

Milford School Board Minutes

Monday, April 4, 2016 7:00 pm

Milford High School – Lecture Hall Room 182

1. Call to Order

Chairman Paul Dargie called the School Board Meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Milford High School Room #182. Board Members present included Mr. Kevin Drew, Mr. Len Mannino and Chairman Paul Dargie. Mr. Bob Willette and Mr. Ron Carvell were excused. Also present were Superintendent Robert Marquis, and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor William Cooper and Minutes Recorder Marie Walker

2. Board Member Comments

None

3. Public Comments

Mr. Rick Wood noted that the agenda excluded the policy regarding school district communication. He expressed his concern with the school board excluding emails. He encouraged the board to follow the same policy as the district employees and that any emails between school board members should be made public.

Mr. Rick Wood also requested the board to consider a discovery process to solicit comments from the public to allow the public to weigh in on the district calendar prior to March.

Chairman Paul Dargie stated that the communications policy was sent to the New Hampshire School Board Association for review and comment. The attorney returned recommendations to the School Board and the changes will be reviewed at the Policy Committee level and will be discussed as a 1st reading at a future board meeting.

4. Reports and Presentations

a. Superintendent's Report

At Jacques School the annual Grade 1 chick hatching is taking place. Parents and students are both vested in the experience as the chicks are taken home for some time before being returned to school. The Plymouth State Tigers presented the program "I've Got Your Back" which targets bullying and assists children in dealing with bullying. The staff would like to thank the PTO for providing the program. Superintendent Marquis congratulated Kat Raiano, the Milford Middle School student who placed 5th at the NH State Geography Bee. Also, two district Destination Imagination teams placed well at the state competition and will attend Global Finals in Knoxville TN in May. One team was at the middle school and the other was at the high school.

Superintendent Marquis also addressed the fund reallocation for the Special Education Administrators. He clarified any confusion that may have been created at the last Board

meeting. The available funds resulted partially from a retirement and partially from funds that will not be expended this year, and will be carried over to next year.

Superintendent Marquis reported to have met with the high school administration regarding student drug use, the ability to use drug sniffing dogs and the ability of the high school to search lockers. This was recently a topic on social media. Policy 5001 addresses using canines if there is reasonable grounds for the search and is also addressed in the student handbook. Dr. Craven stated that he did not remember of any drug sniffing canines being used in his decades of tenure. Superintendent Marquis noted that given the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, the issue of high school drug use is a priority to be addressed. The high school administration tries to take the appropriate action when drug use is suspected. The use of canines is considered to be an extreme action, and is not normally implemented, but it is an option.

Superintendent Marquis reported on the memo and recommendation of Bill Cooper around the awarding of the asbestos abatement project. This will be discussed in depth with Mr. Cooper later in the meeting.

b. Quarterly Reports

GTM Granite Town Media

Mr. Drew stated that the Committee is concerned about the accessibility to the video feed server when the asbestos abatement and pipe replacement work is happening, as the server is in the TV studio and access to that area will be restricted. Mr. Cooper stated that access will be made available, but it will have to be scheduled to insure the safety of all involved.

Wellness

Mr. Dargie stated that the Wellness Committee met February 11th. At the Jacques School they are participating in the 68 Hours of Hunger Program. Also Jacques has a popular fruits and vegetables programs. At Heron Pond food service is having breakfast for lunch on Wednesday and pizza on Friday. A food service survey is also being completed to get more ideas. At Milford Middle School the students participated in a Fuel up to play 60 fundraiser and raised \$400 by selling grapefruit. At Milford High school a Contra dancing activity happened in the fall and another one is planned shortly. Narcan is being stocked at the high school at the school nurse's office.

ATC-RAC Applied Technology Center Regional Advisory Committee

Mr. Drew stated that the committee would meet next week and would be discussing outreach and the NEASC. He would like to present his report at the next Board meeting.

Technology

Mr. Dargie noted that The Technology Committee has not met recently.

Professional Development

Mr. Carvell was not present, so no report was given.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Dargie noted that the committee has not met as of yet.

Public Comments

Mr. Rick Wood asked where the committee minutes are available. Superintendent Marquis will see they are posted on the Web site.

5. New Business

a. Request for Funding Milford High School Computer Team

A request was presented by Milford High School student Maya Flores to fund a Computer Competition being held in Owego, New York by the members of the MHS Computer Team in the amount of \$500.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Drew to provide \$500.00 for the trip. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

b. High school asbestos abatement portion of pipe replacement project

This item was not on the agenda, but was brought forward due to time considerations. Mr. Bill Cooper noted that bids were opened on Friday, April 1st after the meeting agenda was posted.

