

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2021

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Meghan Doyle
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)
Rita Hennessey (arrived 7:05)
Emily McDonough Souza
Warren Pawlowski
Una Petroske
Betsy Ratner
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the virtual board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. By a roll call, nine Board members were present (Ms. Hennessey arrived at 7:05). Ms. Glennon then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Glennon read the Public Comment statement.

Nancy Herman -33 Shell Avenue - Ms. Herman thanked the Board for their consideration of naming the Foran Tennis Courts after her father, Richard Herman. She then offered comments about his career in Milford education and development of Foran.

Ann Blake - 5 Rivers Edge - Ms. Blake offered comments supporting the Foran Tennis Courts after Richard Herman.

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

Christen Pond - 83 Cricklewood Road
Terri Smith - 90 Snowapple Lane
Micheal Smith - 90 Snowapple Lane
Tanya Unger - 21 Sumner Avenue
Jeff N. - 301 Wolf Harbor Road

Sara M. - Robert Treat Drive
Tori Lawlor - 68 Green Street

The following residents offered comments of support for following the Governor's directive of wearing masks.

Craig Zentkovich - 100 River Cliff Drive
Jacqlyn Paulsson - 222 Oregon Way
Nicole Wilhelm - 164 Woodruff Road

Michael Dyki - 130 Castle Lane - Mr. Dyki spoke about the recent letter Dr. Cutaia sent to all which speaks to equity and engagement. He is concerned the district is using buzzwords that disguise teaching and learning critical race theory (CRT).

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon thanked the speakers for their comments. She welcomed Board members back from the break and reminded them of the return to the normal schedule. The next business meeting will be on September 13 and the Committee of the Whole meeting is on the 27th. She explained the health department's advice to hold off maybe a month before returning to in person meetings because of the rising cases. She had discussed this with Ms. Petroske and Mr. Fowler and the decision was to take that advice. Other boards in Milford and other Boards of Education across the state continue to meet virtually. She noted the Board room is too small, therefore, a high school will likely be used and will require special arrangements. The Board will continue to fulfill all the requirements for virtual meetings as outlined by state statute and executive orders including live streaming meetings in real time, recording and posting the meetings to the website and providing an opportunity for public comment. She knows everyone wants to get back to meeting in person and she will continue to weigh what that will involve and what the alternatives are. She also reminded the board that the current masking requirement in schools is a result of a current executive order and the board is required to uphold the laws, legislation and mandates of the state.

Ms. Glennon called for liaison reports. There were none.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Naming of the Tennis Courts at Foran High School in Memory of Richard A. Herman
Dr. Cutaia told the Board a request has been made to name the Foran Tennis Courts in memory of Richard A. Herman.

Mr. Richetelli said that Mr. Herman spent 30+ years dedicated to education in Milford. He started in Milford as a history teacher and eventually served as associate superintendent overseeing both Milford High and Jonathan Law. He was instrumental in the development

of Joseph A. Foran High School as being the lead administrator assigned to the project.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves naming the tennis courts at Joseph A. Foran High School in memory of Richard A. Herman and officially declares that the courts shall be named “The Richard A. Herman Memorial Tennis Courts”. Mr. Fowler seconded.

Mr. Pawlowski asked if the tennis courts currently have a name.

Mrs. Ratner said she had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Herman and played tennis with him. His passion for education and Milford was immeasurable.

Ms. Glennon agreed.

By a roll call vote, the motion passed 10-0.

American Rescue Program

Dr. Cutaia provided an update on the details of the district’s application for ARP funds. There are specific requirements for use of the funds including that at least 20% of the funds must be used to address academic supports. She then provided a breakdown of the \$4,902,817 funds Milford will receive. In summary, \$1,924,000 will be used for learning acceleration and academics, \$55,000 for Family and Community Engagement, \$168,000 will be used for Social Emotional and Mental Health Services, \$843,600 will be used for technology and, \$1,911,417 will be used for Building Safety and Health.

Mr. Richetelli provided details of the upgrades that will be done to the school building air filtration systems. This, combined with the suite of mitigation strategies, will help keep everyone safe.

Preliminary Enrollment Report

Dr. Cutaia reported enrollment numbers have increased by 63 over the projected, and 18 over last year. She gave a breakdown of the enrollment increases and decreases by grade level. Administration will continue to monitor the enrollment numbers.

Dr. Cutaia told the Board the enrollment projections as received from a third party, demographer. The enrollment numbers are used for budgeting for the upcoming year.

Ms. Glennon reminded the Board the October 1 enrollment report submitted to the state is the official report.

Foodservice Financial Report

Mrs. Faustich reported on the 2020-21 year end foodservice financials. During the 2020-21 school year, meals were provided to students at no cost. Breakfast meals increased 244% and lunch meals increased 19.7%. The department will continue to provide meals to MPS students at no cost. With school in session, curbside offerings will cease. The department will end with a \$88,110 balance, mainly due to the USDA waivers, which included “no cost meals for all students”.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report for July. Included in the report were the personnel changes as well as stipend appointments. There were 24 or 25 retirements at year end, slightly more than expected.

Ms. Doyle asked if the salary could be increased for lunch aides. Mrs. Kopazna explained the district is trying to stay ahead of minimum wage and did increase the hourly wage in the spring. They will continue to look at that.

Disbursement Report

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Consideration of Minutes:

July 12, 2021 Business Meeting

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Working Agreement Between the Milford Board of Education and the Milford Association of School Administrators (MASA) - July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Fowler thanked the public who offered comments. He hopes to have an in-person meeting in September.

Mrs. Petroske also thanked the community for attending to share their thoughts.

Mr. De Young echoed other board members. He is confident administration and staff will continue to do what is necessary to keep everyone safe and that everyone will have a great year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Approved

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske