

Approved
Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2013

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
Laura Fetter
George Gensure
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
Christopher Saley

Administration present:

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

Board members absent:

Michael DeGrego
Beverley Pierson
Earl Whiskeyman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in the Auditorium at Jonathan Law High School. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

The first recognition of the evening was given to two seventh grade students from East Shore Middle School, Jaelyn Roth and Luke Alfano. They recently entered a writing contest sponsored by the Trumbull Arts Festival. Entrees were judged on the originality and quality of expression. Winning entries were published in *Pen Works*, a literary publication. Luke received an Honorable Mention in the Poetry category. Jaelyn won 2nd place in the fiction category and an Honorable Mention in the Memoir category.

The final recognition of the evening was given to Alana Finlayson, a second grade student at Orange Avenue. Alana chose to host a lemonade stand to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. She raised \$90 in just one hour. She then participated in the Ovarian Cancer Walk in memory of a relative who recently passed away from cancer.

Dr. Feser and the Board congratulated the students for their work.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Andrew Jones reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Joseph A. Foran High School. Michelle Novak and Gabe Salles presented the report for Jonathan Law High School. Both reports are on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jorge Santiago – 559 Boston Post Road, Unit B – Mr. Santiago thanked the administration for adding a bus to transport children to the Boys and Girls Club from school. It provides children with an outlet and after school opportunities. However, he feels the community needs to be informed of the new Common Core State Standards.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Casey provided background on how the Long Range Planning Committee was formed. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Zuba of Milone and MacBroom.

Mr. Zuba delivered a PowerPoint presentation that showed Milford's demographics, which included overall population, school-aged population, household size and live births going back ten years. It was evident the enrollment numbers have declined significantly and will continue to do so. Mr. Zuba was assisted by Ms. Ali Church, also of Milone and MacBroom.

Mr. Silver reviewed the size and capacity of the 14 schools within the district as they are today.

Mr. Zuba concluded his report. The Long Range Planning Committee will continue to meet and it is expected they will have recommendations ready in March, 2014. The PowerPoint has been uploaded to the website.

The Board asked some questions of Mr. Zuba.

Mrs. Casey thanked Mr. Zuba for the update. She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Feser explained each summer many building and grounds projects are pursued by the Milford Public Schools Maintenance Department. The projects pursued are ones that cannot be completed during the school year as they would disrupt the educational process.

She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Bradbury to give a report on those projects.

Summer Projects

Mr. Bradbury narrated a pictorial PowerPoint which showed many before and after photos of the work done at the schools over the summer. There was a lot of work done to enhance security at the schools. For example, greeter stations were built at all eight elementary schools, direct 911 access from classrooms, intercom speakers were installed in some hallways, intrusion panel upgrades, lock replacements and more. Schools received roof repairs, computer labs, asbestos tile removal, and boiler maintenance to name a few. Work was done outside as well; from sidewalk repairs, softball field maintenance, replacement of tennis courts, to parking lot and playscape repairs.

Mr. Bradbury spoke of the extensive effort that took place to open East Shore on September 3rd. Much work had been done to the school over the summer.

Mr. Bradbury concluded his report by sharing some photographs of East Shore from the 1950s.

Enrollment

Mr. Cummings reported out on the October 1st enrollment numbers. There were no questions from the Board.

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli reported on the quarterly budget report for the first quarter of the 2013-14 school year. He reported there are no concerns at this time.

Transportation Contract

Mr. Richetelli then provided the Board with background of the Durham School Bus contract. The current contract expires in 2014. The administration can either renegotiate with the current provider or put the transportation out to bid. He then reviewed the pros of extending the contract to Durham. Durham has provided the district with superior service while maintaining an excellent relationship and outstanding customer service. Administration would like to renegotiate the contract with Durham School Services. Included in the contract will be the following recommendations of the transportation audit: Install a GPS tracking system, new cameras on the buses, and Durham is to purchase a fuel tank to be onsite. Durham will continue to pay the first dollar for fuel.

Mrs. Casey asked for a motion.

Ms. Glennon made a motion to authorize the administration to negotiate and enter into a three-year extension of the current contract with Durham School Services Inc. Ms. DiBiase seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Mrs. Kopazna reported on the Human Resources activity for the month of September. She noted the stipends were added to the report. There were no questions on the report.

Annual Human Resources Summary

Mrs. Kopazna updated the Board on the activities that have occurred in the Human Resources Department within the last year. The report is on file.

Mrs. Casey asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items.

Ms. Glennon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Disbursement Report
- B. Consideration of Minutes
 - i. September 9, 2013 Board Business Meeting
 - ii. September 16, 2013 Board Workshop
 - iii. September 23, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - iv. September 26, 2013 Board Workshop

Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Casey announced that Mr. DeGrego is on his honeymoon and Mrs. Pierson is away on business.

Approved

Mr. Saley stated the administration should use actual class sizes and not the average when engaging in long range planning. This would give the Board the real opportunity to do some sole searching as to the future needs. He feels that when you look at the numbers, it is pretty clear.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Glennon made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DiBiase seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Ms. Susan Glennon
Corresponding Secretary