

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Budget Workshop Minutes

January 17, 2024

Board members present:

Meghan Doyle
Scott Firmender
Susan Glennon (Board Chair)
Tracey Irby
Thomas Koba
Loren Mahler
Una Petroske
Christina Prete
Michael Smith
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the budget workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. By a roll call, all ten (10) Board members were present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Kanaan 23 Murray St – in favor of the budget, which supports the current vision for schools, especially student support services.

Meghan DelMonte 86 Walnut St – spoke regarding her role as an instructional coach.

Sara Kaminski 14 Cinnamon Rd – spoke regarding her role as an instructional coach as a model that's been used in the district for 15 years.

Amy Abraham 299 High St – 2nd grade teacher, spoke in support of instructional coaches and the benefits they've provided to her in her career.

Justine Hidalgo 56 Munson St – would like to see all specialists for art, music, etc. deployed one per school vs schools sharing staff.

Kara Flannery 41 North St – supports the budget and wants to see continued investment in our schools with a focus on moving the district forward.

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Emmeline Harrigan 107 Oronoque Rd – spoke to the growth she has seen in the district during her children’s education. Supports the budget and wants us to continue to provide excellence in our schools.

III. DISCUSSION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED 2024-25 BUDGET

In response to questions submitted, the Administration presented information regarding the impact of the instructional coaches on the learning model in Milford Public Schools and engaged in further discussion with the Board.

IV. MOTION TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED 2024-25 BUDGET

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s proposed 2024-25 budget as presented in the amount of \$111,285,770 and directs the administration to transmit it to the Mayor. Mr. Smith seconded.

Ms. Glennon opened the discussion for the motion. Mrs. Petroske spoke to her support of the budget.

Ms. Prete made a motion to amend to remove \$712,000 from account 1111 – Salaries – to eliminate 16 instructional coaches. Second by Mr. Firmender. Board discussion of the proposed amendment followed. The motion failed 2-8 (Doyle/Irby/Koba/Mahler/Petroske/Smith/Wolfe Boynton/Glennon).

Ms. Glennon referred the Board back to the main motion. After further discussion, a vote on the original motion passed 8-2 (Prete/Firmender).

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mahler seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____

Ms. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____

Mrs. Una Petroske