

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2014

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Michael DeGrego
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fucci
George Gensure
Susan Glennon, Chair
Anthony Piselli
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

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

Board members absent:

Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin

Board members by phone:

John DeRosa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Business meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board of Education room at the Parsons complex. She then led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Feser and Ms. Glennon acknowledged 10 students who received the CABA Student Leadership Awards. The CABA Student Leadership awards are given to middle and high school students for their ability to work with others, diplomacy, ability to understand issues clearly and their ability to honor a commitment. The students recognized were:

Ethan Skuches, Kalie Mendola	East Shore Middle School
Liam Nuttall, Naydu Nunno	Harborside Middle School
Victoria Benedicto, Dominick Buccitti, III	West Shore Middle School
Michelle Novak, Gabe Salles	Jonathan Law High School
Bryan Niebanck, Anna Huebner	Joseph A. Foran High School

Dr. Feser and Ms. Glennon then recognized the students whose artwork had been selected for the permanent collection. Each student offered remarks about their art piece. The students recognized were:

Danica Wens, Law Senior, for her acrylic painting titled *Misty Morning*
Caseyenne Viera, Law Senior, for her ceramic piece titled *What to Become Next?*
Jessica Harkness, Law Senior, for her charcoal drawing titled *Green Eyed Girl*
James Sylvester, Foran Senior, for his marker on paper titled *The Jazz Musicians*

The final recognition of the evening was given to the Board Student Liaisons from each high school. Congratulations and warm wishes were given to the outgoing liaisons:
Gabe Salles and Michelle Novak, Jonathan Law

Erin Dunn and Andrew Jones, Joseph Foran

The 2014-15 student liaisons were then welcomed. They are:

Sofya Calvin and Kelsey Kopazna, Jonathan Law

Tyler Procello and Shaina Arsenault, Joseph Foran

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

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Sofya Calvin and Kelsey Kopazna presented for Jonathan Law. Erin Dunn and Andrew Jones presented for Joseph A. Foran High School. The reports are on file.

Ms. Glennon called for a recess at 7:45 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:50 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Jagodzinski – 27 Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski recommended the reorganization of the Special Education department be implemented quicker than what is happening. He also urged the Board to pass a moratorium on the hiring of school psychologists, social workers and therapists, and to hire a senior administrator to oversee the plan implementation.

Pauline Lemieux – 330 Merwin Avenue – Ms. Lemieux owns property in Milford. She asked again that the Board review Common Core before the implementation. She referenced a book titled “Conform”, written by Glen Beck. She then provided the board secretary with an article on Common Core.

Kathy Gage – 47 Pond Street – Ms. Gage requested that the Board reconsider the decision to cut para-professionals. She will follow up with an email to the Board.

Jamie McCarvill – 171 Birch Place – Mrs. McCarvill requested the Board change the transportation policy with reference to safety and distance for walkers. She has also contacted the State recommending that the guidelines be changed as they were put in place a long time ago. She also suggested that the Public Works director be included in the appeal process.

Carol Thomas – 84 Thompson Street – Mrs. Thomas requested that the Board reconsider the bus cuts. The walking distance should be no more than one mile for any student.

Susan Krushinsky – 60 Crescent Drive – She urged the Board to revise the language relative to safety in the transportation policy. The state guidelines were put in place during a different time. Many families had a stay at home parent. Cell phones were not prevalent, offering serious distractions by talking or texting. The distance the children need to walk carrying a backpack and possibly a musical instrument is not a realistic option. She also questioned some children being bussed living within the same parameters?

Danielle Haft - 78 Hill Street – Ms. Haft asked the Board to reconsider the walking distances in the transportation policy. Her son will need to walk 1.9 miles to high school. She recently walked the route. It took her 35 minutes without carrying a backpack. The Board wants the children to arrive to school ready to learn.

Susan Feher – 348 Housatonic Drive – Mrs. Feher does not support the elimination of courtesy riders. She suggested that administration forgo increases to help fund the cost for the transportation gap.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Casey reported out on the Milford Education Foundation meeting. The MEF recently received their 501C3 status. She also noted the Foundation will hold a fundraiser auctioning off chairs painted by Milford students; date to be determined.

Mrs. Fucci reported out on the recent Health Department meeting that she attended. School nurses are preparing school health records to transfer to the schools for those children who will be moving onto a new school. The Health Department is looking into administering a dental survey to families.

Ms. DiBiase reported out on the Milford Prevention Council. The Council's mission is to deter underage drinking. The Milford Prevention Council is responsible for posting billboard's around the city, that send a message to teens not to drink. Most of them were created by Jonathan Law students.

Ms. Glennon reported out on recent PTA Council meeting. At the last meeting of the school year, the Council recognizes one person as its Life Achievement Award recipient. This year, Emma Siconti, a lunch aide at Calf Pen was presented the award. The officers for the upcoming year were also announced.

Ms. Glennon announced the graduation ceremonies will begin next week. She then reviewed the protocol for Board member participation at high school graduations, as per the policy.

Ms. Glennon then thanked Mrs. Casey for her dedication and work for the betterment of Milford students over the last 6.5 years. She presented her with a plaque on behalf of the Board.

VI. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Award of School Readiness Grant

Mrs. Kelly reported on the School Readiness Grant. The grant will cover some of the cost of the two additional PreK classrooms submitted in the 2014-15 budget.

Mr. Cummings clarified the funds were included in the budget. However, as a result of the \$300,000 budget reduction made by the Board of Aldermen, the additional classrooms were at risk. With notification of the grant award, that is no longer the case. The Board will need to take action to accept the funds awarded from the grant.

Approved

Mrs. Fucci recalled the funds could not be used for teaching positions, and Mr. Cummings confirmed that was correct.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve the School Readiness funding grant in the amount of \$360,433 out of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood to be used to support the Ready to Learn program. Ms. DiBiase seconded. By a roll call vote 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Modifications 2014-15 Professional Learning and Teacher Evaluation Plan

Mrs. Krois gave an overview of the changes that would be made to the teacher evaluation plan prior to submittal to the state. She reminded the Board the plan has only been in place for 1 year and the changes will allow for more efficiencies.

The plan will be forwarded to the state for approval. Upon final approval by the state, it will be brought back to the Board for approval.

2013-14 Budget Transfers

Mr. Richetelli presented the transfers for the year end. The funds to be transferred are:

\$100,000 to be transferred from:

1111 (\$50,000), 8111 (\$30,000) and 8200 (\$20,000)

to accounts: 2006 (\$50,000), 5202 (\$20,000) and 5601 (\$30,000)

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Administration's recommended 2013-14 budget transfers. Ms. DiBiase seconded. By a roll call vote 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reviewed the Human Resources Report as well as stipend positions. She highlighted, to date, 23 retirements have been processed and eight teachers have been hired.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2.

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. May 12, 2014 Business Meeting
 - b. May 19, 2014 Special Meeting
 - c. May 27, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Ms. DiBiase seconded. By a roll call vote 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DeGrego told the Board he attended the Senior Awards at Law along with Suzanne DiBiase, Sue Glennon, Laura Fucci and Earl Whiskeyman.

Mrs. Fucci thanked Mrs. Casey for her service to the children of Milford.

XI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss salaries for the Assistant Superintendent and the Chief Operating Officer. Ms. DiBiase seconded. By a roll call vote 9-0, the motion passed unanimously. (9:00 p.m.)

XII. RECONVENE

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to increase the salaries of Mr. Cummings and Mr. Richetelli by 2.25%. Ms. DiBiase seconded. By a roll call vote 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary