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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
Monday, November 16, 2015 – 7:00 pm
Milford High School – Lecture Hall, Room # 182**

6 1. Call to Order:

7 Chairman Paul Dargie called the Milford School Board meeting to order at 7:00
8 pm in the Milford High School Lecture Hall room number 182. Board members
9 present included Mr. Kevin Drew, Mr. Len Mannino, Mr. Robert Willette and Mr.
10 Ron Carvell. Also present were Superintendent Robert Marquis, Business
11 Administrator Jennifer Burk, and Marie Walker as the minutes recorder.

12 2. Board Member Comments:

13 Mr. Dargie stated that it was a productive meeting on Saturday and he thanked
14 the School Budget Advisory Committee for attending.

15 3. Public Comments:

16 Rick Wood commented on the proposed budget. He is concerned with how
17 much the community can afford and hopes that the taxpayers are kept in
18 perspective. He also noted a concern that the district revenue is decreasing yet
19 the budget is still increasing.

20 Chairman Dargie recessed the board meeting at 7:10, and opened the Hearing to
21 Receive and Expend Unanticipated Revenue of \$5,000 that was received via a
22 recycling club grant. There were no public comments. Chairman Dargie closed the
23 hearing at 7:11 and reopened the board meeting.

24 4. Reports and Presentations:

25 a. Superintendent's Report

26 The superintendent read two letters of correspondence from those in attendance
27 at the Veteran's Day programs and the Halloween parade. The letters
28 congratulated the elementary schools for both programs. Mr. Marquis noted that
29 fall sports were wrapping up and he noted the accomplishments of the cross
30 country, field hockey, golf, girls' soccer and, football teams. The superintendent
31 also noted that alumni Morgan Andrews starred recently at USC in soccer.

32 b. Middle School Recycling Club presentation.

33 A group of seventh grade students, along with middle school art teacher Diane
34 Parker-Varney, made a presentation regarding the middle school recycling club.
35 The students explained about the recent Trash on the Lawn day. This program
36 allowed students to sort through trash to identify which items were actual trash
37 and which items were recyclable materials. They also noted that more recycling

38 bins would be placed in the hallways; and that the cafeteria bins could be more
39 organized by color coding. They discussed where the \$5,000 from the grant
40 would be spent.

41 Mr. Drew moved to accept the grant of \$5,000, Mr. Carvell seconded. Motion
42 passed 5-0.

43 5. New Business:
44 a. Budget Work Session

45 Mr. Dargie moved to have the superintendent look at the present budget and find
46 savings that could be implemented to increase the fund balance estimation for
47 this year from the current \$200,000 estimate to an estimate of \$400,000. Mr.
48 Drew seconded.

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50 Mr. Dargie explained that the purpose of this request is to try to find a way to
51 lower the estimated tax rate increase that is currently forecasted at 10.3%. If
52 there were no other budget changes, then this change would lower the
53 forecasted increase to 9.5%.

54
55 Mr. Rick Wood encouraged the board to spend money this year to help lower the
56 spending required for the next fiscal year. Mr. Dargie noted that spending money
57 this year instead of next year does not change the tax rate implications of the
58 spending; and that savings only occur when money is not spent in either period.

59
60 Mr. Carvell noted that he was not comfortable with finalizing the reduction for this
61 year without further information. Mr. Dargie confirmed that the motion was a
62 request for the administration to come back with a list of actions only, and it was
63 not a final determination of the reduction.

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65 The motion passed 5-0.

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67 Mr. Dargie stated that he felt that estimated tax increase of 9.5% was too high
68 and that the proposed budget needed to be reduced. He stated that he was
69 comfortable with a \$275,000 reduction, but that reduction too low and did not
70 provide enough tax relief. He then moved that the board direct the
71 superintendent to come back at the next meeting with a prioritized list of cuts to
72 the budget that totaled \$475,000. Mr. Drew seconded.

73
74 There was discussion about the level of the potential cuts. The merits of various
75 levels were reviewed by the board, with discussions about cuts totaling
76 \$475,000, \$700,000, \$900,000, or \$1,000,000. The corresponding tax increases
77 for these levels of cuts are 7.7%, 6.8%, 6.1%, and 5.7%, respectively.

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79 Mr. Carvell moved that the dollar value of the pending motion be amended from
80 \$475,000 to \$1,000,000. Mr. Willette seconded. The motion to amend passed 3-
81 2, with Mr. Dargie and Mr. Drew in opposition.

82
83 The main motion then passed 4-1, with Mr. Drew in opposition. The motion as
84 amended was that the board directs the superintendent to come back at the next
85 meeting with a prioritized list of cuts to the proposed budget that totaled
86 \$1,000,000.

87 b. Policy Proposals:

88 Policy Number 2329 – Donations. First reading of modification to policy number
89 2329 to include references to crowd source funding. Mr. Willette moved and Mr.
90 Dargie seconded to approve the first reading. Motion passed 5-0.

91 Policy Number 2422 – Public Complaints About School Personnel, Employees,
92 Students or Administrators. This is a new policy that basically requires that
93 complaints about personnel originate at the lowest level possible and then move
94 to higher levels as appropriate. It was decided to postpone the first reading of
95 policy number 2422 until the superintendent includes wording about the
96 procedural steps to be taken.

97 Policy Number 3575 – Public Complaints Involving Non-Personnel Matters. This
98 is a new policy that basically requires that complaints on non-personnel matters
99 originate at the lowest level possible. Mr. Willette moved and Mr. Dargie
100 seconded to approve the first reading. Motion passed 5-0.

101 Policy Number 5005 – Suspension and Expulsion of Students. This is a
102 modification to an existing policy to clarify the handling of suspensions of more
103 than 20 days, but less than a complete expulsion. Mr. Willette moved and Mr.
104 Dargie seconded to approve the first reading. Motion passed 5-0. The
105 Superintendent will make a minor spelling correction for the second reading.

106 Policy Number 5115 - Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research.
107 This is a new policy that requires that there be 10 days advance notice for
108 parents before surveys are administered to students regarding controversial
109 topics. The survey or questionnaire has to be available online in advance. Mr.
110 Willette moved and Mr. Dargie seconded to approve the first reading. Motion
111 passed 5-0.

112 Policy Number 5120 – Photography and Audio or Audio-Visual Recording in
113 School Classrooms. This is a new policy that requires approval in advance by all
114 parties involved in recordings in school classrooms. Mr. Willette moved and Mr.
115 Dargie seconded to approve the first reading. Motion failed 1-4, with Mr. Willette,
116 Mr. Mannino, Mr. Drew, and Mr. Carvell in opposition.

117 6. Old Business:

118 There was no Old Business.

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120 7. Housekeeping items:

121 a. Approval of nominations: Mr. Drew moved to approve the nomination of
122 Alisha DiMasi as an occupational therapist; Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion
123 passed 5-0

124 b. Approval of Minutes of 11/2/15. Mr. Drew moved to approve the minutes; Mr.
125 Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

126 c. Approval of Manifests: Mr. Willette moved to approve the manifests as listed
127 in the agenda; Mr. Dargie seconded. Motion passed 5-0

128 d., e., and f., Treasurer's Reports: Mr. Willette moved and Mr. Dargie seconded
129 to approve the Treasurer's reports as listed in the agenda. Motion passed 5-0

130 g. List of Email Correspondence: (information only). No comments.

131 h. List of Classified Appointments (information only). No comments

132 i. List of Employees Leaving Service (information only). No comments

133 j. List of Co-curricular Appointments (information only). No comments

134 8. Public Comments:

135 Mr. Rick Wood stated labor agreements are an issue in the budget.

136 9. Non-Public Session

137 Mr. Willette moved to enter non-public session at 9:25 pm under RSA 91-A:2 I (a)
138 and RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Mr. Drew seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

139 The board discussed collective bargaining.

140 The board discussed a personnel issue.

141 Mr. Mannino motioned to exit non-public session at 10:55 pm. Mr. Drew
142 seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

143 10. Adjournment:

144 Mr. Mannino motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 pm. Mr. Drew seconded.
145 Motion passed 5-0.

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School Board Chairman

Date of Signing