

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

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, September 22, 2008 in the Board of Education Meeting Room of the Parsons Complex. Board Chairman, David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:02 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
Mrs. C. Kopazna
Mr. J. Quish
Mrs. J. Rohrig
Mr. J. Santa Barbara
Mrs. P. Staneski
Mrs. G. Stanford
Mr. D. Steinlauf

Chairman Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky.

Dr. Polansky began by stating the demographics in Milford are very different. The test scores are flat. Milford's challenge is to meet the needs of every student, including the high flyers. He asked Mr. Cummings to share a presentation with the board.

Mr. Cummings explained the district is not where they want to be. He then reviewed a presentation that gave the CMT, CAPT and AP test results to the board. The analysis showed while elementary scores have risen, they dip in the middle school years. The district will focus on the seven disciplines and the ends policies to help align the district. He noted the ends policies were revised last year and should prove better results.

He explained the CMT assesses essential reading, writing and mathematical skills and the CAPT assesses essential skills as applied to content based problems. CMT is given to grades three through eight and CAPT is given in spring of the 10th grade year. He then stated the state recognizes "proficient" as being acceptable, while Milford strives for the student to make "goal".

Mr. Cummings shared an analogy of longitudinal versus cohort with both the CMT and CAPT scores over a five year period. The analysis of the CMT revealed writing is the best area in the district. On the CAPT test, there were gains in science, math and writing, but a decline in reading. This was evident in

grade eight. He also noted the district has invested in reading intervention programs and there should be much better results.

Mr. Cummings explained the DRG, which includes 24 other communities in the state. He also explained where the economic disadvantaged, special education and ESOL students are in the report. He also said that two years ago many districts changed their strategy to conform to the CMT. However, Milford did not want to “teach to the test”, so the curriculum was not changed.

Mr. Cummings then shared the Academic Improvement Plan for each school with board. He also expressed the three key issues of the district as being a. student growth is minimal, quick assessment and plan for the learning needs of students new to the district and the instructional practice needs immediate improvement, particularly in grades k-2. He showed common assessment data as well as the district's strategic road map, which focuses on increasing student learning beyond academic benchmarks for all students and the implementation of common instructional practices across the district.

Mr. Cummings told the board the curriculum for the district is on a five year revision plan. However, the high school curriculum should be revised in two years.

Mrs. Staneski asked if there were any plans of creating a post grad survey to find out if the a graduating student was prepared for college and was told yes. The alumni would input the data.

Mrs. Staneski said she had heard that some AP courses were offered at only one high school and transportation had not been arranged for students at the other high school. Dr. Polansky told her he would research that.

Public Comment

M. Taylor – 340 Wolf Harbor Road – He is in support of the Middle School consistency. This is a necessity for the district to move forward.

C. Berni – 99 Centennial Drive – She would like to see teachers, other than the ones administering the test to grade it. She also feels CMT scores are a reflection of the teachers work. They were not teaching the work correctly. She also asked if there had been any thought the RTI program. She was told Orange Avenue is piloting it now.

Board Comment

Mrs. Staneski commended Mr. Cummings on his presentation.

Chairman Hourigan then read an article about Milford being named as “100 best communities” again.

Mrs. C. Kopazna said she wanted to comment on the previous matter she spoke about at the last board meeting, which involved a board member. While she appreciates the chairman consulting with the person and counsel, she wanted to share her comments. She told the board she very much thought an executive session was needed and the board would have gained from the discussion. However, the board did not share the same idea. She asked Mr. Russell to let the public know how much it cost for the chair to seek legal counsel on the matter. Mr. Russell told her that the cost was included in the retainer. She then concluded by saying that if the another similar situation occurs, the board should meet and discuss the matter so it can be resolved.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Stanford
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin