

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Committee of the Whole and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2023

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Jim Richetelli
Chris Brown
Wendy Kopazna

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, ten (10) Board members were present. Mrs. Petroske participated virtually.

Ms. Glennon told the Board that the Administration will be responding to the Board of Finance's recent 1.8M cut to the 2023-24 approved Board of Education budget. A Public Hearing will take place in April as well as the presentation to the Board of Aldermen.

II. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Dr. Cutaia shared that the budget presented to the Board in January conveys the needs of the district. She then offered corrections to statements made following the BOF presentation.

She told the Board that the Administration has looked at the budget and compiled a list of potential reductions. The Board went through the list, going as far as time allowed, discussing the potential savings, and the impact. Elimination of programs, sports, grounds projects, staff cuts, and the closure of schools was discussed.

Ms. Glennon told the Board the information that was shared is vast. The Board will meet again on March 29 to review the remaining items on the list and discuss it further.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Liz Shipman – 6 Dogwood Place – Ms. Shipman is the parent of two MPS students. She fully supports the budget. We need to invest in our children. She has seen the learning gaps in her children. She would like to hear more about what is being done to close the gaps.

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Emmeline Harrigan – 1107 Oronoque Road – She is the parent of two MPS students. It feels like we are doing a self-imposed pandemic. The kids need more support. It will not do well for kids if the Board has to make any of these decisions.

Mary-Ellen Coloski – 326 West Main Street – She is the president of the teacher’s union. She is saddened to hear about the budget cuts. It will have a negative impact on the schools and the community. We are just starting to get back to normal from the pandemic but we are not there yet.

Mike Rizzo – 12 Snug Harbor - He appreciates all the work of the Board. He spoke about the process noting the Board did their due diligence. There are no good options to the budget cuts. This will slow the progress of the district. There are good questions and ideas but this is not the way to do it. It is not thoughtful or planful. He hopes the Board of Aldermen will do their due diligence.

Kerri Rowland – 161 Beach Avenue –What the Board of Finance is asking is impossible and it will have very long-term effects on the city.

Sara Bromley – 27 Norway Street – Ms. Bromley is a pre-K teacher. She spoke firsthand about how COVID has affected her preschoolers. School counselors are needed.

Colleen Tuba – 82 Fairview Street – She supports the budget as it was presented. She has reviewed the cuts and there is nothing she would support cutting. Social and emotional learning is key. Sports, languages, and STEM motivates our children to go to school.

Augie Harrigan – 1107 Oronoque Road – Dr. Cutaia has done an amazing job with the budget. She is progressive and has a vision. He encourages the Board of Aldermen to do their due diligence. It is what the constituents want. We want to see the community thrive. We need to invest in our community.

Jenna Burton – 321 River Road, Shelton – She is a student at Sacred Heart University studying social work. She believes the connections you make throughout your education are important and serve as protection to some.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peluchette made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mr. Andrew Fowler