

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2011

Board members present:

David Amendola
Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Diane Kruger-Carroll
Jay Tranquilli
Jack O'Connell
Robert M. White

Board members absent:

Josip Jukic
Greg Oliver
Dr. Mark Stapleton, Chair

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Mike Cummings
Phil Russell
Sue Kelleher

I. Call to Order

The Milford Board of Education held a Business Meeting on Monday, July 11, 2011, in the Board Room at the Parsons Government Complex. Mr. White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. Student/Staff Recognition

The Foran Girls Varsity Softball Team was recognized.

Dr. Feser shared her excitement of the Foran Girls Varsity Softball team winning the Class L State Championship and being named the #1 Team in the State by the New Haven Register. The Foran Lions ended the season with a 22-4 record. She shared some of the key plays made by the team's captains, Taylor Harkness, Sage Esposito and Rachel Booth, followed by presenting certificates to the entire team for their achievements.

Dr. Feser also recognized Coach Jeff Bevino, who is notably known as Foran's football coach. Coach Bevino has only been coaching softball since last season and led the team to the championship. He was also named Coach of the Year by the New Haven Register.

Dr. Feser then introduced Annaliese Spaziano as the new Director of The Academy and Francis Thompson as the new Principal of Jonathan Law High School. Both administrators will begin in their respective schools over the summer.

III. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011 Special Board Meeting. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. O'Connell made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2011 Business Board Meeting as amended. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 Special Board Meeting. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni expressed her contentment with the statistics of graduates going onto college from Law and Foran. She congratulated the principals. She questioned the portable classroom at Meadowside. Is that something new? She hopes it is not something new because of the reorganization? Mr. Cummings told her that the portable is not being used as a classroom, only for storage purposes.

Trista Simoncek – 61 Governor's Avenue – From a parent's perspective, the reorganization was stressful on parents with staggered start times and increased child care. The schools did not integrate at all. She also mentioned the lack of communication. The parents met earlier in the year and gave their feedback. There has not been any communication back from that. Parents are not going to the meetings because the board did not listen. The reorganization has been a struggle from scheduling dentist's appointments to double fundraising. She hopes to see an action plan that will make Milford a better school system.

Susan Glennon – 99 Carlson Drive – Ms. Glennon asked for clarification of the Dean of Students. She was surprised that the job posting did not indicate former Milford Public School experience needed. It does not seem like the district is not being as transparent as it could have been.

Charles Taylor – 12 John Street – He stated that he attended the May 26th board meeting to express his concerns about waste and why he felt it was inappropriate to hire a dean of students. One thing he brought up was the 10 or 11 coordinators that do not teach. He was corrected after the public speaking period which left him looking like a liar. He then explained the Math coordinator at Foran does not teach any periods, and therefore, requests an apology.

Mr. Taylor then shifted his comments to why he would question administration's decision to hire a Dean of Students. He mentioned that at an earlier meeting, the public was told the dean would teach two periods a day. The job opening online gives no reference to teaching. He pointed out that Connecticut General Statutes mandates discipline given to students must be done by an administrator. Thus, you would need an 092 certificate, which is not required for the Dean of Students position. He then explained that he filed a Freedom of Information request to obtain absences by the school administrators in the 2010-11 school year. The absence percentage was alarming. While a student is required to attend a class at least 91% to receive credit, an administrator can be absent over 18% amount of the time. If a student gets the work done, it doesn't

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matter, they still won't get credit. Now you have an administrator not getting the work and you just hire another person to help get the work done.

V. Chair's Report

Mr. White noted the absences of the evening. He then called for the liaison reports.

Mrs. Casey reported on the Permanent School Building Committee. Foran Phase III is complete, IIIA is almost complete. All other projects are on track.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Operational Division

Summer Projects

Mr. Russell explained the Summer Projects list is only a portion because of timing, scheduling or availability of contractors.

Mr. Bradbury explained the list is provided to him in the spring. He reviewed the list of projects.

A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Casey asked for the priorities and was told that would be completed very soon.

Mrs. Casey requested that items related to next year's budget that don't get done be broken out with the costs associated so the board can know what was spent.

She suggested a spreadsheet with a completed column to be added.

After discussing the maintenance costs of the fields, Mr. Amendola would like to review the Evergrass contract.

Mr. Amendola asked if the television monitors have been installed in the Senior Cafeteria at Jonathan Law.

Ms. Kruger-Carroll would like administration to provide the board with "how the television monitors are used."

Mrs. Casey noted that at the Permanent School Building Committee meeting, the Committee indicated that the Board of Education has funds to cover the overage amount for the Foran Phase III project. She asked if those funds are in the budget.

Mr. Bradbury told her that there are funds in the CIP allocated to the security work being done at Foran.

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Mr. Russell further explained that in the current five year CIP, there is \$200,000 allotted for security upgrades which be used Foran Phase III project. However, the City will only make a payment after administration approves it.

Personnel Report

Mr. Russell reported the openings for the current month.

Mrs. Casey asked why the Dean of Students was not included in the report. She was told the Dean of Students job opening has closed but it is not filled.

Mrs. Casey would like the report to reflect “actual” job openings.

A discussion ensued regarding the behaviorist position opening. Mrs. Kelleher explained the behaviorist position will consult staff members but will work directly with students. She further told the board there is a need for the behaviorist.

Mrs. Casey requested that the board be given a report of the actual amount of employees who were laid off at a future board meeting.

Mr. Russell noted the year on the stipend report should reflect 2010-11.

End of the Year Financials/Final Budget Transfers

Mr. Russell told the board 100% of the funds were spent. He reported only \$96,000 were transferred. The funds were transferred to “grounds projects” and “computer software.”

Mr. White asked Mr. Russell to provide the board the costs associated with “building use fees.”

Mr. Amendola asked if the board of education charges the city for the usage of the pool at Foran. He was told no.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mr. O’Connell made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items a & b. Mr. Amendola seconded.

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report.
- b. Budget Transfers: Administration recommends approval of the budget transfer in the amount of \$96,207.80.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action

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Unfinished Business

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to approve the Jonathan Law and Joseph A. Foran High School Football Team Field Trip Request. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tranquilli asked why the transportation at the two high schools was different.

Mr. Robinson explained the parents at his school chose to hire a coach

IX. Board Comment

None.

X. Executive Session

Mr. Oliver made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss paraprofessionals' negotiations with possible action to be taken. He then invited Dr. Feser and Mr. Russell into the session. The motion passed unanimously. (8:23 p.m.)

XI. Reconvene

The board reconvened into Public Session at 8:54 p.m.

XII. Action

No action was taken.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Recording Secretary:

Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary:

Robert M. White