

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2014

Board members present:

John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fucci
Jennifer Federico
George Gensure
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

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

Board members absent:

Michael DeGrego – Personal conflict
Anthony Piselli - Sick

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Business meeting to order at 7:02 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. REPLACEMENT OF 2ND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Glennon introduced Mrs. Jennifer Federico as the Democratic Party Second District choice to replace Mrs. Casey. Mrs. Federico has been a member of the PTA and has a business background

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Jennifer Federico as the replacement for the 2nd district Board of Education member Mrs. Casey. Mr. DeRosa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

City Clerk Joanne Rohrig was present to conduct the swearing in of Mrs. Federico.

Mrs. Federico was seated to take part in the meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Jagodzinski - 27 Berkley Terrace – Mr. Jagodzinski expressed concern about Milford's four year graduation rate. He provided the Board secretary with a spreadsheet with graduation rates from surrounding districts.

Kathy Bonetti – 157 Seaside Avenue – Mrs. Bonetti's last of three children recently graduation from high school. She expressed her gratitude for the educators in the Milford Public School system.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Glennon called for the liaison reports.

Mr. DeRosa reported he attended the Board of Aldermen meeting at which Mrs. Rohrig was sworn in.

Mr. Gensure reported he attended the Permanent School Building Facilities meeting. There was a small amount of flooding during the construction at East Shore Middle School. The contractor, Bismark Construction, will assume all costs associated with the clean-up.

Long Range Planning Update

Ms. Glennon gave a brief update on the progress the Board has made during its recent workshops. The Board continues to work through the recommendations made by the Long Range Planning Committee and has also asked Milone and Macbroom, the consultant on the Long Range Planning Study, to provide a synthesis of an additional suggestion for a K-6, 7-8, 9-12 configuration. To date, there are two more workshops scheduled, July 28th and August 11th. More may be added. Two public information sessions are tentatively scheduled for September 23rd and September 29th. The Board expects to vote on an option at the October 13th business meeting.

Ms. Glennon concluded her report noting that the Board has reached a consensus to discuss the transportation policy again once the Board has concluded its work on long range planning.

V. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Dr. Feser gave a brief update on the 375th anniversary. She thanked Mrs. Bonetti for being instrumental in the work leading up to the parade, including the design work involved with the float. Milford Public Schools was awarded three trophies for its participation in the parade.

Dr. Feser then updated the Board on information regarding the school transition program for special needs students ages 18 - 21. Currently, the State counts these students as not graduating in four years. This is of concern, as the students are placed in the program to help prepare for post-graduation plans. According to the reported numbers, it appears that the students have already completed their high school requirements. Per IDEA, however, these students are entitled to remain in the school system through age 21. Dr. Feser has expressed her concerns with the State department and has been told the State is considering a 5 and 6 year graduation rate. Milford's graduation rate report will be delivered to the Board at the August Board meeting.

Grade Point Average Update

Mr. Cummings presented information regarding a new Grade Point Average system to be used in our district. It was developed by a team of students, teachers, and administrators in response to concerns raised by staff, students and parents.

Mr. Cumming's report is on file and contains an overview of the new system which will go into effect this academic year (2014-15) and will be phased in for current students.

In response to discussion among and questions from the Board, Mr. Cummings indicated the belief was that the current GPA structure did not reflect the level of expectations in the district and that differentials in GPA systems across the area put our students at a disadvantage. Dr. Feser indicated changes to GPA structures happen all the time. Milford is her 4th district and every one of them has changed its GPA structure.

No action was required on this subject.

End of Year Financials Report/Budget Transfers

Mr. Richetelli presented the Budget Performance Report for June 30, 2014. He reviewed the final transfers for the year. Transfers would need to be made from accounts 2008, 3308, 5401, 6410, 8100 and 8200, to accounts 1127 and 1130 in the amount of \$155,534.63 due to the cost of more retirements than expected and overtime costs associated with the East Shore Middle School construction project.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to approve Administration's recommended 2013-14 final budget transfers in the amount of \$155,534.63. Mr. DeRosa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reviewed the Human Resources Report as well as stipend positions.

Mrs. Fucci asked if the guidance counselor position at The Academy had a high turnover rate and, if the position were a full-time position as requested by the Administration in the budget, would that help minimize turnover. Mrs. Kopazna answered that the position was implemented 3 years ago and this is the 3rd person to fill the position. She explained when a guidance position opens the contract requires it be filled first by someone in a part time position. Mrs. Fucci stated that she believes that consistency is needed for the guidance counselor position at The Academy and would like to see that position made into a full-time position. No action was taken at this time.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

1. Disbursement Report
2. Consideration of Minutes
 - a. June 2, 2014 Special Meeting
 - b. June 9, 2014 Business Meeting
 - c. June 23, 2014 Special Meeting
 - d. June 30, 2014 Transportation Hearing

Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

None.

X. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. Dr. Feser was invited into the session. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 8:35 p.m.

XI. RECONVENE

Ms. Glennon called the meeting back to order at 10:48 p.m.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to extend Dr. Feser's contract by one year, through June 30th 2017. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to increase Dr. Feser's salary by 2.5%. Her annual salary will increase from \$189,653 to \$194,394. Mr. DeRosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fucci made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. DeRosa. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary