

MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting
April 7, 2008

The Milford Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 in the Board of Education Meeting Room of the Parsons Complex. Board Chairman, David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. asking everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board Members Present

Mr. D. Amendola
Mrs. T. Casey
Chairman D. Hourigan
Mrs. J. Rohrig
Mr. J. Santa Barbara
Mrs. P. Staneski
Mrs. G. Stanford
Mr. D. Steinlauf

Absent

Mrs. C. Kopazna (work conflict)
Mr. J. Quish (BOA meeting)

Chairman Hourigan welcomed everyone to the board meeting of April 7, 2008. He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for student and staff recognition.

Dr. Polansky recognized the following students for their placement in Milford's 24th Annual Spelling Bee:

Bianca Relucio	1 st Place (Harborside)
Serena Mulligan	3 rd Place (East Shore)

Dr. Polansky told the board Bianca is a native of the Philippines who has only lived in the United States for approximately one and one half years. Bianca will be traveling to Vernon for another spelling bee. Both award recipients received savings bonds from Milford Bank.

Dr. Polansky then recognized Bianca again for winning 1st place in the National AAA 64th Annual Traffic Safety Poster Contest.

Dr. Polansky then recognized the following students for their athletic talents:

Alex While	All-State Gymnastics
Grace Glennon	All-State Gymnastics
Rob Lonergan	All-State Wrestling
Dan Thornber	All-State Wrestling
Matt Schoonmaker	Wrestling Coach of the Year
Zack English	SCC Division II First-Team All Star and others
Casey Dulin	All-State Basketball and others
Nathan Finn	Academic All-State Honors Basketball and others
Jake Miller	Academic All-State Honors Wrestling
Andrea Figuly	All-State Gymnastics and others

Kyra Umbreit	All-State and others
Traci Umbreit	All-State and others
Tracy Vassalluzzo	Coach of the Year
Chelsey Festa	Cheerleading – 2008 SCC Champions
Kasey Gagstetter	Cheerleading – 2008 SCC Champions
Sage Guarnieri	Cheerleading – 2008 SCC Champions
Nicole Fontenot	Cheerleading – 2008 SCC Champions
Megan Oliver (coach)	Cheerleading – 2008 SCC Champions
Jen Bier (coach)	Cheerleading – 2008 SCC Champions

Chairman Hourigan then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mrs. Stanford and Mrs. Rohrig made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2008 Business Board meeting. The motion passed.

Mrs. Stanford and Mrs. Rohrig made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed.

Chairman Hourigan read the public comment statement.

Public Comment

C. Berni – Ms. Berni told the board she was very impressed by the “learning walls” presentation. She requested that they be set up the exhibit again to allow people who missed the meeting to view them. She then thanked Mrs. Stanford for attending Mathewson’s PTA meeting. She also noted that the Mathewson community is not against redistricting, they want the entire process thought through so it is the best for the community long term.

Rick Fester – He told the Foran cheerleaders won State Championships last year. At that time, they were told a banner would be posted at Foran. To date, a banner has not been posted. He asked administration and the board to research this effort.

Steve Kaminski – He said the website for Milford Public Schools is very archaic. More information should be made available to the public via the website. He would like to see financial information and contracts posted, as other towns do.

Chairman Hourigan then asked if there were any liaison reports.

PTA Council (J. Santa Barbara)

Mr. Santa Barbara attended the PTA Council meeting on March 20th. At that meeting, the Council emphasized the need to urge the Board of Aldermen to bond funds for the Phase II renovations, which include the completion of the science labs at both high schools.

The PTA Council also discussed alternative fundraising ideas related to the healthy foods initiative.

He then reported on his attendance at the recent ACES meeting relative to the ACES departmental budgets for the upcoming year. After discussion, each budget was passed.

Student Reports

Student representatives from both high schools were present and gave the student reports.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Polansky reported that Anthony Vitelli received a mini grant to expand the athletic program where Foran athletes work with Calf Pen Meadow students.

He then introduced Ms. Wendy Gibbons Shepro to the Board. Ms. Shepro is a representative of the Milford Collaborative. She explained how the “Collaborative” works with people to gain a strong mentoring presence in the community. Some of the criteria includes that the individual has to be 45 years of age and able to devote two hours a week to mentoring. Subject areas of mentoring include reading, writing and math.

Instructional Report

Textbook Adoption

Mr. Cummings shared a list of new textbooks being recommended to the board. Some, obviously replace the existing versions and some are new to the district. He told the board a copy of each book is obtained in his office should anyone want to view the book for content.

Mrs. Casey asked how long a book is used before it is replaced and was told five years is the average time span for durability.

Dr. Polansky also noted that in some cases such as Social Studies and the constant “world changes” may warrant a replacement sooner.

Mrs. Staneski asked if administration could provide a list with the reason for replacement broken out. She also asked that the cost be in the list.

Administrative Policy

Mr. Cummings then explained the changes to administrative policy 6177(a). Language was added to include “audio” to the policy.

High School Graduation Time

Mr. Cummings said that administration recommends graduation at both high school be simultaneous, at 5:00 p.m. He told the board principals took both the pros and cons into account and agreed to hold them on the same day at the same time.

The board discussed the pros and cons. Dr. Polansky told the board they would not need to take action if the date and time recommended by administration remained the same.

Chairman Hourigan asked the board to state their preference for the record.

Mrs. Stanford prefers "same night at different times."

Mr. Santa Barbara prefers separate nights.

Mr. Amendola has done it both ways. He recommended no change to the superintendent's recommendation.

Mrs. Casey prefers separate nights. It is such an accomplishment. No one should have to rush through the event.

Mrs. Staneski agreed to keep it the same (one night, same time).

Mr. Steinlauf prefers same night, different times.

Mrs. Rohrig prefers different nights or different times.

Chairman Hourigan believes children should have their own designated day. He would like to see different days or at a minimum, different times.

Mrs. Staneski asked Dr. Polansky to explain how the board votes on graduation dates and times.

Dr. Polansky told the board according to state statute, the board has the responsibility to ensure students receive 180 instructional days and 900 hours. He told the board, ultimately, the decision is the board's. If the board does not agree with the recommendation of administration, the board would then need to take action to change the recommendation.

After much deliberation by the board, the board agreed to allow the superintendent to go forward with his recommendation. They advised him to do it with the best interest of the children and staff.

Adult Education Report

Mr. Cummings reviewed the adult education report with the board. He explained the GED numbers have gone down do to more students staying in regular education.

He also explained the last two months salaries had not been deducted from the figures. Therefore, the expenditures would balance after they were paid out.

Operations Report

Personnel Report

Mrs. Kopazna updated the board on the recent job fair that Milford participated in. 390 certified educator candidates were briefly interviewed. At this point, contacts are being established with individuals.

Mrs. Staneski asked Dr. Polansky how our participation in the fair was being perceived.

Dr. Polansky said that some people viewed it negatively. There were some teachers from Milford at the fair. Basically, only candidates who specialized in math, speech or special education received a more in depth interview than the others. In the end, we are only trying to do what is best for Milford.

Mr. Santa Barbara asked if teachers approached the Milford table as much as the other districts and was told yes.

Mrs. Casey asked how much it cost to participate in the fair.

Mrs. Kopazna said to participate the cost was \$1,000. Running an ad would cost more.

Budget Transfers

Dr. Polansky said it is rare that administration would transfer from a utility, however, the postage from the enumeration study has exceeded the budget amount.

Mr. Santa Barbara asked how the district is saving money on electricity.

Dr. Polansky told him that Mr. Bradbury sent the electricity out to bid. He now has the ability to monitor every school around the clock, every day, in every room.

Mrs. Staneski said that the district also participated in scheduled black outs.

Mrs. Staneski then said that she would not oppose the transfer because the board committed to the enumeration.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mrs. Rohrig seconded the motion to approve Consent Agenda Items a, b, c and d. Motion passed.

- a) Voucher List (Disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report. (EL-6, EL-7)
- b) Field Trip Request: Administration recommends approval of the Joseph A. Foran High School Natural Helpers field trip to Camp Hazen for Natural Helper training April 22-23, 2008.

- c) Textbook Adoption: Administration recommends approval of the new textbook adoptions that have been reviewed by the textbook committee.
- d) Budget Transfers: Administration recommends approval of the budget transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from Series 5400 to Series 4100.

Unfinished Business - Policies

Dr. Polansky told the board the revisions to the policies provided for approval were previously submitted to the board. This is a second read and action is needed.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mrs. Rohrig seconded the motion to approve the policy revisions to Ends 1, 2 and 3 (eliminating 4). The motion passed.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mrs. Rohrig seconded the motion to approve the policy revisions to Executive Limitations 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17. The motion passed.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mrs. Rohrig seconded the motion to approve the policy revisions to Board Staff Linkages 1, 3 and 4. The motion passed.

Mrs. Stanford made and Mrs. Rohrig seconded the motion to approve the policy revisions to Governance Policy 13. The motion passed.

Board Comment

Mrs. Stanford said that she is a member of a teachers retired organization. She has been presented with a program that has come under the auspices of Comptroller Wyman. Comptroller Wyman has announced the launch of a cost-saving health insurance program. She then read the statement from the state.

She told the board that every municipality was provided with the information. The plan could be feasibly rolled out by July 1st.

She ask that Mr. Russell investigate the program.

Dr. Polansky said that he has been made aware of the program and Mr. Russell has already been in contact with the city and will continue to converse on this particular program.

Mr. Santa Barbara told the board he attended Colors In Motion at Law. He congratulated the band and coaches for such a grand event. He and Mrs. Staneski attended the play entitled Child's Universe at Calf Pen Meadow. It was a wonderful production.

Mrs. Rohrig told the board she and Dr. Polansky attended the SEPTA meeting on March 26th.

Chairman Hourigan reminded the board the upcoming Board of Aldermen Hearing on the budget is April 30th. He also thanked board members who attended the April 2nd Board of Aldermen Public Hearing.

He read petition received from East Shore Middle School.

He then read a petition letter he received from students at East Shore Middle School.

Chairman Hourigan also attended the Chamber of Commerce Open House with Mrs. Rohrig and Mr. Santa Barbara.

Mrs. Staneski spoke to the public comment made earlier about the posted items on the website.

Mr. Hourigan said that he asked Mr. Kaminski to provide Mrs. Griffin a copy so administration could review it.

A group of young middle school students went to UCONN to attend the science fair. The majority of students received awards and really enjoyed the event.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion and Mrs. Rohrig seconded it to add an executive session to the agenda to discuss the supervisor of adult and support services position. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters pertaining to the supervisor of adult and support services position. The board invited in Dr. Polansky, Mr. Cummings and Mrs. W. Kopazna. The motion passed.

The board adjourned to executive session at 8:50 p.m.

The board reconvened in public at 9:40 p.m.

Being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Rohrig and seconded by Mrs. Stanford. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Stanford
Majority Leader

Recorded by:

Pam Griffin