

“Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts.”
— Bernard M. Baruch



Across the Board

Reporting on the BOE Meeting of September 10, 2007

The Milford Board of Education

Cindy Kopazna, Chair
Pamela Staneski, Maj. Leader
David Amendola, Min. Leader
Michael Cavallaro
David Hourigan
Scott Marlow
Deborah Mead
Catherine Nihart
Joanne Rohrig
Dr. Mark Stapleton

Upcoming Dates

Sept. 24: BOE Committee of
the Whole Meeting
7:00 p.m., Parsons

Oct. 8: School closed;
(Columbus Day)

Oct. 9: Board of Ed Regular
Business Meeting,
7:00 p.m., Parsons

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the Communications Office of the
Milford Public School system.

NEW STAFF INTRODUCED

◆ The meeting began with Superintendent of
Schools **Harvey Polansky** and Director of HR
Wendy Kopazna introducing the district's new teachers for
the 2007-08 year. Welcome, all, to the Milford Public School
system!

CHAIR'S REPORT

Board Chair **Cindy Kopazna** provided the following updates relating to
board business.

The district's Opening Day Convocation held on August 30 was well
received by all in attendance. All teachers and paraprofessionals, as well as
several municipal leaders, took part in the event.

Mrs. Kopazna also noted a new feature of the district website would be
up and running the next day, (Tuesday, Sept. 11th). *Bridges to the Board*
offers administration and the Board a place to furnish answers to
questions that are asked by members of the public. Information is
uploaded the day after the board meeting, so it is easily and quickly
accessible by all. *Bridges to the Board* can be found on the website at
www.milforded.org → About Our District → Bridges to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

◆ Start of 2007-08 Academic Year was 'Great'

Dr. Polansky stated that the opening of the school year was
“fantastic” and he was pleased with the enthusiastic responses he had
heard from students, parents, and teachers throughout the district.

◆ CAPT Report Indicates High % of Students 'Proficient'; Work Needed to Improve # of Students at 'Goal'

High school principals **Michael Cummings** (JAF) and **Janet
Garagliano** (JLHS) provided an overview of the results received
from last spring's Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT).
Student scores are arranged using 5 benchmarks: Advanced, Goal,
Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic.

In Milford, our 10th grade students have recorded excellent scores
relating to those who are classified as Proficient and above, (Math:
81.9%, Science: 88.5%, Reading: 81.2%, and Writing: 82.8%).

Work must continue, however, in trying to shift more students
toward the “Goal/Above Goal” levels.

Mr. Cummings stated all 9th grade students also take the CAPT
test, as a way to practice and become familiar with the test format.
Early research seems to indicate that the student's score in 9th Grade
is a strong predictor of what his/her score will be in 10th Grade. Mr.
Cummings believes this will help the staff identify areas that a
student may need to work on in preparing for the 10th grade
administration of the exam.

Concerns were raised relating to the fact that all children, regardless
of how long they may have been in our district, as well as English
language learners, are required to take the test and the districtwide
scores include all test takers.

◆ SAT Results Remain 'Flat'

Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Ryan** reported the SAT scores from
students in the Class of 2007 had been received from The College
Board. Scores for the SAT are reported on a scale of 200-800 in the
areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

The average districtwide scores for Milford students in the Class of
2007 were Reading, 509; Mathematics, 492; and Writing, 507.

Mr. Ryan's report was intended to serve as a general overview of the
district's SAT performance and, due to the complexity of the report
and the conclusions that can be made from it, the topic is expected to
be discussed in more detail at a future board meeting.

◆ Enrollment Report

Mr. Ryan presented the September Enrollment Report and stated
that two 'hot spots' had been identified -- both involving

connections

There is a wealth of information contained on the Milford Board of Education Website. Go to www.milforded.org and the following helpful documents can be found there:

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

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

Across the Board

(past issues; these meeting recaps have become very popular for a quick overview of what's happening in education in Milford)

Bridges to the Board

After each Board meeting, we will post the answers to questions raised by members of the public on a new site called Bridges to the Board. Go to:

www.milforded.org

then click on *About our District*. Select *Bridges to the Board* on the drop down menu and you're there! This way, the answer will be provided quickly and correctly -- for everyone!

kindergarten classes -- one at Calf Pen Meadow and one at Orchard Hills. Full time paraprofessionals have been added to the facilities there in order to counteract these larger class sizes.

◆ Pumpkin Delight Start was 'Smooth'

Principal **Vince Scarpetti** reported that the start of school was smooth with regard to the transitioning kindergarteners coming to Pumpkin Delight. He and the members of his staff and parent community conducted an 'Open House' for incoming kindergarten students and their parents the night before school opened. All last minute questions and answers were provided, as well as a final review of the bus routes. School started 'without a hitch.'

◆ Summer Curriculum and Common Assessments

Carol Malone, Supervisor for Curriculum and Reading, delivered a report about the massive amount of work that had been conducted over the summer. In-depth review was conducted in nearly all areas of curriculum, as well as our continued and in-depth analysis of CMT achievement, as well as Advanced Placement (AP) work.

◆ Professional Development Presentation

Gail Krois, Professional Learning Coordinator, was on hand to share her bi-annual report on professional development activity. Mrs. Krois presented the Professional Development Plan for 2007-2008, as well as reviewed the various professional development coursework that had been conducted over the summer. Mrs. Krois also demonstrated how the work being conducted in Milford fulfills the requirements as published in the National Staff Development Council Standards. Her report confirmed the vast amount of activity that had been taking place over the past few months and the positive direction this work is having on staff.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Deputy Superintendent **Philip Russell** reported on operational activity for the month.

◆ Annual Personnel Report

Director of Human Resources **Wendy Kopazna** presented the district's Annual HR Activity Report. A total of 2,578 applications for a total of 206 open positions were received and processed over the past year. Mrs. Kopazna further detailed the quantity and types of work that are conducted in HR, including

(but not limited to) interviewing, personnel record-keeping, benefits administration, labor/union negotiations, and training.

As for Mrs. Kopazna's Monthly HR update, she reported the district was *almost* fully staffed, with one vacant position resulting from an unforeseen resignation received the day before the school year began. Mrs. Kopazna also reports work has begun to hire substitutes needed for the upcoming year. Emphasis will also be placed on completing a large collection of reports that are required each year by the State Dept. of Education.

Lastly, Mrs. Kopazna reported that negotiations continue with the Milford Education Association (MEA).

◆ Summer Projects Kept Facilities Dept. Busy

Patrick Bradbury, Director of Facilities, reported it had been a busy summer, with 118 projects having been completed over the break. Projects, both large and small, were completed ranging from having all of the fire extinguishers inspected and routine maintenance of school boilers and HVAC systems, to large-scale projects such as the complete transfer and remodeling work needed at Pumpkin Delight for the kindergarten transition. The school system was ready to go with clean buildings and equipment in good condition.

◆ Enumeration Survey 'Ready to Go'

Mr. Russell reported that the materials to be used in conjunction with the upcoming Enumeration Study were ready to go. A letter and a yellow Enumeration survey card will be mailed to every household in Milford. All efforts are being directed to publicize the project and to encourage all households to complete and return the card -- whether they have children in the home or not.

CONSENT AGENDA

The MBOE approved the following consent agenda items.

a) Voucher list disbursements; b) Suspension Policy(5114) revision.

NEXT MEETING

September 24th at the Parsons Complex in the BOE meeting room, 7:00 p.m. (Committee of the Whole). All are welcome.

October 9th, also at the Parsons Complex in the BOE meeting room, 7:00 p.m. (Regular Business Meeting). All are welcome.