

Approved

**Milford Board of Education**

**Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube**

**Meeting Minutes**

January 9, 2023

**Board members present:**

Katherine Alling  
Adam De Young  
Meghan Doyle  
Andrew Fowler  
Tracey Irby  
Emily McDonough Souza  
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)  
Gary Peluchette  
Una Petroske  
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

**Administration present:**

Dr. Anna Cutaia  
Dr. Amy Fedigan  
Jim Richetelli  
Chris Brown

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room at Parsons. By a roll call, all ten (10) Board members were present.

**II. STUDENT REPORTS**

Aislinn Burns and Cole Pleimann updated the Board on the activities at Jonathan Law. Venice Montanaro and Connor Nieman updated the Board on the activities at Joseph A. Foran.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Glennon reviewed the budget process and reminded the Board of the workshops that will be held virtually on the 11th and 12th, however, the Board will meet in person on the evening of the vote, January 18, 2023. Board members should continue to hold January 19th, if the need arises. The presentation tonight is an introduction to the budget. She asked the Board to review the budget book and submit questions to her as soon as possible. She will compile the list and forward it to the Administration.

## V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### **2023-24 Proposed Superintendent's Budget Presentation**

Dr. Cutaia gave a presentation that provided the Board with an overview of the proposed 2023-24 budget. She highlighted the accomplishments as well as the challenges over the previous year. The budget for the 2023-24 year is \$106,488,950 which is a 4.392% increase over the 2022-23 budget. Dr. Cutaia reminded the Board of its guiding principles; mission, vision, goals and, the budget priorities and assumptions the Board adopted. She noted that 77% of the budget is for salaries and benefits, which is average since education is a human capital industry. The other 20% is allocated to everything else including contracted services, facilities, transportation, special education tuition, etc. During her presentation, she explained how the Administration prioritized the budgetary needs of the district. Dr. Cutaia also emphasized the foundation for the proposed system improvements are aligned to the vision of the learner, high quality instruction model and the relationships framework. Further discussion will take place at the upcoming Board budget workshops.

### **Academic Calendar 2023-24 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Dr. Cutaia presented the 2023-24 Academic Calendar to the Board for approval.

Dr. Cutaia shared that she reviewed the dates for April break in other Connecticut towns. There are two primary weeks selected. However, she reminded the Board of the survey that was conducted with MPS staff and families that indicated a desire for the April break to follow Good Friday.

Mr. Peluchette asked if the calendar had been shared with the MEA. He also has an issue with the faith community having input on the calendar.

Ms. Doyle said she has a better understanding of why the Administration chose the dates for April break. The focus should be on our families and the staff who live in Milford as it is a large number.

Mrs. Petroske asked for clarification on the April break input from the survey. While the break on this calendar is early, Dr. Cutaia pointed out that it actually allows high school students to return to school with more time to prepare for Advanced Placement exams. She encouraged the Board to stay with consistency.

Ms. Glennon provided some information from the first survey that shifted schools to be in session on Columbus and Veterans days. She said parents indicated a desire for consistency and enough time to plan.

Ms. Doyle said she would be uncomfortable consulting with the MEA. You would need to consult with all unions within the system.

Ms. Wolfe Boynton said the calendar is responsive to different considerations and should be approved as is. Perhaps further conversation about general changes would be good.

Ms. Glennon said that being responsive to our community should be the priority.

Being no further discussion. Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the 2023-24 Academic Calendar as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion.

By a roll call vote, 9-1(Peluchette), the motion passed.

### **Human Resources Report**

Mr. Richetelli presented the Human Resources Report for December. Included in the report were the personnel changes, job postings, retirements, resignations/terminations, and stipend appointments.

Mr. Richetelli explained the need for athletic trainers to be moved from contracted services to full time employees. It is the trend of many school districts and is necessary for staff retention.

### **Quarterly Budget Report**

Mr. Richetelli presented the Quarterly Budget Report and pointed out the areas administration continues to watch and the reasons for some of the numbers. This is the half way point of the year. He reminded the board that the budget must be balanced at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Disbursements Report**

Mr. Richetelli presented the Disbursement Report for December.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the working agreement between the Milford Board of Education and Milford School Security Guard Union, Local 1303, Council #4 - AFSCME, AFL-CIO - July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026.

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

December 12, 2022, Business Meeting

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Glennon attended a CABA webinar with the State Department of Education on the right to read legislation where she heard a lot of frustration. More to come. Mr. Peluchette also attended.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Una Petroske