

Across the Board



Reporting on
the BOE Meeting of
April 7, 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

April 14-18: Spring vacation

April 21-25: TV Turnoff Week

April 26: Smooth Jazz Concert, Jay Rowe; Parsons, doors open at 7:00 p.m.; concert starts at 8:00 p.m.

April 28: Board of Ed Committee of the Whole meeting, Parsons, 7:00 p.m.

April 30: Board of Aldermen hear the BOE budget presentation, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Board Chair **David Hourigan** began by asking the board members to present their liaison reports for the various agencies and city groups with which they are associated. Board member **Jim Santa Barbara** reported on PTA Council and ACES news. **Mr. Santa Barbara** also congratulated the color guard and band at Jonathan Law for their recent hosting of and performance in the Colors in Motion event. He also commended the students of Calf Pen Meadow for their outstanding drama production of Child of the Universe. **Mrs. Joanne Rohrig** stated that she had attended a meeting of the Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) with **Dr. Polansky** on March 26 and found it very informative. **Mrs. Tracy Casey** offered congratulations to the Harborside Middle School student science team that had recently competed in the Science Olympiad at UCONN the weekend prior. She reported that several students scored well in the event.

Mr. Hourigan stated that a very important presentation of the education budget will be conducted with the Board of Aldermen on April 30 and urged everyone to attend. The details of the budget and the accounting of each line item will be presented. He also took the opportunity to thank all the members of the board and the community who attended the public hearing on the budget on April 2 at City Hall. He noted he had received a petition from East Shore Middle School on the subject of the proposed budget cuts, asking for their teachers to stay on in Milford.

In closing, **Mr. Hourigan** stated he had attended the Chamber of Commerce's *Educators Business After Hours Expo* at Grassy Hill Country Club and thanked the program sponsors for their invitation to the event. Approximately 50 teachers were in attendance and **Mr. Hourigan** said it was a very successful and enriching evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

◆ Bridges Across Ages Mentoring Program

Dr. Harvey Polansky introduced **Wendy Gibbons-Shepro** from Bridges who had been invited to provide an overview of their Across Ages Mentoring Program. Ms. Shepro gave an informative

presentation about the services and benefits offered through the program and urged everyone to consider volunteering and working with the group. She also provided brochures and other printed materials to the board.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

◆ Textbook Adoptions

Assistant Superintendent Michael Cummings presented the Textbook recommendations being made for the 2008-09 academic year. The document listed 15 textbook titles representing nine subject areas. Points that were elicited through discussion included:

1. Although the subject matter for some of these books does not change, (i.e. Latin) -- these book purchases are needed in order to replace texts that are damaged and no longer usable. While purchasing replacement texts only for the books that are damaged would be an economical approach, many of the damaged book titles are no longer in print, thus requiring the purchase of a new complete set of textbooks for that subject.
2. Prices for the books on the list range from \$28.50 to \$108.97 per book. The average price range was \$60 - \$65 per book.
3. Board members asked for some minor changes in the way the information is presented on this report in the future. Mr. Cummings agreed and said the next textbook report would incorporate the changes requested.

◆ Video/Audio Recording Policy Revision

Mr. Cummings brought forth a proposed revision of *Policy 6177: Use of Commercially Produced Video and Audio Recordings*. Minor changes were proposed to simply add language that included the consideration of audio ratings as well as video ratings when selecting media for student use.

(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!

◆ 2008 Graduation Dates Set

After much discussion, the date for this year's high school graduation ceremonies was set for Friday, June 20, 2008. Both ceremonies will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Due to the two snow days we had this year, the expected last day of school will be Monday, June 23. Seniors who graduated on the previous Friday, however, will **not** be expected to return to school on Monday, the 23rd.

◆ Adult Education Report

Mr. Cummings delivered the Adult Education Report, drafted by **Adult Education Director Cliff Bugyi**. There were no questions.

OPERATIONS REPORT

◆ Personnel Report

Director of Human Resources Wendy Kopazna reported on their experience at the Fairfield County Educator Recruitment Fair that was held on March 29. Eleven administrators and three Human Resources staff members attended the event. Together, the team was able to screen 390 candidates, (representing 21 distinct certification areas). Of that number, 76 candidates progressed on to a more in-depth screening with administrators.

Mrs. Kopazna stated that this was the third year the Milford Public School system had participated in the fair and was pleased to meet with many candidates who are credentialed in shortage areas that are expected in the district.

At the time of the board meeting, Mrs. Kopazna reported there were 18 open positions. She further reported 11 people had been hired since the March personnel report (8 of which were for the substitute teacher pool). In addition, 12 people had announced their resignations/retirement plans since the last meeting. Ten stipend appointments were also recommended in this month's report.

◆ March Budget Report

Mr. Russell presented the financial reports for March. Board members asked questions about the request for a transfer of \$20,000 from the Electricity account (4100) to the Postage account (5400). **Mr. Russell** explained the transfer was

necessary due to the cost of the postage associated with the enumeration survey that had been conducted in the fall.

Dr. Polansky pointed to the fact that substantial savings had been achieved in the area of electricity usage, and congratulated **Mr. Russell** and **Director of Facilities Patrick Bradbury** and the entire Facilities team for the excellent conservation work that had been done.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items:

1. Voucher disbursements, March 2008
2. Field trip request; JAF Natural Helpers to Camp Hazen for Natural Helper training, 4/22-23, 2008.
3. Textbook adoption: (see description under Instructional report).
4. Budget Transfer: (see description under Operational report).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Board of Education meeting will be conducted as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, April 28 (at Parsons), beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

The next regular Board of Education business meeting will be held on Monday, May 12 at Parsons beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Greta Stanford, Majority Leader, reported that she had attended a presentation delivered by State Comptroller Nancy Wyman on the topic of a new cost saving Health Insurance Program. This new program would be available to educators across the entire state. Mrs. Stanford stated the program is a self-funded plan and could, potentially, save our district between \$1 million and \$2 million a year. She asked Dr. Polansky to review this new plan to see if it would benefit Milford.

Education Budget Presentation to BOA on April 30

It should also be noted that the Board of Aldermen will receive a detailed presentation on the Education Budget on Wednesday, April 30 at City Hall. The presentation will be delivered by **Dr. Polansky**, **Mr. Russell**, **Mr. Cummings**, and **Mr. Hourigan**. Any resident of Milford is welcome to attend (please note, however, there is no opportunity for the public to speak at this meeting). The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.