

# Milford School Budget Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

*October 21, 2015*

Present: Beth Kriss, Ethan Aho, Jason Cillo, Jennifer Siegrist, Mark Cooney, Rob Canty, Rob Halstead, Rick Wood

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- I. Meeting Called to Order at 7:04pm
- II. Milford Town Moderator, Peter Basiliere, introduced himself and spoke to the committee about their role and combined perspectives. He offered his time to anyone that had questions.
- III. The committee spoke briefly about the goal of putting agenda and previous meeting minutes up online 2 business days before each meeting.
- IV. 7:11pm - Members reviewed the previous meeting minutes proposal. It was decided to vote it in with the below amendments. The vote pass with 7-0-1.
  - a. 2 spelling errors
  - b. Adding a list of which committee members were researching which aspects of the upcoming school budget by talking to school personnel.
- V. Jason Cilo was elected Vice Chair of the committee by a vote of 7-0-1. Rob Canty motioned for the vote, Mark Cooney seconded.
- VI. 7:14pm - The committee voted to approve the proposed meeting schedule produced by Rick Wood. The vote was 8-0. Beth Kris motioned with Ethan Aho seconding.
- VII. Committee members presented what they learned from their pairings with school officials.
  - a. Beth Kriss met with Tony Demarco concerning the Middle School. The wish list from the school is to add a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade reading teacher to even out the teams, increase the office secretary by 4 days, increase the library by 5 days, and to provide the athletic director with a raise. There was discussion about providing a Nature Classroom stipend to help the program and to recognize more of the school clubs. It was mentioned that the A/C system was having issues keeping up causing some of the electronic white boards to shut down due to heat.
  - b. Rob Canty met with Mike Hatfield to learn about the Special Ed program. He discussed the long and short term goals of accommodating more for k-12. The school's wish list was a 504 Coordinator to handle the meetings and needs of students using the 504 (different from IEP) and a part time pre-school teacher. As

for a long-term goal, Mr. Hatfield would like to eventually expand the behavioral alternative program to include elementary students. Currently, this is exclusively a secondary program. Pete, from the audience, asked if research had been done to gain more information about this idea. However, research has not yet been conducted, because this plan is not currently being developed.

- c. Jennifer Siegrist met with the principal of Jacques Elementary, Nancy Maguire. Mrs. Siegrist related how the Jacques School is requesting two items for consideration in the upcoming budget; 1) reinstating the position for a experienced social worker and 2) increasing the current salary for the school nurse position in order to get a fully independent Registered Nurse (RN) in place of the current Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) due to the limitations of the LPN certification and conform to minimum state requirements. The social worker salary would be shared with the Heron Pond School while the salary increase for the nurse position would be shared with the Special Needs Preschool and the students served by the Sage/Bales School. She read her comments directly from a detailed report she wrote and submitted to the committee and gave everyone present a single-page, bulleted handout.

VIII. Committee and audience talked about upcoming contracts under negotiation, schedule, and warrant articles.

IX. The committee went around the table and briefly introduced themselves again.

X. 8:27pm - Ethan Aho motioned to end the meeting and Jason Cilo seconded. Vote was 8-0.