

We are now where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet. ~ Margaret Mead, American anthropologist



Across the Board

Reporting on the BOE Meeting of November 10, 2008

The Milford Board of Education

David Hourigan, Chair
Greta Stanford, Maj. Leader
Joanne Rohrig, Min. Leader
David Amendola
Tracy Casey
Cindy Kopazna
Jim Quish
James Santa Barbara
Pamela Staneski
David Steinlauf

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 11: Veterans Day, No school

Nov. 18-20: Early Dismissal,
Elementary and Middle schools,
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Nov. 24: BOE Meeting (Committee
of the Whole), Parsons, 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 26: Early Dismissal, All levels,
Thanksgiving break begins

Nov. 27-28: No school,
Thanksgiving Break

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STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

◆ Foran High Physics Club

Mr. David Hourigan (Board of Ed Chair) and **Dr. Harvey Polansky** (Superintendent of Schools) congratulated the members of the Foran High School Physics Club for their performance in the 2008 Yale Physics Olympics. The Foran team placed 3rd (out of 50 teams) in the Estimation Challenge category and placed 2nd (out of 50 teams) in the Synchronization Challenge. Members of the Foran team included **Tim DeGennaro, Joe Tylutki, Nishant Patel, Mike Casey, Meryam Joobeur, Gina Massari, Robert Cummings, Nikilesh Timakondou, and John Galin**. The faculty advisor is **George Benedetti**.

◆ Scary Story Contest Winners from Harborside

Mr. Hourigan and **Dr. Polansky** then congratulated Harborside student participants in the locally sponsored Scary Story Contest. Collected Stories store owner **Susan Shaw** decreed the quality of work was exceptional and, therefore, everyone was pronounced a winner. Student participants included **Stephen Furda, Michael Giuntoli, Winter Kornfield, Kelsey Meise, Liam Oliver, Ana Peruzzi** and **Andre Waller**. Faculty advisors included **Miss Lindsay Ferrara, Mrs. Shirley Flesher, and Mrs. Pat Mulhall**.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

◆ Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy 5131.6 Revision

Dr. Polansky and **Mr. Michael Cummings** (Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning), reviewed their proposed changes to the Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy (5131.6) with the board. Central to the discussion was the issue of the varying degrees of consequence that would be assigned, based on whether it was the student's first or second violation. A lengthy discussion took place with regard to the number of days a student would be suspended and whether the suspension would be held "in school" or "out of school."

Mr. John Barile, (Principal of Joseph A. Foran High School) and **Mrs. Janet Garagliano** (Principal of Jonathan Law High School) were invited to add their thoughts during the conversation.

Board Chair **David Hourigan** asked for a consensus to get an idea of the board members' thoughts on the issue. The board was generally in support of the 10-day suspension, with the majority supporting the suspension be served out of school. They were also in support of ensuring support services would commence on the first day of the suspension, in the form of alcohol and drug awareness and education, along with the suspension.

The issue will appear again on next month's business meeting agenda; a formal vote will be expected on the matter.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

◆ Strategic School Profile Overview

Mr. Cummings provided an overview of the recently released Strategic School Profile. Using a Powerpoint presentation, **Mr. Cummings** provided additional information, as it related to our comparison in our DRG, as well as statewide.

◆ Instructional Goals Update

Mr. Cummings provided an overview of the updated Instructional Goals in order to show progress and areas of continued emphasis. He pointed to the many items included in the initial rollout that have been completed, while other items will always be ongoing.

Dr. Polansky added that the topic of Instructional Goals will be discussed in greater depth during the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

(please see pg. 2 for more!)

connections

There is a wealth of information contained on the Milford Board of Education Website. Go to www.milforded.org and check out the following items:

Milford Public Schools Event Calendar

Want to know what's going on in our schools? Click on the **About our District** tab, then click on **School District Calendar**. ALL of the events entered throughout the district are listed there. If you happen to plan events for other organizations, this tool may be extremely helpful!

Bridges to the Board

Answers are provided within 24 hours to questions asked by members of the public during BOE meetings. Check it out!

BOE Meeting Minutes

You don't have to visit the City Clerk's office to get copies of minutes -- they are right on the web!

MGAT -- Channel 79

If you live in Milford and want to know what's going on during any of the city's public meetings, tune in to Channel 79 ~ the Milford Government Access Television channel. Meetings are aired in their entirety and you can attend any time -- even in your jammies!

OPERATIONAL REPORT

◆ Personnel

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 pointed to the many listings for substitute personnel; she further explained they conduct an annual 'housecleaning' of all personnel in this temporary role. Individuals who no longer wish to be on the substitute list are deleted at this time (and are appearing on this month's submittal).

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items:

1. Voucher disbursements, October 2008.
2. Field trip request; students from the Joseph A. Foran Chorus to Boston from 3/27 - 3/29/08.
3. 2009 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

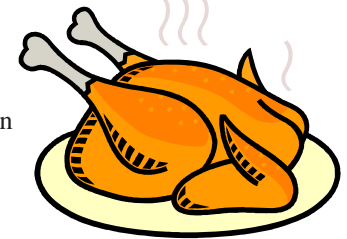
The next Board of Education meeting (Committee of the Whole) will be held on Monday, November 24 (at Parsons), beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



Thanksgiving Day Game ~ Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008



Don't forget! The annual Thanksgiving Day Game is fast approaching, featuring Jonathan Law versus Joseph A. Foran gridiron teams! Game time is 10:30 a.m. -- to be held at Foran this year. Hope to see you there.



Milford's Tree Lighting ~ Friday, Nov. 28, 2008

And then -- the next day -- make sure you attend one of the most wonderful events of the year: Milford's Traditional Tree Lighting!! Horse and buggy rides, hot chocolate and other nice accoutrements will be offered in and around the Milford Green, beginning at 5:30 p.m.; Santa is expected to arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m., courtesy of the Milford Fire Department!

Join your fellow Milfordites for the "community count-down" as we wait for the entire green to become ablaze with lights -- all with the flick of the ceremonial switch! Enjoy!!