The three companies that submitted bids for the asbestos abatement portion of the project were Air Quality Experts, Dec Team Environmental Services, and A-Best Abatement.

Mr. Cooper made the recommendation that the project be awarded to Air Quality Experts.

Board members asked questions around the wide difference in one bid compared to the others. Mr. Cooper explained that this was because the bidder chose to examine the work and thought that the job was not as large as specified in the bid documents. He noted that all bidders were provided with the same information, so the bidding process was done fairly.

Mr. Kevin Drew made a motion to award the project to Air Quality Experts. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

b. Staff Recognition Day

The board will recognize the staff with the distribution of cookies as in previous years. Mr. Dargie stated that the board valued the contributions of all the staff, and thanked them for their service. Superintendent Marquis will insure that the cookies are distributed.

6. Old Business

a. School District Calendar 2016-17

Mr. Dargie noted that the school board has looked at many options regarding the school district calendar. These options include a traditional calendar, adding instructional time to each day to decrease the number of days in the year, eliminating a school vacation and changing the school day hours. Mr. Dargie stated that changing the calendar to yield a longer summer vacation will increase the amount of summer loss. The proposed calendar is consistent with the one suggested by the State Department of Education. Mr. Dargie is in favor of the proposed calendar with an initial tentative last day of school of June 16, 2017. The last day of school if

there are the typical five snow days were included would be Friday June 23, 2017 with a start date of Wednesday, August 31, 2016. Mr. Dargie is in favor of the calendar as presented by the school district administration. He noted that it also allows for students (particularly younger students) to gradually transition into school in the fall, with three school days the first week, four school days the second week, followed by five school days for subsequent weeks. Mr. Drew is also in favor of the traditional calendar. Mr. Mannino is also not inclined to make changes at this time.

Public Comments

Ms. Tricia Shea stated that she was in favor of the traditional calendar as presented. Easing students in to school alleviates behavior issues. In analyzing the calendar, the first semester actually has more days off. She encouraged the community to send emails to the school board instead of voicing their opinion on social media. She hoped the board would include it as an attachment and it will then promote feedback.

Mr. Rick Wood is concerned about the days off. There are a number of days that extend a holiday or a weekend. He would like the board to create a happy medium between the traditional calendar that was presented by the school board and the calendar that he presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Drew to approve the 2016-2017 School District Calendar as presented to the school board. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

b. School Board Goals

Mr. Dargie stated that he would postpone finalizing the goals because the full board was not in attendance.

Mr. Mannino withdrew his proposed goal of improving test scores.

Mr. Dargie would like the school board to still consider the following goals:

1. Collective bargaining with two bargaining units
2. Perform capital needs analysis in preparation of capital bond proposal
3. Develop long term plan for Bales
4. Explore a limited introduction of self-funded full day kindergarten.
5. Explore additional revenue sources such as pay for play or advertising
6. Improving communications with the public

A discussion will be held at the April 18th Board Meeting when the full board is present

Public Comments

Mr. Rick Wood would like to see the board develop a Facilities Master Plan for the district instead of focusing only on Bales.

Mr. Wood would also like the board to direct the administration at the beginning of the budget process by setting overall budget goals and also giving a direction regarding the use of the fund

balance - possibly creating a reserve account that could be used for unanticipated issues that may arise.

Mr. Dargie responded that he did not foresee any other options regarding other buildings and would like to make it specific to Bales.

7. Housekeeping Items

a. Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Mannino seconded to approve the minutes of March 21, 2016.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Mannino seconded to approve the minutes of March 29, 2016.

Motion passed 3-0.

c. List of email correspondence (information only)

d. List of co-curricular appointments (information only)

e. List of employees leaving service (information only)

8. Public Comments

None

9. Non - Public Session under RSA 91-A2 (a) strategy or negotiation to collective bargaining and or RSA 91 A-3 II (a) Personnel (if needed).

Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Mannino seconded a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A2 (a) strategy or negotiation to collective bargaining, and RSA 91 A-3 II (a) Personnel at 8:15 pm. Motion passed 3-0.

The board reviewed a sick bank request, a personnel matter, and collective bargaining. No votes were taken.

Mr. Mannino moved and Mr. Drew seconded a motion to exit non-public session at 8:45.

Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Mannino seconded a motion to grant a sick bank request from a teacher. Motion passed 3-0.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Mannino seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of Signing