

# Milford Board of Education

## Minutes for the Regular Business Meeting: December 8, 2008

### Board members present:

David Amendola  
Tracy Casey  
David Hourigan, Chair  
Cindy Kopazna  
James Quish  
Joanne Rohrig  
James Santa Barbara  
Pam Staneski  
Greta Stanford  
David Steinlauf

### Administrators present:

Harvey Polansky, Superintendent  
Michael Cummings, Asst. Superintendent  
Wendy Kopazna, Dir. of Human Resources  
Susan Kelleher, Dir. of Pupil Personnel Services

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Monday, December 8, 2008 in the Board of Education Meeting Room in the Parsons Complex. Board chair David Hourigan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

### II. MUSIC PRESENTATION

Chair Hourigan then introduced Jessica Shearer, Foran Music Director. Ms. Shearer then led the Foran Select Vocal Ensemble in two lovely songs, We Are and The Balm in Giliad.”

### III. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Mr. Hourigan turned the meeting over to Dr. Polansky for student and staff recognition.

Dr. Polansky recognized the third grade teachers and student representatives from Simon Lake Elementary School for participating in a community service program that would help them understand the community and how they could make a difference in lives of people in need. The group organized a fundraiser and included the entire school. The fundraiser was through the Fidelco Watch Me Grow program titled “Coins for Canines.” All students were asked to donate spare change for one week. The money was donated by the students through a field trip to Fidelco. The students developed empathy, ownership and understanding. Recognized were:

Gabrielle Woodward	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Student Representative
Jake Bombace	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Student Representative
Kayla Cianciullo	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Student Representative
Kim Roy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
Janice Rule	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
Terry Onofreo	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
Corrine Dellaera	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

Also in the audience was Ellen Telker, a Milford resident, who has received a guide dog through Fidelco and Jan Adams, a representative from Fidelco.

Dr. Polansky also recognized students from Harborside for their contribution to the community. On Election Day (a day off from school), Nate Jones, Andrew Jones, Dan Murray, Liam Oliver and Hannah Johnson helped clean up the Harborside garden. After completing the garden, Dan and Nate volunteered to help Red Cross at the Flu Clinic that afternoon. Dr. Polansky thanked the team for their time and work.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2008 Regular Business Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Mr. Quish asked that his support statement be changed to read as follows: a) supports 10-day suspension; with an option of five days, prefers in-school suspension. With the noted change, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Hourigan asked for Public Comment.

C. Berni – 96 Centennial Drive – Mrs. Berni told the board Mathewson elementary school recently held a “Junior Achievement Day.” Mr. Joe Meade hosted the event and it was a well worthwhile program.

K. Huber – 277 Roses Mill Road – Mrs. Huber, president of the PTA Council and a Milford parent encouraged the board to approve the Capital Improvement Plan that is to be presented by administration. However, she would like the East Shore renovations moved up in the plan. It is a school is serious need of repair.

#### **VI. CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chair Hourigan wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. He then noted the superintendent will be submitting the budget to the board in January. Everything will be on the table.

#### **VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**1. Student Reports:** Student representatives from both high schools were in attendance and presented their activity reports. Copies of these reports are on file with the Board Secretary.

**2. Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Polansky urged the board to attend one of the upcoming concerts that will be held at the various schools.

**3. Instructional Division:** Mr. Cummings began his report by stating Response to Intervention (RTI) will impact the work of district. It will have a profound influence on student achievement. He then introduced Carol Swift and Jamie Whitaker who narrated a PowerPoint presentation on Response to Intervention. The State has instructed the districts to implement the program by July, 2009. RTI program is currently being piloted at Orange Avenue.

The two explained the district currently does not identify students for Special Education until 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The new program would idealistically begin identifying students in kindergarten.

Staggering statistics are what brought the program to be. Statistics have shown that students who do not learn to read in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades are likely to continue to struggle and are at a higher risk of academic failure. The focus of the program is on growth, not disability. The program uses a quick indicator assessment on children that tells teachers that they need to look further.

The board asked some questions about professional development and budgeting for the new programs. Administration told the board the program is very new and they are in the process of developing next steps which will include professional development and a budget. More information to come.

#### **4. Operational Division Report**

**a. Personnel Report:** Mrs. Wendy Kopazna presented the Human Resources Update, including a current listing of all job openings and personnel changes for the past month. Mrs. Kopazna reported they continue to staff substitute teaching positions and paraprofessionals to cover the day-to-day absences. Housecleaning is still underway. Individuals who no longer wish to be on the substitute list are deleted at this time (and will appear on this month's submittal).

**b. Budget Report:** Mr. Russell reported 93% of the budget has been encumbered. State reimbursements for transportation and special education are anticipated soon.

Mrs. Rohrig requested a summary for the 8210 account. Mr. Russell is to provide a detailed list.

**c. Building Grounds VS Budget:** Mr. Bradbury shared a list of building projects that were included with the 2008-09 budget along with their status. He stated the incomplete status would most likely change to complete by the end of the school year. He then explained how shifts would occur if there was a critical need that would take priority. This could push a project out to the next year's budget.

## VIII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

The consent agenda included four items this month. These were:

- a. Voucher list (disbursements): Administration recommends approval of the Disbursement report (EL-6, EL-7)
- b. Milford Public Schools Tax Deferred Annuity Plan: Administration recommends approval of the state mandated Milford Public Schools Tax Deferred Annuity Plan.
- c. Trumbull VoAg Program Grant: Administration requests authorization be given to Philip Russell to apply to the State of Connecticut for funds in the amount of \$35,000 for the purpose of tuition assistance for the Trumbull VoAg program.
- d. Use of Facilities: Administration recommends approval of the application for the use of Jonathan Law High School for religious services by Cornerstone Christian Center on Sunday, December 21, 2008.

Chairman Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Mrs. Stanford made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, as published. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## IX. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Unfinished Business

Policy 5131.6 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco – Dr. Polansky told the board with the new “In School Suspension” law that will be going into effect in 2009, he asked legal counsel to review the policy for proper language. The board reviewed the changes recommended by counsel. Chair Hourigan then asked for a motion to approve the policy as presented.

Mrs. Stanford made the motion to approve the recommended changes made by administration to the Policy 5131.6 administrative policy. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. New Business

Dr. Polansky presented the board with the 2009/10 – 2013/14 Capital Improvement Plan. Chair Hourigan asked for a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Stanford made the motion to approve administrations recommendation of the Capital Improvement Plan for 2009/10 – 2013/14 and forward the plan to the Mayor for consideration. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## X. BOARD COMMENT:

Chair Hourigan asked the board members for any comments they may have relating to Board business.

Mr. SantaBarbara told the board he contacted Rosa DeLauro's office to see if there were any federal funds available for school construction. There are not any programs available at this time but they are discussing it. Mrs. DeLauro is confident a stimulus package will be coming forward. He urged the board to talk to the senators and congressmen about this issue.

Chair Hourigan told the board the seniors will be attending the Foran concert. They will be transported by Durham bus services. Volunteers are needed to escort the seniors to the concert.

#### **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Hourigan asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to adjourn to executive session to have deliberation pertaining the custodial grievance hearing on December 1, 2008. Mr. Floyd Dugas was invited in. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:25 p.m.

#### **XII. RECONVENE**

Chair Hourigan reconvened the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

#### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hourigan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Stanford made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rohrig seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

---

Greta Stanford  
Corresponding Secretary

---

Pam Griffin  
Recording Secretary