

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Katherine Alling (arrived 7:06)
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)
Tracey Irby
Gary Peluchette
Una Petroske
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Steven Autieri
Sean Brennan
Louis Giancola
Jennifer Stewart

Board members absent:

Meghan Doyle (work - excused)
Emily McDonough Souza (maternity
leave - excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in Parsons's Board of Education room. By a roll call, seven (7) Board members were present. Ms. Alling arrived at 7:06 p.m.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Jocelyn Gonzalez and Julian Sevillano updated the Board on activities at Foran. Ike Opayemi updated the Board on the activities at Jonathan Law.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon said the October 23rd committee of the whole meeting will be held at Jonathan Law. The facilities utilization study will be the only agenda item. At the meeting, the Board will review data and discuss next steps. The second of the series of two community conversations will be held at Jonathan Law on October 16th.

Ms. Glennon told the Board she had recently read that Milford Public Schools were ranked 29th in Connecticut by Niche. In 2017, Milford was ranked 75th and in 2019, 69th. She noted that Dr. Cutaia was hired in 2018.

Mr. Fowler provided an update on the Permanent Schools Facilities Committee meeting.

Ms. Glennon attended the PTA Council and shared work done over the summer.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Brennan shared that the Board of Education's approval of the Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) for the Expansion and Alterations Project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School (State Project #084-0213 E/A) is a requirement for the application process for reimbursement from the State.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the final drawings, project manual and professional cost estimate in the Unifomat II format for the furniture, fixtures and equipment for the expansion and alternations project at Pumpkin Delight Elementary School (State Project #84-0213 E/A. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight: Equity Framework

Mrs. Acampora began her presentation by referencing the Board's resolution that was adopted in December 2020. The resolution affirms the Board's commitment to ensuring the Milford Public Schools are socially just, anti-racist, and equitable. Earlier this year, Mrs. Acampora was hired to guide the district in fostering an environment of inclusion and belonging in a safe and supportive learning environment. She shared that her work has been reaching out to community groups and working with student groups and staff. Utilizing the feedback and contributions of colleagues and stakeholders along with collected data and research since her appointment, a framework to guide the district's work was developed and presented. The equity framework is built on six intertwining threads that 1) build and maintain authentic student-centered relationships, 2) advance and increase shared capacity, 3) deepen system equity commitments and efforts, 4) center family engagement and voice, 5) engage Milford community in equity work and, 6) curriculum and instruction.

The "One Milford" Equity Framework is intended to create a manner by which Equity and Engagement work in Milford Public Schools is organized, implemented, evaluated and communicated for continuous evolution and improvement. Anchoring the process in Kotter's 8 Steps for Leading Change, the Framework will apply this methodology to create a cohesive, and interdepartmental approach to educational equity and an inclusive, affirming environment for our school community.

The next steps include setting up a coalition (One Milford) of students, staff, community members and civic organizations to create and maintain a sense of belonging for all members of the learning community. These coalitions will contribute to the work being done to form a strategic vision for Equity and Engagement by applying the varied perspectives and experiences of the students, staff, families and community of Milford.

Board members asked questions and offered comments.

2024-25 Budget Priorities and Assumptions

The administration developed the 2024-25 Budget Priorities and Assumptions and discussed them with the Board at the September committee of the whole meeting. The Board suggested some changes be made before being brought to the Board for approval. Those recommendations have been made.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the 2024 -25 Budget Priorities and Assumptions as presented by the Administration. Mr. Fowler seconded. Ms. Glennon called for discussion. There was none. By a roll call vote 7-1(Fowler), the motion passed.

Board Policies for a Second Reading

Approved

Dr. Cutaia presented three policies for the Board's approval. The policies were reviewed and discussed at the September 26th Board meeting and are ready for approval.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy 6161 Library Media Materials - Selection as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy 6161.7 Use of Proprietary Software Products as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board policy 6177 Use of Commercially Produced Video and Audio Recordings as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

October 1, 2023 Enrollment Report

Dr. Cutaia shared the October 1, 2023 Enrollment Report with the Board. The October 1 enrollment is the final number tracked by the state for enrollment for school districts. Dr. Cutaia noted the elementary enrollment has been higher than projected for the past 4 years, particularly in kindergarten. However, middle and high school have slightly decreased. The trend is showing enrollment is flattening out. There will be more information shared about enrollment during the presentation on the facilities utilization study at the October committee of the whole meeting.

Quarterly Budget Report for 2023-2024

Mr. Brennan shared the quarterly budget report. The report includes the budget performance from July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. He highlighted the areas of the budget that may be at risk of becoming a deficit. However, transfers will balance the accounts throughout the year if it is needed. The Special Ed tuition and transportation accounts should balance out once the state reimbursement funds are received by the district. The Administration will continue to monitor the budget.

Talent Management and Development Report

Ms. Kopazna presented the Talent Management and Development Report for September. The report included personnel changes, job postings, retirements, resignations/terminations, and stipend appointments. The district currently has two teaching positions vacancies.

Disbursements Report

Mr. Brennan presented the Disbursement Report for September.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

September 11, 2023 Business Meeting

September 26, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. De Young attended the community conversation at Foran on October 4th. Alderman Beatty was in attendance. He hopes to see more elected officials attend the session at Jonathan Law on October 16th.

Approved

Ms. Glennon attended the community conversation at Foran as well.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske