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MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Call to Order:

Chairman Paul Dargie called the School Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Milford High School, room # 182. Board members present included Mr. Kevin Drew, Mr. Robert Willette, Mr. Len Mannino, and Mr. Peter Bragdon. Also present were Superintendent Robert Suprenant and Business Administrator Katie Chambers.

Board Member Comments:

There were no Board member comments.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Reports and Presentations:

a. Superintendent's Report:

1. The Superintendent distributed an enrollment count to the Board. The report indicated some double digit differences at various grade levels, either under or exceeding last fall's projections. The Superintendent stated it was wise for the Board to add staffing at grades three and six given the increase to enrollment projections.

2. Athletic Directors Marc Maurais and Don Gutterson organized concussion baseline testing this summer. 145 High School students participated and 133 Middle School students did the same.

3. The Superintendent reported that the first four days of school have gone well with the typical start of school issues. Business Administrator Katie Chambers reported that the new bus routes were implemented with few associated issues. Most bus issues centered on requests for additional bus stops.

4. Last Monday and Tuesday were workshop days in the District and once again they proved valuable to a smooth start to the school year. The opening assembly for staff was last Tuesday morning and there was great energy and enthusiasm from all of the staff for the start of the school year.

New Business:

a. Adoption of Budget Process Guidelines:

Chairman Dargie reviewed the existing budget guidelines with the Board. Mr. Bragdon moved to accept the guidelines as presented. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Mr. Bragdon moved to set a budget parameter for the Superintendent's initial proposal of not more than a 2% increase (not including grants, etc.). Mr. Mannino seconded. Discussion followed. All in favor 2-3 (Mr. Willette, Mr. Dargie, and Mr. Drew opposed). Motion fails.

Chairman Dargie recommended changes to the calculation of the default budget per School Board policy 2327. He recommended that positions eliminated in the proposed budget not be eliminated from the default budget in order to provide voters a choice between the two budgets. Mr. Dargie moved to eliminate salary and benefit reductions from the default budget when positions were eliminated from the proposed budget. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 2-3 (Mr. Willette, Mr. Bragdon, and Mr. Mannino opposed). Motion fails.

Chairman Dargie recommended a curriculum cycle placeholder be considered as part of the default budget as these purchases represent recurring expenses, similar to replacement of equipment. The Board took no action and will discuss at the next Board meeting.

b. Appointment of Jennifer Burk as School Board Representative to the Tax Increment Financing District Advisory Committee:

Mr. Bragdon moved to appoint Jennifer Burk as School Board representative to the Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Committee. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

c. New Hampshire School Board Association – Call for resolutions:

Chairman Dargie described the submission of resolutions process to the Board.

d. Recommendation of Additional First Grade Teacher:

Superintendent Suprenant recommended the hiring of an additional first grade teacher given the increase in student enrollment at that level. Mr. Bragdon moved to approve an additional first grade teacher. Mr. Drew seconded. It was understood that no student would be moved to another teacher if that was not the parents' wish and, if there were little interest from parents, the staffing level would stay the same. All in favor 5-0.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

Housekeeping Items:

Approval of Minutes 8/18/14:

Mr. Dargie moved to approve the minutes of 8/18/14. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Approval of Manifests:

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

Public Comment:

Parent Carla Boudreau requested the Board consider a process for reviewing the school district calendar. Superintendent Suprenant expressed his concerns with reducing the number of student days. Parent and teacher Suzanne Schedin spoke to the benefits of additional daily time for students.

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Bragdon moved to enter non-public session at 8:30 PM. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Superintendent Suprenant described a personnel issue.

Mr. Bragdon moved to exit non-public at 8:50 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0. No action was taken.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn at 8:51 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of signing