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MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, April 6, 2015

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. Ron Carvell. Also present were Superintendent Robert Suprenant and Business Administrator Jennifer Burk.

Board Member Comments:

Mr. Carvell thanked Principals DeMarco and Alcox for welcoming him to their respective schools in order for him to observe their school's use of technology and morning entrance procedures.

Mr. Dargie stated he received an email from Richard Wood regarding the Board's policy on email communications. Mr. Dargie will refer Mr. Woods' email to the Policy Committee for review.

Public Comments:

Resident Rick Wood thanked Mr. Dargie for referring the communication policy to the Policy Committee. Mr. Wood encouraged the Board to approve requests for funding from those teams that are involved in national competitions.

Reports and Presentations:

a. Superintendent's Report:

1. The Superintendent informed the Board that high school graduation has been set for Saturday, June 13th, at 10:00 AM.

2. Superintendent Suprenant made reference to the groups who are advancing to national competitions because of their funding requests in tonight's Board packet, and then made reference to individual student awards. 8th grade student Hazen Soucy has won the Gold Key Award in the Scholastics Arts contest and will receive national recognition for his artwork at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in new York City on June 11th. Also, 7th grade student Jade deLeon has been selected to participate in the NH Middle Level Honors Band and to spend several days in new York City rehearsing with renowned music conductors. The Superintendent congratulated all of these students.

3. Student Services at the High School will be hosting a financial aid night in room # 182 of the high school on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 PM for parents interested in learning more about financial packages and scholarships. With the cost of post-secondary education, this has always been a valuable night for families.

4. The Superintendent informed the Board that Smarter Balanced Assessments are proceeding well. Fourth grade students have completed their testing. Third graders are half way through, and sixth grade started today. The Chromebooks have been a huge help in managing the testing, and the Superintendent thanked the Board for their support in acquiring the Chromebooks. The Superintendent stated the students seem to be very engaged in the test and adept at using the many technology tools associated with the test. Also, because it is a dynamic test, Principals are reporting less frustration on the part of struggling learners.

5. Heron Pond and Jacques Memorial Schools will be participating in the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program. This is a volunteer program designed to help families feed their children during the 68 hours between the last school lunch is served on Friday and school breakfast

Monday morning. 68 Hours of Hunger is a private, non-profit that has become very popular in many NH schools while also expanding into other states.

Quarterly Reports:

Granite Town Media Advisory Committee:

Mr. Drew reported that things were going well with taping school and community events. There is a work session scheduled for Thursday, April 9th.

Wellness Committee:

Chairman Dargie reported he attended a meeting a month ago. Building Committees are very active in Wellness activities. Fuel Up to Play 60 programs are going well.

ATC Regional Center Advisory Committee:

Mr. Drew reported that he had a conflict and could not attend the most recent meeting.. The next scheduled meeting is April 21st.

Technology:

Mr. Dargie reported the committee has not met recently, however, the District's bandwidth capacity was tested today due to the utilization of the bandwidth associated with the Smarter Balanced Testing. The District's capacity proved very satisfactory.

Professional Development:

Mr. Carvell reported the committee is working on goals and finalizing professional development forms.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Chairman Dargie reported the committee will not start until later this spring.

New Business:

a. Request for National Competition Funding - History Club:

History teacher Mr. Steven Vetack along with students Jessica Leach, Morgan Stephens, Sarah Watton, and Hannah Waris described the process for qualifying for the National Competition. The team took 1st place in 3 of 5 categories at the State level competition. This year's competition theme was called Leadership and Legacy in History. 1st place exhibit winners presented a display about Holocaust rescuer Irena Sendler. Primary documents included information from the Holocaust Museum.

Student Hanna Waris spoke of her research report on Harvey Milk, former Mayor of San Francisco. She summarized the sources she utilized and described his importance to the gay rights' movement.

Mr. Willette moved to award \$670.00 to the History Club for the National Competition. Mr. Drew second. All in favor 5-0.

b. Request for National Competition Funding – Destination Imagination – High School:

Students from the High School Destination Imagination Team, Kaitlyn Nelson, Andi Sinde and Allie Gath described the DI process and how they learned creativity and application of engineering skills. Their challenge was to create a creature that performed three specific actions. They then spoke to the benefits of befriending students from other countries during the international competition. The girls referenced some of the problems they faced in transporting the props and equipment to the state competition.

Mr. Drew moved to award \$654.00 to the High School Destination Imagination Team for the National Competition. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

c. Request for National Competition Funding – Destination Imagination – Middle School:
Student Jake Federico introduced his five teammates; Jordyn Young, Olivia Conforti, Kelsea Zwicker, Marley Heidel and Samantha Sullivan. The students then described their project and the need to fund raise for the competition in Tennessee. Their skit was comprised of stick figures.

Mr. Drew moved to award \$966.00 to the Middle School Destination Imagination Team for the National Competition. Mr. Willette seconded. All in favor 5-0.

d. Proposal – Reorganization of Special Education Administration:

Superintendent Suprenant introduced Assistant Director of Special Education Mike Hatfield to the Board. Mr. Hatfield referenced documents within the Board's packet and described the advantages to the proposal for the District. Mr. Hatfield proposed to the Board the reorganization of Special Education in the District. He recommended replacing the Assistant Director of Special Services and Reading Specialist position with an Elementary School Special Services Coordinator and a Middle/High School Special Services Coordinator position. The proposal will not cost the District additional funding. One major advantage to the reorganization will be to ensure an administrator is at each IEP identification meeting. Mr. Hatfield responded to questions from the Board about the proposal including questions about the loss of the Reading Specialist position.

Mr. Dargie moved to approve the proposal to reorganize Special Education Administration and for the Board Chair to sign an amendment to the Administrator's contract to include the new positions. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

e. Policy Proposals:

1. Policy 2021 – Availability and Distribution of Healthy Foods (First Reading):

Superintendent Suprenant introduced the new policy. Due to unanswered questions about the definition of the school day, no action taken and the policy will be sent back to committee.

2. Policy 3531 – High School Graduation Requirements (First Reading):

Superintendent Suprenant introduced the revised policy. Mr. Drew questioned whether the high school course taken by a seventh or eighth grader would become part of the student's GPA and would this produce an advantage to a student regarding class ranking? The Superintendent will research a response for the next meeting.

Mr. Willette motioned to move policy 3531 to second reading. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

3. Policy 5096 – Freedom of Assembly/Freedom of Religion (First Reading):

Superintendent Suprenant introduced the revised policy. Mr. Mannino motioned to move policy 5096 to second reading. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

f. Staff Recognition Day:

The Board agreed to send cookies to the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8. Chairman Dargie conveyed appreciation to all the staff for their work.

Old Business:

a. School Board Goals:

1. Negotiate successor agreements with MEPA and MESSA.
2. Review capital needs analysis and determine its implementation.
3. Work closely with the new Superintendent and develop an evaluation plan.
4. Develop a strategic plan for the District.

Chairman Dargie moved to adopt the first three items. Mr. Mannino seconded. Mr. Carvell indicated he would like to see further detail in the goals, specifically those related to the Superintendent's evaluation. Resident Richard Wood encouraged the Board to include financial context into the goals. All in favor 5-0.

Housekeeping Items:

a. Nomination:

Superintendent Suprenant clarified that the budgeted salary for the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator should be \$75,000. Mr. Mannino moved to approve the nomination of Beth Dunham to the position of Elementary Curriculum Coordinator. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor 5-0.

a. Approval of Minutes 3/16/15:

Mr. Drew moved to approve the minutes of 3/16/15. Mr. Mannino seconded. All in favor 4-0-1. (Mr. Willette abstained).

b. 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. Mannino moved and Mr. Drew seconded to enter non-public session at 8:25 PM.

The Superintendent described a personnel issue. No Board action was taken.

Mr. Drew moved to exit non-public at 8:50 PM. Mr. Mannino seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Adjournment:

Mr. Drew moved to adjourn at 8:51PM. Mr. Mannino 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.