

1 **MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD**  
2 **MINUTES**  
3 **Monday, October 5, 2015 – 7:00 PM**  
4 **Milford High School – Lecture Hall Room # 182**  
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6  
7 1. Call to Order  
8

9 Chairman Paul Dargie called the school board meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Milford  
10 High School room # 182. Board members present included Mr. Kevin Drew, Mr. Len  
11 Mannino, Mr. Robert Willette and Mr. Ron Carvell. Also present were Superintendent  
12 Robert Marquis, and School Board Minute's Recorder Diane Scott.  
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14 2. Board Member Comments  
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16 Mr. Dargie reported to the Board that he had sent an email to each board member  
17 regarding the upcoming meeting with the New England Association of School of  
18 Colleges that will be on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm. All board members  
19 stated that they will be attending. Mr. Carvell suggested this be posted as a regular  
20 meeting. Mr. Dargie reported that October 25<sup>th</sup> session would go as follows:

21 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Orientation Meeting

22 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Panel Presentation (school board is invited)

23 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm School Board Meeting

24 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm Welcoming Reception (school board is invited)  
25

26 3. Public Comments  
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28 None.  
29

30 4. Reports and Presentations  
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32 a. Superintendent's Report

33 Superintendent Marquis congratulated Aimee Piccolo's art students from the  
34 Jacques Memorial School who had their artwork selected to be on display this past  
35 weekend at the Deerfield Fair. This was the first time that students from Jacques  
36 were chosen to display their artwork at the fair.  
37

38 Superintendent Marquis reported that the Marching Spartan Band performed in  
39 Wells, ME a few weeks ago and received a strong three-star rating. Superintendent  
40 Marquis gave particular recognition to the soloists in this year's show: Josh Smith  
41 and Caleigh Akers. Their performances were outstanding.  
42

43 Superintendent Marquis reported to the board that the sixth graders at the Milford  
44 Middle School visited Amherst Label on October 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of Manufacturing Day.  
45 Superintendent Marquis stated that this field trip tied directly into the Consumer

46 Education and Technical Education programs and was a great opportunity for our  
47 students to see how their school experiences can be applicable in the real world.  
48 Superintendent Marquis thanked Amherst Label for reaching out and providing this  
49 valuable learning experience.

50  
51 Superintendent Marquis congratulated Lily Roberge, Madison Murphy and Ella  
52 Spencer, who are sixth graders at the Middle School and winners of the NH  
53 Commission for Human Rights Contest. The theme of the poster contest was  
54 "Celebrating Diversity in our Community" and the theme of the essay question was  
55 "What Diversity Means to Me." Their entries were submitted by the Middle School  
56 Health Teacher Ashley Blake. All three students will be recognized at a reception  
57 being held at the State House on October 7, 2015.

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59 a. Quarterly Reports

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61 Granite Town Media Advisory Committee:

62 Mr. Drew reported that they met on September 24, 2015 and that the director is  
63 requesting the purchase of five cameras. Mr. Drew informed the board that the  
64 cameras would be used by the Milford High School, therefore creating a joint  
65 expense. The total cost for the cameras is \$11,000, which will be split between  
66 Granite Town Media and the Applied Technology Center.

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68 Wellness Committee:

69 Committee has not met yet.

70  
71 ATC Regional Center Advisory Committee:

72 Mr. Drew reported to the board that the committee met on September 22, 2015.  
73 Mr. Drew reported that Mr. Jalbert covered their discussions in his recent report.

74  
75 Technology:

76 Committee has not met yet.

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78 Professional Development:

79 Mr. Dargie attended the meeting in Mr. Carvell's absence. Mr. Dargie reported  
80 that the committee will continue to operate with the existing plan.

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82 Capital Improvements Plan; Citizen's Advisory Committee:

83 Mr. Dargie reported to the board that the committee report is complete and will  
84 be presented to the Board of Selectmen and to the Planning Board.

85  
86 5. New Business

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88 a. Policy Proposals:

89 Mr. Dargie reported to the board that the policy committee met and discussed a  
90 variety of policies of four will be reviewed tonight. A possible public complaint

91 policy was discussed, and it is expected that it will be brought forward at a future  
92 meeting.

93  
94 Policy # 2330 – Purchasing (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

95 Mr. Dargie explained that the proposed change to this policy is to increase the  
96 first threshold level for the requirement of a documented second quote (if  
97 possible), from \$1500 to \$3000. The rationale is that the current low threshold  
98 level generates a lot of paperwork with little benefit.

99  
100 Mr. Mannino suggested that the policy be readily transparent to the public.

101  
102 Mr. Willette moved to approve the first reading of the modification of Policy #  
103 2330. Mr. Dargie seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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105 Policy # 2327 – Calculation of Default Budget (1<sup>st</sup> Reading):

106 Mr. Dargie reported to the board that the policy committee discussed the current  
107 default budget calculation policy, and came to the consensus that the policy  
108 should be eliminated. The new process will have the business administrator  
109 calculate the default budget, then bring the calculation to the school board for  
110 review and modification if needed, then final approval.

111  
112 Mr. Mannino stated his opposition to the elimination of the policy. Mr. Mannino  
113 feels it is the school board's responsibility and that directions need to be provided  
114 to the business administrator up front to insure that the default budget is  
115 calculated in the manner desired by the school board. Mr. Willette stated that  
116 ultimately the board has the final decision, and that there will be an opportunity  
117 for the board to make changes if needed.

118  
119 Mr. Willette moved to approve the first reading of the deletion of policy #2327.  
120 Mr. Dargie seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Mannino in opposition.

121  
122 Policy #4006 – Sports – Physical Examinations (1<sup>st</sup> Reading):

123 Mr. Dargie stated that the proposed modification to this policy is a minor  
124 correction to document that there are three grades in the middle school instead  
125 of four. The policy had not been updated when the fifth grade moved from the  
126 middle school to the Heron Pond School.

127 Mr. Mannino questioned if there were additional modifications to the policy that  
128 were needed to clarify that students that move into the district during their high  
129 school years are not bound by the middle school requirements. Mr. Dargie  
130 stated that he felt that the current language was adequate.

131 Mr. Willette moved to approve the first reading of the modification of policy  
132 #4006. Mr. Dargie seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

133  
134 Policy # 4040 – No Smoking Policy (1<sup>st</sup> Reading):

135 Mr. Dargie stated that the proposed modification to this policy is to incorporate  
136 changes in the law that added references to e-cigarettes, liquid nicotine, and

137 vaping. An additional housekeeping change is the elimination of a reference to  
138 the readiness grade since it is no longer in use in the district.

139  
140 Mr. Willette moved to approve the first reading of the revision of policy #4040. Mr.  
141 Dargie seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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143 b. Enrollment Projections:

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145 Mr. Dargie reported to the board that the enrollment projections referenced on his  
146 chart are as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. He stated that the kindergarten  
147 projections are based on averaging the middle three enrollment amounts out of  
148 the previous five years, and that kindergarten is the most difficult to project. Pre-  
149 K enrollments are held constant at 24. Grades 1-12 projections are based on the  
150 average cohort survival rates for the prior three years. Other HS includes adult,  
151 exchange, and part-time (ATC, home-school) students. It is held constant at 23  
152 based on existing enrollments.

153 Mr. Dargie stated that there are currently a total of 2,455 students in the district,  
154 and that the projection is that next year there will be a total of 2,387. This is a  
155 decrease of 68 students or 2.8%.

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157 c. Progress Review of School Board Goals:

158 Mr. Dargie reviewed the status of the school board goals that were adopted  
159 earlier this year.

160 Mr. Dargie reported that collective bargaining negotiations are on track. The  
161 school board recently began negotiations with Milford Educational Personnel  
162 Association (custodians) and Milford Educational Support Staff Association  
163 (para-professionals).

164 Mr. Dargie reported that the capital needs assessment is on track. The initial  
165 review was done in the spring, and the more detailed report was provided at the  
166 previous board meeting. The topic will continue to be discussed with the  
167 expectation that there will be a warrant article proposal.

168 Mr. Dargie reported that the new evaluation process for the superintendent is  
169 slightly behind schedule, but that there was plenty of time to implement it. All  
170 reviews of the superintendent will be done in non-public session.

171  
172 6. Old Business

173 a. Capital Improvement Plan Recommendation:

174 Superintendent Marquis presented to the board his revised capital improvement  
175 plan that has been reduced to \$5 million dollars as requested by the board at the  
176 previous meeting.

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178 Superintendent Marquis reported that the following changes have been made in  
179 order to reduce the capital improvement plan cost.

180 Milford High School

- 181 • Elimination of asbestos tile/pipe insulation abatement
- 182 • Elimination of the generator for the High School

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- Reduction for painting gym, classrooms, hallways and restrooms
- Milford Middle School
- Reduction involving the bathroom remodeling (renovate/paint/tile/repair)
  - Reduction in the renovations of classrooms, hallway, gym, cafeteria and exterior lighting
- Heron Pond
- Reduction in the painting of classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and common areas.

Mr. Mannino stated to Superintendent Marquis that due to the fact that Milford High School is an emergency shelter for citizens, the school should research Home Land Security to see if they offer grants to purchase a generator.

Mr. Dargie stated that he is personally in favor of air conditioning but understands there is a lot of cost associated with it. He requested that Superintendent Marquis research the justification for the air conditioning.

Mr. Carvell asked Superintendent Marquis why there was not air conditioning allotted for Bales, considering it is used during the summer months for summer school. Superintendent Marquis stated that he is looking into a more appropriate location for summer school specifically for that reason. He also stated that to retrofit the Bales building for air conditioning would be very costly which is why he did not recommend it.

Mr. Mannino asked Superintendent Marquis if he had a sense of where Bales fits in the plan for long-term use. Mr. Mannino stated that although it is a historical building, it has become a money pit.

Mr. Dargie stated that the school district does not have a formal long-term plan for the building, but it is currently being used for the Sage School program that is expected to continue for a long time. If the program was moved to an alternate location, then there would be a cost associated with the new location that would likely be in the same range as the cost for continuing to use the Bales building. Mr. Dargie feels the expense of new windows and doors is appropriate for Bales.

## 7. Housekeeping Items

### a. Approval of Minutes 9/21/15:

Mr. Drew moved to approve the minutes of 9/21/15. Mr. Carvell seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mannino stated that although the minutes are generally a summary, he felt that a reference to his comments about the decline in SAT scores should have been included. He did not want to amend the minutes, but asked that future minutes be more inclusive of discussions.

### b. Approval of Manifests: 8,1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037.

