

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Andrew Fowler
Rita Hennessey (Arrived at 7:35)
Emily McDonough Souza
Warren Pawlowski
Una Petroske
Betsy Ratner
Nicole Wasson
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

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

Board member absent:

Susan Glennon (excused-personal emergency)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Petroske called the virtual board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. By a roll call, eight Board members were present (Ms. Hennessey then arrived at 7:35). Mrs. Petroske notified the Board that Ms. Glennon would not be in attendance. Mrs. Petroske then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Petroske read the Public Comment statement.

The following residents offered comments of concern about students wearing masks.

Deanna Morin - 7 Greer Circle
Tori Lawlor - 68 Green Street
Trent Orr - 272 Gulf Street

Jacqlyn Paulsson - 222 Oregon Way - Ms. Paulsson spoke in support of mask wearing by all.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Petroske said the August Board meeting will be held on August 23.

Mrs. Petroske announced Ms. Wasson had submitted her resignation from the Board effective midnight on July 12, 2021. The second district democrats have chosen Meghan Doyle to fulfill her seat on the Board for the remainder of the term. Mrs. Petroske asked

Mr. Fowler for a motion.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Milford Board of Education appoints Ms. Meghan Doyle to replace Ms. Nicole Wasson in district two for the remainder of the term. Mr. Pawlowski seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 8-0, the motion passed.

Mrs. Petroske called for liaison reports. There were none.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cutaia thanked Ms. Wasson for her service to Milford. She then asked to change the order of the Superintendent's report moving agenda item V.5 B. 2021-22 Planning to the first order of business under the Superintendent's report as the Director of the Milford Health Department, Mrs. Deepa Joseph was in attendance.

2021-22 Planning

Dr. Cutaia provided the Board with an update on the plan for schools opening in September. The following five factors continue to guide administration with planning: health and safety, social and emotional, academic priorities, resources, availability of human resources. The district will continue to follow the executive orders and guidance provided by the CDC. At the current time, the district will use the tiers used last year. As of today, schools will be open full time beginning September 1. She further said there is a mitigation suite of strategies that are used in keeping schools safe. Some of those strategies include mask wearing, social distancing, placement of desks, ventilation, etc. More information will be shared shortly.

Director of Milford Health Department Mrs. Joseph offered comments on the Health department's work over the past 18 months relative to reacting to COVID-19. While cases are low, currently, based on information reported in other regions worldwide, the projection is that the cases will spike again. The Centers for Disease Controls released new guidelines this week and the Connecticut State Departments of Health and Education are expected to release new guidance in the next week or so. Currently, the executive orders will expire on July 30th. The Milford Health Department will factor in all of these when developing its guidance. She closed by urging the public to get vaccinated and practice safe measures as a precaution.

Superintendent's Year in Review

Dr. Cutaia shared a presentation that depicted an overview of the 2020-21 school year and how the district adapted its work over the past year. She emphasized health, safety, social and emotional, teaching and learning and facilities were at the forefront when planning its work. While the year was challenged by COVID-19, the district continued its core work in teaching and learning, race, equity and social justice, HQI, revision of the middle school schedule and more.

Final Quarterly Budget Report for 2020-21 and Proposed Final Budget Transfers

Mr. Richetelli provided the Board with the final Quarterly Budget Report. He confirmed the year will end with a balanced budget. Surpluses and/or overages were due mainly to COVID-19.

Following the report, Mr. Richetelli presented the final transfer requests to balance the 2020-21 budget. Following a brief discussion, Mrs. Petroske asked for a motion.

Mr. Fowler made a motion that the Board of Education approves the administration's recommended 2020-21 final budget transfers as presented. Mr. Pawlowski seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report for June. Included in the report were the personnel changes as well as stipend appointments.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the Disbursement Report for the month of June. The report continues to call attention to COVID related expenses in yellow.

V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Consideration of Minutes:

June 14, 2021 Business Meeting

June 28, 2021 Special Meeting

Mr. Pawlowski seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Wasson thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with her.

Mr. De Young thanked the parents who have been advocating on both sides on the mask issue, both privately and publicly.

Mrs. Petroske echoed Mr. De Young's comments. She then noted the Department of Health and administration have been making challenging decisions to keep staff and students safe.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fowler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pawlowski seconded. Seeing no objections, Mrs. Petroske adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mr. Andrew Fowler