

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2020

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Chair)
Warren Pawlowski
Betsy Ratner
Cynthia Twiss
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Dr. Amy Fedigan
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli
Carole Swift

Board members absent:

Rita Hennessey (excused)
Una Petroske (excused)
Nicole Wasson (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all.

Ms. Glennon asked for a motion to add to the agenda.

Ms. Twiss made a motion to add item #7 under the Superintendent's Report for an update on coronavirus. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Cutaia for student recognition.

II. STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Cutaia recognized three fifth grade students from the Bulldog Brigade team at Mathewson Elementary School. As members of the Bulldog Brigade, they have been instrumental in organizing various fundraisers, drives and initiatives to support the school community, the larger Milford community, and fellow residents of Connecticut as well. Those students recognized were Matthew Montini, Andrew Chau and Madilynn Black.

The Board congratulated those who were recognized.

Ms. Glennon called for the student reports.

III. STUDENT REPORTS

Rohan Manohar and Ameila Mower presented the report for Law. Corina Massey presented the report for Foran.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon thanked the group of participants in the Parents Supporting Educational Excellence class for attending the Board meeting. She reminded the Board that March is dedicated to music and arts in our schools. She updated the Board on the budget vote being rescheduled to March 18, CAFE Day on the Hill which Ms. Wolfe-Boynton will attend, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and important upcoming meetings of the Board. She also attended a webinar hosted by CAFE on the Next Generation Accountability Report. She will share the link with Board members.

Ms. Glennon called for Liaison Reports.

Mr. De Young reported on the Milford Education Foundation. He told Board members that the Foundation was looking for judges for the Invention Convention on March 22 at Jonathan Law.

Mrs. Twiss reported on ACES.

Ms. Wasson submitted a report on the BOA, read by Ms. Glennon.

Ms. Glennon reported on PTA Council.

Mr. Pawlowski reported on Permanent School Building Facilities. The West Shore renovation project is complete.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight on the Pk-8 Mathematics Program

Dr. Fedigan, Dr. Nobili and Ms. Swanson narrated a presentation with highlights on the district's continued journey to enhance mathematics instructions. The presentation is on file.

Food Services Financial Report

Mrs. Faustich gave the annual Food Services Financial Report. The food services program is a self-supported program in that the funding is separate from the Board of Education's operating budget. The program is expected to break even at the conclusion of the year. The report is on file.

Ms. Faustich noted the department is working to move away from use of Styrofoam lunch trays, hopefully next fall. She is also hoping to participate in a program aimed at eliminating food waste. She then answered any questions by the Board.

Healthy Food Certification

Ms. Faustich made a recommendation that the district participate in the Healthy Food Certification program for the ninth year. Milford Public Schools will receive 10¢ for each meal sold but is required to

comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published annually by the Connecticut Department of Education. The Board can exempt certain events.

Ms. Glennon asked for the motions to be read.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education participates in the Healthy Food Certification and certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises whether or not school sponsored. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education votes to exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held. Mr. De Young seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education votes to allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales. Ms. Ratner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Contract Extension

Mr. Richetelli provided an update on the situation with Durham Transportation, relative to the bus yard. The property has been sold and Durham must find a new yard to house its operations. Durham has asked the BOE to extend it’s current contract by three years to allow them to enter into a 5 year lease. Without the extension it is unlikely Durham will be able to find a new location in Milford.

Mr. Richetelli reviewed the district’s history with Durham, the positive working relationship that has existed during that time, the current terms of the contract and the initiatives Durham has added to recent contracts. He shared comparative data from districts across the state showing Milford has had very competitive rates with Durham. He concluded with his opinion that it would be in the district’s best interests to continue with Durham and extend the contract. Current terms will remain in effect.

Mr. Neil Martino, General Manager of Durham Bus Services, answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education authorizes administration to enter into a three-year extension to the current contract with Durham School Services Inc. to cover the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years in accordance with the terms indicated on the letter from Durham dated March 3, 2020. Second by Ms. Wolf Boynton. Motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Kopazna provided the human resources activity for February and answered questions from the Board. To date, administration has received 15 retirements.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli shared the Disbursement Report for February 2020. The report contains expenditures over \$1,500. He answered questions from board members.

Coronavirus Update – Dr. Cutaia provided the Board with an update on steps the district has been taking and will continue to take to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

February 10, 2020 Business Meeting

February 24, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mr. De Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Ratner said she attended the Parent University talk by Alicia Farrell. She also had the opportunity to participate in Read Across America at Calf Pen Meadow.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fowler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mr. Andrew Fowler