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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**Monday, November 17, 2014**

Non-Public at 6:30 PM:

Chairman Dargie called the non-public meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the SAU Conference room. Board members present included Mr. Kevin Drew, Mr. Len Mannino, Mr. Robert Willette and Mr. Peter Bragdon. Also present were Superintendent Robert Suprenant and Business Administrator Jennifer Burk.

Mr. Bragdon moved and Mr. Mannino seconded to enter non-public at 6:30 PM for the purpose of reviewing the tentatively agreed upon teacher contract and for personnel issues.

Mr. Bragdon moved and Mr. Mannino seconded to approve a teacher leave request. All in favor 5-0.

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

Mr. Bragdon moved and Mr. Willette seconded to exit non-public at 6:47 PM. All in favor 5-0.

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. Len Mannino, Mr. Robert Willette and Mr. Peter Bragdon. Also present were Superintendent Robert Suprenant, Business Administrator Jennifer 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 informed the Board that the second trimester of the school year begins on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. As part of this transition, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled before and after school for the remainder of November. Parent-teacher conferences are an invaluable component for effective parent-teacher communication.

2. This year's High School theatrical production is called Moon Over Buffalo, to be presented November 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the High School Cafeteria.

3. As part of their continuing focus on career education, Sage students will be visiting the Nashua Airport this Friday to explore the various careers associated with aviation.

4. The schools have many charitable projects going on during the holiday season, which is a wonderful, natural way to promote citizenship and community. These activities include the Middle School Turkey Trot, High School No-Shave November, and pennies for Veterans at the elementary schools. Thank you to all of those advisors, teachers, and parents involved with the students in teaching those ideals.

b. Superintendent Search Presentation – New England School Development Council:  
Dr. Ken DeBenedictus of the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) provided an overview of the NESDEC search process. He described the benefits of contracting with NESDEC and a timeframe for a successful search. Dr. DeBenedictus entertained questions from the Board.

c. Superintendent Search, Selection of Search Firm:

Chairman Dargie moved to contract with NESDEC as the District's Superintendent Search firm. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 4-0-1. (Mr. Bragdon abstained due to a conflict of interest). Mr. Dargie and Mr. Willette will represent the School Board on the Search Committee and will meet with NESDEC on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss contract details.

Superintendent Search, Committee Appointments:

Chairman Dargie described the breakdown of those individuals who have expressed interest in the Search Committee. Mr. Willette expressed concern about the amount of committee members who are school employees. The Board agreed to follow the advice of the NESDEC and will reopen the search for Committee membership.

New Business:

a. Financial Forecast:

Business Administrator Jen Burk described the process she used in developing the financial forecast. She projects a fund balance of approximately \$300,000. Mr. Dargie expressed interest in setting the fund balance at \$329,464 and the Board agreed.

b. Schedule Budget/Bond Hearing;

Chairman Dargie reminded the Board that the Budget/Bond hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

c. 2015-2016 Budget Work Session:

Chairman Dargie announced that the teachers have ratified the tentatively agreed upon contract with the School Board. The contract is a three year agreement that includes the following: cost of living adjustments of 2% each year, a new CDHP (Consumer Driven Health Plan), no retroactivity, and language related to hiring discretion. The net cost of the contract is \$441,596.

Mr. Drew moved to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Milford School Board and the Milford Teachers' Association as proposed for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 school years. Mr. Bragdon seconded. All in favor 5-0.

The Board expressed concern about the budget increase that would result in a 9.92% increase on the tax rate. Mr. Bragdon stated that he would be comfortable with a \$700,000 reduction in the current proposal, resulting in a new spending figure of \$38,500,000. Mr. Mannino questioned whether \$700,000 is enough of a reduction and asked for preparations for an additional \$200,000 reduction. Mr. Bragdon moved to direct the Superintendent to present a budget capping spending at \$38,500,000, reflecting the \$700,000 decrease and, potentially, a \$900,000 decrease. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor, 5-0.

Old Business:

b. 1:1 Computing, Pilot Goal:

Mr. Willette expressed his interest in a presentation describing the instructional benefits of 1:1 computing and in addressing certain research that indicates there may be a negative impact of 1:1 computing on student achievement. Administration will report back on the topic.

Housekeeping Items:

a. Approval of Minutes 11/3/14:

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the minutes of 11/3/14. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

b. Approval of Manifests:

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

Public Comment:

Ron Carvell, Chairman of the Budget Committee thanked the Board and Administration for the Saturday budget presentation.

Non-Public Session:

There was no non-public session following the Board meeting

Adjournment:

Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn at 8:20. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

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Chairman of the School Board

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Date of signing

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