

1 MINUTES OF THE MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

2 MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016

3 MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL – LECTURE HALL #182

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6 1. Call to Order

7 In accordance with Board Policy 2154, Superintendent Robert Marquis called the meeting to
8 order at 7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall Room 182 at Milford High School. Board Members present
9 were Mr. Kevin Drew, Mr. Robert Willette, Mr. Paul Dargie, Mr. Len Mannino, and Mr. Ron
10 Carvell. Also present were Jennifer Burk, Business Administrator, and Marie Walker, Minutes
11 Recorder.

12 2. Organization of the School Board (per Policy 2154):

13 a. Election of officers

- 14 1. Chairperson: Mr. Len Mannino nominated Mr. Paul Dargie. All in favor 5-0
15 2. Vice Chairperson: Mr. Robert Willette nominated Mr. Kevin Drew. All in favor 5-0
16 3. Secretary: no secretary appointment
17

18 b. Appointments

- 19 1. Truant Officer (RSA 189:34 & 35): Chairman Dargie appointed School Resource Officer
20 Michael Dowd to serve in this capacity.
21

22 c. School Board Representatives to Advisory Committees

23 The following representatives to Advisory Committees were appointment by Chairman Dargie.

- 24 1. Professional Development Committee: Ron Carvell
25 2. Applied Technology Center Regional Advisory Committee: Kevin Drew
26 3. Technology Committee: Paul Dargie
27 4. Wellness Committee: Paul Dargie
28 5. Granite Town Media Advisory Committee: Kevin Drew
29 6. CIP-CAC: Capital Improvement Plan-Citizens' Advisory Committee: Paul Dargie

30 d. School Board Standing Sub-Committee (s)

- 31 1. Finance: Mr. Paul Dargie and Mr. Robert Willette
32 2. Policy Review: Mr. Paul Dargie and Mr. Robert Willette
33

34 4. Board Member Comments

35 Chairperson Dargie appreciated the voter turnout. 2,700 voters turned out: an increase of 1.5
36 times or 1,800.

37 5. Public Comment

38 Mr. Rick Wood congratulated Mr. Mannino and Mr. Willette on their election to the School
39 Board. He asked the School Board to delay the vote of the 2016-17 Academic Calendar until the
40 next meeting, as it was only posted on Friday and a delay would give them more time to review
41 and comment. He also stated that the voters had delivered a message about the budget by
42 voting it down the last two years, and encouraged the Board to look at other options to fund the
43 budget. Suggestions included: pay for play on sports and students paying for parking permits.
44 Mr. Robert Willette supported the Pay for Play. Mr. Drew asked if there is a timeline for the
45 calendar, to which Chairman Dargie responded that there wasn't, but he was in support of the
46 calendar as drafted.

47 Mr. Bob Thompson spoke to the voters' feelings toward the budget, and addressed three
48 concerns he heard from the neighbors around the CIP Warrant Article / 3 million dollar bond
49 that was defeated: less expensive items which should be included as part of the general
50 operating budget instead of the bond, air conditioning in the MHS gymnasium, and the funds
51 associated with the replacement of windows at the Bales school.

52 Mr. Thompson also thanked the Superintendent for not including a large reduction in teaching
53 staff as part of the reduction to get to the Default budget number. He also requested that the
54 Board consider the feasibility of a full day kindergarten program, although he noted that space
55 would be a bid consideration.

56 Ms. Jess Bartling spoke to the issues around pickup of students from the morning Kindergarten
57 program. The parking passes that were previously issued to parents and daycare providers by
58 Jacques were revoked with little notice, leaving parents to find alternative ways to pick up their
59 children while parking offsite. This was causing time & safety concerns for parents and in-home
60 daycare providers that had multiple other children with them trying to cross Elm Street, even
61 with the crossing guard present. She expressed interest in working with the Board and
62 Administration on a collaborative solution to smooth the pickup & drop off process for the
63 future. The Superintendent explained that this has been a long standing issue, and that the
64 parking passes were causing disruptions to parking for Bales staff and additional safety concerns
65 during the dismissal time.

66 Ms. Tricia Shea stated that this problem has been in existence for a number of years and that it
67 is up to the parents to work out an arrangement.

68 6. Reports and Presentations

69 a. Superintendent's Report;

70 Superintendent Marquis congratulated Marisa Allen for winning the Souhegan Boys and
71 Girls Club Youth of the Year Award. Superintendent Marquis thanked Jeremy Whisbey,
72 Milford HS student for writing an article on the Unified Basketball Team that appeared
73 in the Nashua Telegraph. The Milford Middle School Cheerleaders won the Division 2 Tri

74 County Cheerleading Title on February 12. Superintendent Marquis congratulated Abby
75 Forrence, Middle School student, for winning the Souhegan Valley Boy's and Girl's Club
76 champion of the year award. The SATs were administered at MHS and Superintendent
77 Marquis wanted to congratulate the high school staff for coming together to make this
78 successful and not too intrusive on the remainder of the students. The test was
79 administered to all the juniors at the high school. Heron Pond 5th grade class projects on
80 the Systems of the Human Body are on display at the Milford Public Library. At Jacques
81 School, they collected \$1,338.03 for the program Pennies for Patients.

82 Superintendent Marquis noted that the High School graduation has been set for
83 Saturday June 11th. More details to follow.

84 Repairs to portions of the roof at Heron Pond School will need to be repaired at a cost of
85 \$17,200. Mr. Cooper reported that six sections of the roof at Heron Pond will need to
86 be repaired. A new membrane walkway and snow guards will be added, which will
87 hopefully extend the life of the roof.

88 The update to the pipe replacement and asbestos abatement at Milford High School has
89 work beginning on 6/20 with an expected completion date of October 15th. RFPs were
90 sent out last week. Meetings will be held this Tuesday and Friday for required
91 walkthroughs. The bids will due by April 1st (asbestos) and April 8th (pipe). A plan will
92 be devised for the use of the facility during the summer months for staff and student
93 programs. This discussion will take place shortly with Administration.

94 1. NH Department of Labor Report

95 Superintendent Marquis reported that nine areas identified by the DOL agent as being
96 non-compliant. The District has to propose a timeline for repairs. Several areas have
97 been already taken care of, with the remainder being addressed by August 30th. The
98 DOL will need to approve this timeline.

99 Discussion followed regarding individual items that need to be repaired. Costs involved
100 are \$15,700.00 – primarily due to carpets replacements and eye wash stations.

101 Mr. Rick Wood asked if the fire department was included or consulted. Mr. Bill Cooper
102 stated that the Department of Labor overrides the fire department, but that all parties
103 have been notified of the areas being addressed.

104 7. New Business

105 a. District Guidelines Regarding Head Lice

106 Chairman Dargie reported that the School Board received a letter from a parent
107 regarding head lice. He noted that every few years this issue comes forward.
108 Information on head lice was included in the agenda packet for tonight's meeting.
109 Students with nits are allowed in the District but not with active head lice. The total
110 number of incidents was reported in the accompanying memo, which did not seem to
111 be out of line with the number of incidents reported in previous years.

112 b. 2016-17 Default Budget

113 Superintendent Marquis went through an overview of the recommended cuts to arrive
114 at the default budget level, totaling \$238,268.

115 Chairman Dargie agreed with the recommended cuts. He noted that Veritime should be
116 a consideration to be added to the current budget if funds become available in the fall.

117 Mr. Carvell suggested that the board spend the money now from fund balance, and to
118 also begin making some of the needed repairs to the buildings. Mr. Mannino
119 questioned how the recommended changes to the Special Education Coordinator
120 positions, changing one to an Assistant Director, would improve the programs offered.
121 Mr. Mannino also expressed concerned about the elimination of the program associate
122 position at Heron Pond, and asked if this change would be detrimental to the students
123 in that program. Superintendent Marquis assured him that the proposal would not
124 significantly impact students.

125 Mr. Wood asked what would happen when the grant funds being used next year to
126 offset some of these costs are no longer available, and if we would see those positions
127 funded in the regular operating budget. Superintendent Marquis noted that the funding
128 have been stable over the past years for IDEA.

