

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Committee of the Whole Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Chair)
Rita Hennessey
Emily McDonough Souza
Warren Pawlowski
Una Petroske
Betsy Ratner
Nicole Wasson
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the virtual board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. By a roll call, all Board members were present. Ms. Glennon then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. BOARD RESOLUTION ON RACE, EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board that a nonbinding resolution is a statement of support or agreement and this is meant to affirm the work being done by the district. She stated with the presentation of the draft resolution this evening, the work of the ad hoc committee would be done. She turned the meeting over to Ms. Boynton who led the ad hoc committee.

Ms. Boynton said the committee met three times. Dr. Cutaia was present as well as several students of color who shared their experiences within the Milford school system. Ms. Boynton said the Board will need to say, publicly, they understand there is a problem, even if unintentional, to be supportive and stand behind the district's work. The committee developed a resolution, reviewed it with Administration and students and believe it supports the work ahead. It has also been vetted by legal counsel. She read the proposed draft resolution (on file). Ms. Glennon noted the language has been vetted by board counsel.

Ms. Wasson said that she was proud that she participated. She heard from students that racism and implicit bias is real and microaggressions do exist. She thanked the students. This is a vital step in becoming an antiracist school system.

Mr. Fowler echoed what Ms. Wasson said. He shared it was a pleasure hearing from the students and the Committee on the resolution. He wants to see us be a positive community and racism has no place in our schools.

Mr. Pawlowski said it is beautifully written. He supports the resolution.

Ms. Petroske supports the resolution.

Mr. De Young would like to see language that calls out the efforts of the students and includes their involvement in the development of the resolution.

Dr. Cutaia explained the students participate in an advisory. They would be part of the action plan. She does not think the resolution is the vehicle for student acknowledgement. The resolution is an official act of the Board and a statement of support.

A Board discussion ensued and Board members offered their suggestions. The Board agreed to change the wording in the 4th whereas to read “Whereas the Milford Public Schools - in light of the current events related to racism, equity and social justice - is committed to conducting.....” Board members also agreed to substitute the word “is” for the current word seems to read “is more important.”

Ms. Glennon asked Mr. De Young to submit his suggested language addition to her and she would discuss it with Dr. Cutaia.

Ms. Glennon again thanked the three committee members and reminded the Board this would be on the December business meeting agenda for a second reading and potential action.

III. COVID-19 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Richetelli provided the Board with an update on the COVID budget. He explained the different grants and the timeline of when they will need to be depleted. He reviewed a spreadsheet that showed actual expenses related to COVID to date and the projected expenses. He said foodservice is showing a large deficit due to distance learning, however, the Federal government has allowed Milford to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to any student. The government will reimburse the district for each meal distributed to a student. The foodservice department is in the process of informing families of this. If the district remains the same through January, foodservice will have a deficit of \$478,00. The projected deficit at this point for the district is \$1,595,735.

IV. BOARD POLICIES FOR A FIRST READING

Dr. Cutaia presented five personnel policies to the Board for a first reading. Four policies are required policies and were revised to be in compliance with current legal language and updated legislation. Dr. Cutaia said the policies were vetted by legal counsel. The following policies were reviewed and recommended changes were noted.

- 4000.1P Title IX (required)
- 4118.11P Nondiscrimination (required)
- 4118.14P Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities (recommended policy)
- 4118.112P Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (required)

Approved

4118.231P Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco (required)

The Administration will make the suggested changes. The policies will be presented for approval by the Board at the December business meeting.

Dr. Cutaia asked for a moment of privilege to thank the community at large for its support during the difficult time with the pandemic.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske