

--- FILE COPY ---
MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
Monday, September 15, 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, Business Administrator Katie Chambers, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Patricia Fazioli, and Director of Human Resources Jen Burk.

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 draft copies of the 2014-2015 Report of the Schools brochure and informed the Board that all the information has been updated except the 2014 SAT scores. As soon as the scores are received, the brochure will be ready to be printed.

2. Business Administrator Katie Chambers addressed issues with transportation, one of which is due to the reduction of buses in the fleet. She informed the Board of the inability to transport students residing on Savage Road due to a weight restriction crossing a culvert.

3. The Superintendent thanked the Board for increasing the first grade staffing by one teacher, creating a new first grade classroom with 16 students based totally on parents allowing their children to move to the new classroom. The hiring process created a domino effect in the District as long-time special needs pre-school teacher Brenda Martinez has been nominated for the first grade position. Sage English teacher Jennifer Jepson replaces Ms. Martinez in the pre-school while Emily Ginsberg is being nominated to replace Ms. Jepson at the Sage School. Class sizes have now decreased from a range of 21-23 per class to 16-21 with two classes at the 21 student level (one higher than the Board's guideline).

4. Superintendent Suprenant acknowledged Business Administrator Katie Chambers who will be retiring on October 1st.

5. Mr. Willette expressed concern about the Milford School's ranking by an on-line company called School Digger. Administration will research the information.

b. Annual Report from Director of Buildings and Grounds:

Director of Buildings and Grounds Bill Cooper reviewed the work of the Buildings and Grounds Department over the summer. He commended the work of his staff. Mr. Cooper also addressed the Yeaton Associates assessment of the heating and ventilation system at the Middle School. Mr. Drew requested a prioritization of the projects noted in the assessment.

Chairman Dargie moved agenda item 5c, Award of Tractor Bid, to follow the Buildings and Grounds Report.

5. New Business: Award of Tractor Bid:

Business Administrator Katie Chambers summarized the bid process for a new tractor and recommended the Board award the bid to Chappell Tractor. Mr. Bragdon moved the recommendation. Mr. Mannino seconded. All in favor 5-0. Administration will come back to the Board with a recommendation on financing at the next Board meeting.

Reports and Presentations:

c. Annual Report on Test Scores:

Dr. Fazioli highlighted the results of various assessments of student's achievement in the District during the 2013-2014 school year. There were several questions and concerns raised by Board members about testing. Mr. Bragdon expressed frustration with the frequent changing of statewide assessments. Mr. Mannino questioned the impact of Common Core on teacher instruction.

New Business:

a. Discussion of Potential Non-Budget Warrant Articles:

Business Administrator Chambers reviewed a memo in the Board packet describing possible 2015 warrant articles. Mr. Bragdon noted the assessment of the Middle School includes replacement of rooftop HVAC units. Mr. Dargie stated he was in favor of including all items in a future, larger bond while also waiting to see results of the security assessment. No action was taken by the Board.

b. Approval of ESOL District Plan:

ESOL teacher Denis Jobin highlighted the recommended changes to the ESOL Plan. Mr. Jobin described how students are supported in their various primary languages. Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the ESOL Plan. Mr. Mannino seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Old Business:

a. Default Budget Proposal:

Chairman Dargie described recommended changes to the Default Budget Policy that included maintaining replacement items in the curriculum cycle in the default budget. Resident Suzanne Schedin spoke in favor of the proposed changes. Paula Durand spoke in favor of Mr. Dargie's proposal. Mr. Drew moved to approve the proposed changes to the default policy as described in the exhibit. Mr. Dargie seconded. Motion failed 2-3. Mr. Bragdon, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Willette opposed.

Housekeeping Items:

a. Nominations:

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the following nominations. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Donald MacIntosh – HP Computer Teacher.

Kaylee Parkhurst – JMS Special Education Teacher.

Brenda Martinez – Transfer to JMS Grade 1 Teacher.

Jennifer Jepson – Transfer to JMS Special Education Teacher.

Emily Ginsberg – Sage Special Education/English Teacher.

Approval of Minutes 9/2/14:

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the minutes of 9/2/14. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports, May 2014, June 2014, July 2014 and manifests:

Mr. Willette moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports and listed manifests. Mr. Dargie seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Schedin elaborated on the parent survey results regarding the school calendar.

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Bragdon moved to enter non-public session at 9:20 PM. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Director of Human Resources Jen Burk summarized a request from a teacher for sick bank leave.

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

The Board discussed Collective Bargaining.

Mr. Bragdon moved to exit non-public at 10:00 PM. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn at 10:01 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.