

Milford Board of Education

Budget Workshop Minutes

January 18, 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
Wendy Kopazna

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the budget workshop to order at 7:01 p.m. By a roll call, all ten (10) Board members were present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. FINAL QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S 2023-24 BUDGET

The Administration responded to an additional question that was submitted following the previous budget workshop. (All 23 budget questions and answers are on file.)

IV. APPROVAL OF THE 2023-24 BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATIONS BUDGET

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's proposed 2023-24 budget as presented in the amount of \$106,488,950 and directs the Administration to transmit it to the Mayor. Mr. Fowler seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

Mrs. Petroske said the budget development has been difficult due to mandates such as the addition of school counselors at the elementary level, contracts and human resources and fixed costs. Very little left for discretionary system improvements. Those included in the budget were thoughtfully selected.

Mrs. McDonough-Souza echoed Mrs. Petroske's comments and voiced support for the budget saying it is lean when considering the increasing fixed costs. Maintaining school counselors is crucial and would be the right thing to do even without the law.

Mr. De Young agreed. He considers costs like the school counselors to be vital. He said the administration should continually look at how we can do more system improvements. Supporting kids and staff in school is important.

Ms. Wolfe-Boynton also echoed previous comments. While the percentage of the increase is larger than we'd ideally like, it's necessary. She stressed that students today have different needs than even a decade ago.

Ms. Doyle thanked the administration for their work on the budget. With over 1000 employees, improvements to the human resource department are important. She supports the budget.

Mr. Peluchette agreed it is a very well-thought-out lean budget. Recognizes the importance of pupil support services.

Mrs. Alling supports the budget. The Administration did a very good job balancing system improvements while trying to keep the budget as lean as possible.

Ms. Glennon concluded the budget honors the Board's commitments and allows the district to keep moving forward.

Being no further discussion, Ms. Glennon called for a vote on the motion.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske