

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

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

Board members absent:

Cindy Wolfe-Boynton (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education room at Parsons. By a roll call, nine (9) Board members were present.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Julian Sevillano and Jocelyn Gonzalez updated the Board on activities at Foran.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Delvecchio – Mill Pond Road – Ms. Delvecchio has twin fourth-grade boys. She thanked Dr. Cutaia, administration, and Board members for talking with her so she could share her concerns about her son's reading level. He is one level behind, and he struggles every day. Her son recently had an IEP, which is a step in the right direction. However, she still believes elementary literacy instruction in Milford is flawed and needs to be addressed. Mrs. Delvecchio's son shared his desire to learn and grow and the challenges he is facing.

Mary Oake – 30 Darina Place – Ms. Oake attended the Mean Girls play at Jonathan Law. She was impressed by the talent.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon reminded everyone that March is Music in Our Schools month. She reminded Board Members of the calendar and the invitation received to Electrify Your Chorus. She shared that the BOF will vote on the budget on March 20th. The Committee of the Whole Meeting will include a report on the Next Generation Accountability Report.

Ms. Glennon called for liaison reports.

Milford Prevention Council – Mrs. Prete provided the Board with a summary of the Milford Prevention Council meeting.

Milford Education Foundation – Ms. Irby updated the Board on the Milford Education Foundation.

Permanent School Facilities Building Committee – Mr. Firmender gave an update on the school matters discussed at the PSFBC meeting.

Milford Board of Health – Mr. Koba summarized the Milford Board of Health meeting.

Milford PTA Council – Ms. Glennon provided an update on the recent Milford PTA Council meeting.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight – PK-12 STEM Update

Instructional supervisors Mrs. Lisa Swanson and Dr. Thomas Nobili, provided an update on the District's work in the STEM program. Included in the presentation was a recap of the curriculum work done over the past few years, the curriculum cycle, and future curricula plans. Samples of instruction were highlighted, as well as strategies for professional learning. The district will continue its work to grow STEM opportunities for all students. Some of the future offerings include "Manufacturing Studio, Construction Studio, and Design Studio. The presentation is on file.

Food Service Financials

Mrs. Faustich gave the annual Food Services Financial Report. She provided background for the new Board members. In the report, Mrs. Faustich reviewed sales, meals sold, free and reduced, and the impact of the Connecticut Schools Free Meals program that was implemented by Governor Lamont in 2021.

Healthy Foods Certification

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Exempt Food and Beverages: The Milford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Policies for a Second Reading

Dr. Cutaia reviewed the changes made to three policies that were discussed at the February 26, 2024 meeting.

The Board asked if the age should be changed from 21 to 22 in the School Age Entrance policy to align with state statute. The age should be 22.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board Policy 5111 School Age Entrance as amended. Mr. Firmended seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board Policy 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments as presented by the Administration. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve Board Policy 6148 FAFSA Completion Program as presented by the Administration. Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Brennan presented the Disbursement Report for February and answered questions from the Board.

Talent Management and Development Department

Ms. Kopazna presented the TMD Report for February and answered questions from the Board. Included in the report were the personnel changes, job postings, retirements, resignations, and terminations.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

February 12, 2024 Business Meeting

February 26, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mr. Firmender seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Doyle commented on the Girls Hockey Coop winning the championship.

Ms. Petroske thanked the administration for the opportunity to see the school buildings.

Mr. Firmender told the Board he attended both high school drama productions and thought they were excellent.

Ms. Glennon indicated she had also attended both high school drama productions as well as Pumpkin Delight School's Science Fair. She also commented on the performances of the high school bands in the Parade.

Dr. Cutaia asked for a moment of privilege to acknowledge Board of Education Appreciation Month and thanked Board Members for their service to the young people of Milford.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Firmender seconded. Seeing no objections, Ms. Glennon adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin