

Unapproved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2011

Board members present:

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

Board members absent:

Josip Jukic
Gregory Oliver

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Mike Cummings
Wendy Kopazna
Phil Russell
Sue Kelleher

I. Call to Order

The Milford Board of Education held a Business Meeting on Monday, November 14, 2011 that began with an Executive Session in the Learning Center at the Parsons Government Complex at 6:10 p.m.

Dr. Stapleton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and then asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

Mr. White made a motion and Mr. Amendola seconded the motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Mid-Year Review of the Superintendent. Dr. Feser was invited into the session. The motion passed.

Dr. Stapleton reconvened the meeting into public session at 7:20 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

Dr. Stapleton turned the meeting over to Dr. Feser for the Student and Staff Recognition.

Dr. Feser recognized three groups for their outstanding efforts. They were:

- Orchard Hills School for their charitable contributions made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.
- Megan Pallanti, a social worker at Live Oaks School for coordinating gift baskets & mitten trees to support needy families in the Live Oaks community.
- Jonathan Law Key Club for their many contributions throughout the year and for their countless hours of volunteerism in order to help others.

Dr. Feser then turned to the board and applauded them for their time on the board. While she has only been with the district for six months, it was clear that their vision was

Unapproved

always for the good of the children. She thanked them for being tremendously helpful. She presented the outgoing board members with plaques.

Dr. Stapleton gave the final comments to the board. He thanked all of them for their work. He told them it was a very difficult term having to close a school, reconfigure the elementary school structure and hire a new superintendent. He wished all of them well.

Dr. Stapleton turned his attention to Mr. David Amendola. Mr. Amendola has served on the board for 12 years. His focus has always been on the kids. Mr. Amendola chose not to run for re-election. Dr. Stapleton told the public Mr. Amendola is not leaving civic duty for good. He will be on a hiatus until next time. He thanked him for his time and presented him with a crystal plaque.

II. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 Business Meeting. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Student Reports

Gabrielle Novak and Matthew Ouellette reported on the latest activity and upcoming events occurring at Jonathan Law High School. Tess Gildea and Thomas Bassine presented the report for Joseph A. Foran High School. Both reports are on file.

IV. Public Comment

Cathy Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – She applauded Durham Bus Services for their service to Milford as the transportation for the district. Transporting children to 14 schools is not an easy task. She told the board members that she hopes the contract is extended. She then thanked Mr. Philip Russell for his work. She noted that his last board meeting was tonight.

Lucila Massey – 57 Morris Street - She wished the outgoing board members well. She then said that she is not sold on the K-2/3-5 structure. She was hoping for outstanding test scores. She thanked Mr. Russell and the energy savings efforts. She further added that Simon Lake should be given back to the City. She is hoping that the materials being kept in the closets are needed. Curriculum changes often. She also hopes if there is an increase in kindergarten enrollment the new structure will be able to accommodate it.

Ileane Kaczynski – Ms. Kaczynski gave the PTA Council's report. She reported the Candidate's Forum went well at Foran High School. All but three candidates attended. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. She thanked Mr. Smith (Democratic Town Committee Chairman), Mr. Jagozinski (Republican Town Committee Chairman), MGAT and all the PTA/Os for their help with the event. She congratulated the following schools

Unapproved

for winning the early bird registration award for membership: CPM, East Shore, Live Oaks, Meadowside, West Shore and Mathewson. The next PTA Council meeting will be held on November 17th at West Shore Middle School. Topics will include fundraising, the Life Time Achievement Award and the expo to be held in the spring.

V. Chair's Report

Dr. Stapleton told the public that he is delighted to be serving the public for two more years. He then called for committee reports.

Mr. White and Mrs. Casey reported on the recent Permanent School's meeting. All projects are on target. Mrs. Casey also noted that the elevator project at Pumpkin Delight is complete.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Feser told the board that she had attended a Veterans' Day celebration at Meadowside School. It was a moving experience. While the children get Veterans' Day off from school, the schools are still recognizing the day by doing a myriad of activities.

Personnel Report

She then asked Mrs. Wendy Kopazna to give the Personnel Report to the board. The report has the openings, recommendations, retirements/resignations/terminations as well as the stipend positions. She noted the winter coaching positions have been posted.

Mr. O'Connell asked if there was a way to consider hiring veterans. Mrs. Kopazna recommended they follow the employment instructions posted on the website.

Bus Contract Extension

Mr. Russell presented the board with a two year contract extension for Durham Bus Services to be the transportation provider for the district. He explained that he surveyed other districts and Durham has a very competitive rate being the second lowest in the state. Durham knows the routes and while the company houses buses in both Stratford and Milford, they are in the process of securing a location, in Milford, to house all buses.

Mrs. Casey raised the concern about the contract language. She said the language talks about the number of buses. What if for some reason the district required more or less buses? Mr. Russell explained the contract language is very clear. There are 70 buses in the district. However, the district has the ability to change the amount of the buses.

Mrs. Casey confirmed with Mr. Russell that the district can change the amount of buses without penalty.

Mrs. Casey also suggested the contract language state that Durham be responsible for providing training to their employees.

Unapproved

Mr. Russell further explained the increase will be a 3.1% increase, which is based on the Consumer Price Index – Urban Communities (CPI-U). The CPI-U is in the current contract language. He also explained that the state has passed a law just this year which mandates bus companies to pay sick time for their employees. This cost has been factored into the increase.

Mr. Russell explained the buses will not be more than 10 years old as part of the contract.

After a brief discussion, Mr. White made a motion to extend the bus contract with Durham Bus Services on the condition that the contractor relocates their facilities and equipment to one site in Milford. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mr. White made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item A. Mr. Amendola seconded.

- a. Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommended approval of the Disbursement report.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action

Unfinished Business

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology, Policy 4118.5 which will subsume Social Networking, Policy 4118.41 as presented by administration. Mr. Amendola seconded.

Dr. Feser explained that the policies presented did not have content changes from the last iteration. She told the board they were formatted to simplify and read cleaner.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology, Policy 6141.321, which will subsume Social Networking, Policy 5132.82 as presented by administration. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Board Comment

Mr. Amendola told the new board members to stay focused and don't give up. He thanked his fellow board members for their good wishes.

Unapproved

Mr. Tranquilli wished the new board well.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Amendola seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Recording Secretary:

Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary:

Robert M. White