

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  
July 14, 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

**August 18:** BOE Meeting, Parsons,  
7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 2:** First Day of School!!

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

Board Chair **David Hourigan** began by asking for the Liaison Reports from the board members.

Board member **Jim Quish** reported he had attended a **Permanent Schools Building Committee** meeting and commented that work is well underway at both high schools and the projects at each location are progressing smoothly.

## INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

### ◆ Annual Expulsion Report, 2007-08

**Mr. Michael Cummings** referred to the 2007-08 Annual Expulsion Report. Overall, there were 21 expulsions conducted during the past year. Expulsions are reserved for the most serious offenses of drugs, weapons and theft which pose a risk to other students and members of the staff. All expulsion decisions are made by an independent hearing officer based on state law.

### ◆ Lake Compounce Field Trip Report

**Mr. Cummings** presented a summary report regarding the "Math Day at Lake Compounce" that was attended by 66 students from Jonathan Law. The students who attended were either in the Advanced Placement class (and had just finished their AP exam) or enrolled in Statistics. Students investigated problems, made careful calculations and sought accurate answers. Mr. Cummings referred to the packet of math-related questions students had to solve and the challenging nature of the material they needed to consider. Board members commented that it was, indeed, a difficult selection of questions and were pleased with the concept.

### ◆ Field Trip Procedure Revised

**Mr. Cummings** referenced the handout detailing the proposed Field Trip Procedure that would be used for the coming school year. The changes were made to more clearly define the paperwork, the approval process, and the timetables that must be used in order to have trips authorized under the Milford Public Schools umbrella. The board

suggested a few additions to the procedures presented and will revisit the issue next at next month's meeting.

### ◆ Breathalyzer Policy Presentation

**Dr. Harvey Polansky, Mr. Cummings, and Principal Janet Garagliano (JLAW)** gave a presentation about the prospect of implementing a Breathalyzer Policy at each of the two high schools, to be used in conjunction with large school events (i.e. dances). Mr. Cummings explained how the devices work and how they would be used. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Polansky reiterated to the group that administration's goal was to continue to keep kids safe. Discussion will continue on this subject at future board meetings.

### ◆ Assessment Calendar

**Mr. Cummings** referred to the 2008-09 Assessment Calendar that was distributed in the board member packets. The calendar also serves as a compilation of other planned learning sessions, including professional development, faculty meetings and seminars.

## OPERATIONS REPORT

### ◆ Personnel Report

**Director of Human Resources Wendy Kopazna** reported there were 30 open positions, representing a combination of teaching, stipend, and support staff positions. Recruitment for the 2008-09 school year had been aggressive and Mrs. Kopazna stated they continue to interview for the remaining positions. She further reported as they wrap up the 2007-08 academic year, a total of 18 teachers had retired with another 17 filing their notice of resignation.

### ◆ June Budget Report

**Mr. Russell** presented the financial reports for June. Mr. Russell provided additional information about the following line items: Electricity (4100), Heat Energy - Gas (4101), Fuel Oil (4103), Gasoline - Buses (5107), and Gasoline - Maintenance (5802).

(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](http://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!

Mr. Russell also pointed to the Tuition accounts (5600-5605) and reminded the group that the Education Cost Sharing Grant, when received, would cover a portion of those expenses.

### ◆ Budget Transfers

**Mr. Russell** referred to the memo that requested a transfer of funds in order to make the education budget balance for the year-end statement. A total of \$15,386.27 was transferred out of Line Items 2006 (BC/BS); 5104 (Transportation/Athletics); and 8111 (Professional Development) and into Line Items 3238 (Consultation Services) and 7310 (Equipment).

### ◆ Use of Facilities Requests

**Mr. Russell** reported that his office had received two requests from local churches to use classroom and meeting space in our buildings. The Cornerstone Christian Center requested space for only one day (July 20, 2008) at Jonathan Law and the Obedient Life Christian Fellowship requested space at East Shore Middle School from July 20 - September 21, 2008. In both instances, the groups will be required to pay Use of Building fees. The request was approved.

### ◆ Modular Classroom Discussion (East Shore)

**Dr. Polansky** updated the group on the progress that had been made in collecting information about placing modular classroom buildings on the site of East Shore Middle School. Each modular unit can comfortably house approximately 20 students. With a proposed four units to be installed, this would account for 80 fewer students in the already crowded hallways and classroom spaces at the school, thus helping to relieve congestion.

**Pat Bradbury**, (Director of Facilities) offered some additional comments about the possible placements of the modular buildings.

Administration said they would continue to update the board as progress is made.

### ◆ School Lunch Prices to Increase This Year

Milford Public Schools Foodservice Director **Eileen Faustich** asked the board to approve her request to increase the school lunch prices beginning in September. The new prices will be as follows:

	Former Price	New Price <small>(as of 9/08)</small>
Elementary:	\$1.65	\$2.00
Middle:	\$2.00	\$2.25
High:	\$2.50	\$2.75

The board approved Mrs. Faustich's request.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following items:

1. Voucher disbursements, June 2008.
2. Field trip request; students from the Natural Helpers Group (JAF) to Camp Hazen, located in Chester, Connecticut, from 9/15 - 9/17/08.
3. Budget Transfer of \$15,386.27 (as detailed earlier in this piece).

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, August 18 (at Parsons), beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.