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MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
Monday, April 7, 2014

Call to Order:

Chairman Paul Dargie called the School Board meeting to order at 6:25 PM in the SAU conference room. Board members present included Mr. Kevin Drew and Mr. Len Mannino. Mr. Peter Bragdon arrived at 6:40 PM and Mr. Robert Willette arrived at 6:50 PM. Also present were Superintendent Robert Suprenant and Director of Human Resources Jen Burk.

Mr. Mannino moved to enter non-public at 6:25 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 3-0.

The Board conducted an interview for the Business Administrator position, available in September of 2014.

Mr. Bragdon moved to exit non-public at 6:45 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Call to Order:

Chairman Paul Dargie reconvened the School Board meeting at 7:00 PM in Room 182 in the Milford High School.

Board Member Comments:

Mr. Willette recognized Karen Jorgenson for singing the National Anthem at the State House last week.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Reports and Presentations:

a. Superintendent's Report:

1. The Superintendent distributed a sheet providing concussion statistics for the past two years for athletics at the High School level.

2. Eight Middle School students have advanced as New Hampshire semi-finalists in the Letters About Literature national competition. The 8 are part of 47 NH students to advance to that level from an original 560 entries statewide. Letters About Literature is part of a national writing competition sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and Targets.

3. The High School mathematics team recently participated in the 42nd annual NH State Mathematics Contest at Plymouth State College and finished 6th out of 16 teams in their division.

4. The Superintendent acknowledged Girls' Basketball Coach Steve Signor who was selected by the Union Leader as the Division II Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year.

5. The Superintendent informed the Board that the Milford Police Department has hired Officer Michael Dowd to become the new School Resource Officer. Officer Dowd was selected by an interview team on which Milford administrators participated. He is a long time Milford police officer who has had a strong interest in working with young people.

6. The High School administration has set graduation for Saturday, June 14 at 10:00 AM on the football field, weather permitting.

7. The last day of school is scheduled for Monday, June 23rd. If that date does not change, the Superintendent informed the Board that he will be recommending that the School Board waive that final day and a second day at the Middle School that was cancelled due to the breakdown of the heating system. Milford schools far exceed the State minimum yearly hourly requirements.

8. The Superintendent informed the Board that Middle School sixth graders field tested the Smarter Balanced Assessment the past two weeks in the area of mathematics. Students utilized the computer laboratories in the library and the adjacent computer lab classrooms. There were few problems with the technology. The thin client labs did time-out periodically but there was ample staff to reboot the equipment. The students were neither daunted nor intimidated by the very interactive technological keyboarding requirements. Teachers did report that the six open response test questions were rigorous and challenging but the students gave it an excellent effort.

9. Business Administrator Katie Chambers informed the Board that the 2014 SchoolCare holiday will be increased from an anticipated \$462,721 to \$908,724. As such, effective rates for employees will decrease next school year.

b. 2012-2013 Auditor's Report:

Jenn Dorr, of Vachon Clukay and Company, Certified Public Accountants, stated that the audit report was "unmodified" (new term for unqualified). She stated that no issues were found and that things were running smoothly. All student activities were recorded and there was no problem with compliance issues. The Board will act on the report at a later date.

c. Quarterly Reports:

Granite Town Media Advisory Committee:

Mr. Drew reported on a meeting that occurred last week. A resident questioned why the Selectmen's meetings are recorded live but the School Board meetings are not. Mr. Drew stated that the Selectmen's meeting room is hard wired and thus more amenable to live recording. Granite Town Media is working on the issue.

Wellness:

Mr. Dargie reported on a meeting that occurred March 18. Each school provided a report on Wellness activities. The Committee discussed the recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered to Milford students and all NH students. Mr. Dargie reported that student activities appear to be trending in the right direction,

Technology:

Mr. Dargie reported that a meeting is scheduled for April 17. A new three year plan is due at the conclusion of this year.

Professional Development:

Mr. Drew reported on a meeting that occurred this afternoon. Discussion centered on the recent field testing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment at the Middle School.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Mr. Dargie reported the committee does not start until June.

ATC Advisory Committee:

Mr. Drew reported a meeting is scheduled in the next few weeks and interest will be in the status of replacing the existing Director who is retiring.

d. Destination Imagination Request for Funding:

Destination Imagination coordinator Sandra Hardy introduced the students.

Ari D. introduced her team and described the tasks assigned to the team. Evan R. described the Instant Challenge part of the program. Anastasia F. spoke about the Technical Challenge component. Andi S. described the benefits of Destination Imagination to the students.

Mr. Bragdon moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for funding of the Destination Imagination teams to attend the Global Finals in accordance with policy 5100. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

New Business:

a. F1 Visa, Parent Request:

Superintendent Suprenant described the research conducted by the High School administration regarding the F-1 Visa program. High School administration does not recommend acceptance of the program. Resident Carolyn Halstead spoke to the benefits of accepting F-1 students. Ms. Halstead suggested further research and consideration. She stated it is up to the school to establish regulations and it could be offered as an option.

b. Board Plans for Staff Recognition Day:

The Board will provide cookies to the staff as a way of demonstrating their appreciation for their work. Chairman Dargie thanked the teachers for their work.

c. School Board Goals:

Mr. Mannino questioned the controversy surrounding Common Core. Mr. Willette described his research as a state legislator which resulted in educators stating that students will receive a better education under the new standards. Chairman Dargie described his research into a Facebook page which offers more control by the author. Superintendent Suprenant suggested a closer relationship with the Budget Committee in building the budget. Mr. Mannino suggested an analysis of parking spaces at the high school. No action was taken.

Old Business:

Special School District Meeting:

Business Administrator Chambers described the status of the special school district meeting relative to the Fact-Finders Report.

Mr. Bragdon moved to petition the court for a special meeting on September 9, 2014, Deliberative Session on August 4, 2014, and a Budget Hearing on June 16, 2014. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 4-1 (Mr. Mannino opposed).

Housekeeping Items:

Approval of Minutes 3/17/14:

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the minutes of 3/17/14. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Approval of Manifests:

Mr. Willette moved to approve the listed manifests. Mr. Dargie seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Drew moved to enter non-public at 8:35 PM. Mr. Bragdon seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Human Resource Director Jen Burk presented a leave extension request.

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the leave request. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Human Resource Director Jen Burk presented a sick bank request. Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the sick bank request. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

The Board discussed recommendations by the Superintendent for vacant positions.

The Superintendent apprised the Board of a student issue involving an Office of Civil Rights complaint.

Mr. Bragdon moved to exit non-public at 9:10 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Mr. Bragdon moved to appoint Dr. Patricia Fazioli as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the 2014-2015 school year at a salary of \$90,000. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Mr. Bragdon moved to appoint Jennifer Burk as Business Administrator beginning October 1, 2014, for the balance of the 2014-2015 school year and for the 2015-2016 school year at a beginning salary of \$90,000. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn at 9:16 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of signing

The Mission of the Milford School District is to provide a quality education that challenges all students to succeed.