goals and that the existing situation is not healthy to the school district. The proposed revision has specific language to prevent misinterpretation of the exceptions that will and will not be considered. The new policy will allow for some grandfathering, and for students who move during the school year to be permitted to finish the school year at the school they began at the start of the school year.

A Board discussion ensued. Following the discussion, the Board requested:

That language to be clarified with regard to how students who move during the year would finish out the school year, especially those entering the last year of a level.

Section VI - Grandfathering of Students Currently Placed in Out-of-Attendance Area Schools – should include language on how transfer requests that would result in the need for additional class sections would be handled.

VI. D. should be moved to VII: a new section as it relates to the entire policy.

III. Miscellaneous Provisions - Item C be moved into Section IV – Change in Residence During the School Year, since it relates to a change in residence.

Approved

That Administration provide the Board with the number of transfer requests, by school and by grade level.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna provided the Board with the human resources activity for February.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items:

1. Disbursement Report
2. Approval of the Educational Specifications for the Asbestos and Hazardous Material Abatement, Tile Replacement and Code Violation Project at Jonathan Law High School (State Project #TMP-084-GMZC)
3. Approval of the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Asbestos and Hazardous Material Abatement, Tile Replacement and Code Violation Project at Jonathan Law High School (State Project #TMP-084-GMZC)
4. Consideration of Minutes for February 22, 2016

Mrs. Federico seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Glennon said that the motion to adjourn at the February 8, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Jagodzinski and not Mrs. Federico as reported in the minutes. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

Ms. DiBiase made motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the minutes from the February 8, 2016 business meeting as corrected. Mrs. Federico seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Hagedorn asked about bus stops in relation to the medical marijuana dispensary. Mr. Richetelli told the Board he would monitor the situation through the transportation policy.

Mrs. Krushinsky spoke to a group of Girl Scouts on women in leadership.

X. ADJOURN

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Federico seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Approved

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Ms. Suzanne DiBiase.
Corresponding Secretary