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MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, December 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. Len Mannino, Mr. Robert Willette and Mr. Peter Bragdon. Also present were Superintendent Robert Suprenant and Business Administrator Jennifer Burk.

Board Member Comments:

Mr. Bragdon announced that he will not be running for re-election following 18 years on the School Board. Chairman Dargie thanked Mr. Bragdon for his years of service to the District.

Public Comments:

Budget Committee member Rick Wood commented that the District received an unanticipated increase in the health insurance premium holiday and that the District consider using that money to help offset future costs.

Reports and Presentations:

a. Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent announced that High School Physical Education and Health teacher Jean-Guy Letarte had been selected as the New Hampshire Physical Education Teacher of the year by his statewide peers. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Jean- Guy is a strong contributor to the school district. He volunteers for many activities and is the Chairman of the District's Wellness Committee.

b. The Superintendent congratulated Ms. Ferrer, MHS Latin teacher, and her students, Ian Alton, Hanna Millhouse, Michael Murray, and Evan Rysdam. They tied for first place in the Granite State Certamen, a contest of students who study Latin in New Hampshire and Vermont Schools.

Chairman Dargie jumped ahead to item 6-c, Selection of Superintendent Search Committee at this time:

Dr. Ken DeBenedictus, search consultant from NESDEC, updated the Board on the advertisement for the Superintendent's position. He announced he had received many inquiries and some completed applications. Dr. DeBenedictus facilitated the Board in identifying those skills and abilities sought in its next Superintendent.

Immediate issues identified that the new Superintendent will need to deal with include:

1. Capital improvement project to be presented in 2016.
2. Long term planning for 1:1 computing.
3. Learn the budget process.

Chairman Dargie described the selection process for the search committee. Names were pulled from a hat in order to fill the stakeholder positions:

Administration: Michael Hatfield, Jennifer Burk; Classified: Dawn Mallows, Tricia Shea; Teachers: Brad Smith, Martha Serault; Community Members: Andy Seale, Carla Boudreau, Rob Halstead, Russell Kincaid, and Jane Tessier. Mr. Dargie and Mr. Willette will represent the School Board.

Mr. Bragdon moved to appoint the names as presented to the Superintendent Search Committee. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

New Business:

a. Approval of Regular Education Transportation Contract:

Business Administrator Burk described the bid process for regular and special education transportation. Ms. Burk recommended the Board award the regular education transportation bid to Butler's Bus Service Inc. Resident Collette O'Connor asked if there were plans to bring back a late bus and stated many students cannot find rides after school. Mr. Wood asked if the District has the ability to access data such as GPS travel and camera recordings generated by the bus company. Ms. Burk responded affirmatively, although the ability for parents to access bus location through cell phone access is not yet in effect.

Mr. Bragdon moved to award the regular education transportation bid to Butler's Bus Service Inc., with back-up to First Student. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

b. Approval of Special Education Transportation Contract:

Ms. Burk described her reasons for awarding the bid to The Provider Enterprises, Inc. including size of fleet and experience of the company. Resident Peter Lippett questioned why the mileage was different between the two special education bids.

Mr. Bragdon moved to award the contract to The Provider Enterprises, Inc. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

c. Policy Proposal. Policy # 5013 – Use of Restraint and Seclusion (First Reading):

Superintendent Suprenant highlighted the changes to the policy, including new language on seclusion and new reporting requirement timelines. Mr. Wood raised a number of questions regarding the policy including whether it results in increased workmen's compensation claims and reasons why the training language was deleted. He asked the District for a review.

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the policy for second reading with the understanding that training language will be reviewed. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Old Business:

a. Approval of Financing Bid for Tractor:

Ms. Burk described the process for the lease-purchase of the tractor. She recommended the Board award the finance bid to Citizens Bank through KS State Bank, subject to legal and liability insurance review. Mr. Bragdon moved to award the bid to Citizen's Bank as well as approve the Superintendent to be the authorized signer on behalf of the Board for all relevant lease-purchase documents. Mr. Mannino seconded. All in favor 5-0.

b. 2015 - 2016 Budget:

Chairman Dargie expressed his concern about eliminating NWEA. He stated he would like to see money restored to the curriculum cycle equipment from the transportation savings from the new contract (\$44,426.00). Mr. Mannino expressed his concern over the lack of sufficient adequacy funding and unfulfilled funding for state and federal mandates.

Mr. Wood expressed concern with increases in the budget in spite of decreasing enrollments and revenue. He asked why the District has not explored trust funds and grants for alternative sources of revenue. He stated it is possible to limit spending to \$37,800,000 and that a budget of \$38,500,000 in new spending will not "cut it" with the people that he has spoken with.

Mr. Carvell, Chairman of the Budget Committee, spoke on behalf of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee feels \$38,500,000 is a "little high" and the Committee is not comfortable with that number. Mr. Carvell stated that the Budget Committee has built a budget that is about "\$300,000 to \$400,000 less" than the School Board's budget. They have reviewed every line item by object sort. The Budget Committee's budget includes the seventh grade teacher not included in the Board's budget but does not include the School Resource Officer position.

Resident Ms. Carla Boudreau asked if there would be savings to altering the school year calendar by either reducing the number of days or adding vacation time during the winter months. Superintendent Suprenant and Business Administrator Burk both stated that savings would be minimal unless salaries were reduced due to reduced days.

Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the list of reductions proposed by the Superintendent, bringing total new spending to \$38,500,000, including the cost of the teacher's contract, reinstating line 11 and partially restoring line 17, based on savings in the transportation contract. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 3-2. (Mr. Mannino and Mr. Willette opposed).

Housekeeping Items:

a. Approval of Minutes 12/1/14:

Mr. Mannino moved to approve the minutes of 12/1/14. Mr. Bragdon 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:

Mr. Lippett, a substitute teacher, expressed many concerns about AESOP, a software system used by the District to secure substitute teachers. Among a list of concerns, he stated that AESOP is not able to match up the skills of a substitute teacher with the subject being taught, teachers are not trained, and the hours for notification of vacant positions are too early. Administration will review his concerns and report back to the School Board.

Non-Public Session:

There was no non-public session.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Mr. Willette 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.