129 Mr. Carvell stated that there have been numerous discussions regarding the stipends for
130 co-curricular activities, particularly with the Board's request to update the information
131 used in establishing co-curricular amounts. The Superintendent noted that he was
132 planning to set up a committee to review these calculations starting in April, and would
133 be done before the end of the summer. Chairman Dargie noted that it should be
134 relatively simple to create a summary spreadsheet to establish stipend levels, rather
135 than forming a Committee.

136 Chairman Dargie asked for a motion to accept the budget cuts of \$238,268.

137 Mr. Drew motioned, and Mr. Willette seconded. 3-2 motion passes.

138 c. School Board Calendar for New Term

139 Chairman Dargie outlined the standard agenda items for the School Board Calendar for
140 for the new 2016-17 term. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Drew motioned,
141 and Mr. Willette seconded. 5-0 motion passes.

142 d. School Board Goals for New Term – Preliminary Discussion

143 Mr. Dargie suggested that the goals for the school board include:

- 144 1. Collective Bargaining
- 145 2. Develop capital needs analysis
- 146 3. Determine the use of Bales School
- 147 4. Full Day Kindergarten

148

149 Mr. Willette suggested that additional revenue sources be investigated to help with the
150 budget, such as pay-for-play mentioned earlier.

151 Public Comments

152 Mr. Thompson noted the benefits of full day kindergarten.

153 Mr. Rick Wood was concerned that the Board hadn't suggested a goal for establishing
154 the budget, such as providing feedback at the start of the budget process. He stated
155 that full day kindergarten is a great idea but there is enough difficulty with paying for
156 current programs, and this would be an added burden for taxpayers. In addition, an
157 overall spatial analysis should be completed to review the needs of the District. Mr.
158 Carvell stated that a study was done in 2010 to look at the use of the Bales building, and
159 that the report should be reviewed.

160 Mr. Mannino suggested that improving test scores should be a Board goal as well.

161 Mr. Carvell added that communication between the Board and residents needs to be
162 addressed.

163 Mr. Rick Wood suggested that a link to the Town's recording of meetings should be
164 added to the District's website with meeting minutes to improve residents' access to
165 information, similar to what they did for the Budget Committee.

166 Chairman Dargie stated at the next meeting the Board would continue to work on
167 setting the goals.

168 e. School District Calendar 2016-17

169 Chairman Dargie outlined the proposed traditional style calendar that is based on the
170 NH State School Calendar with a proposed start date for school on Wednesday, August
171 31, 2016.

172 Mr. Wood distributed a calendar he proposed to the Board which addresses school
173 starting after Labor Day, which included elimination of one of the vacation weeks and
174 restructuring the workshop days to end earlier in June. He again requests that the
175 Board hold off on deciding on the calendar until the next meeting to give more residents
176 an opportunity to review the proposed calendar.

177 Mr. Willette moved to table the calendar to the next meeting, and Mr. Drew seconded.
178 Motion passed 5-0.

179 f. Policy Proposal

180 1. Policy 2154 School Board Communication (1st Reading)

181 Mr. Wood encouraged the Board not to establish a policy that made communications
182 from their e-mails private, but to hold themselves to the same standard as employees of
183 the District. Chairman Dargie noted that this exemption is outlined in State statute.

184 Mr. Drew motioned to accept the 1st reading of School Board Communications policy,
185 and Mr. Willette seconded. Motion passed 4-1. Mr. Mannino noted that he was
186 opposing this for now, but will conduct this own research.

187 8. Old Business

188 a. Policy 2160 – Minutes (2nd reading)

189 Mr. Drew made a motion to accept Policy 2160 – Minutes, and Mr. Willette seconded.
190 Motion passed 5-0.

191 b. Policy 2296 – Video and Audio Recording in School Classroom (second reading)

192 Mr. Drew motioned to accept the policy, and Mr. Willette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

193 9. Housekeeping Items

194 a. Approval of Minutes 2/15/16 – Mr. Drew motioned, Mr. Dargie seconded a motion to
195 approve the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

196 b. Approval of Treasurer’s Reports – Mr. Willette moved, and Mr. Dargie seconded a motion to
197 approve the Treasurer’s Reports. Motion passed 5-0.

198 c. Approval of Manifests – Mr. Willette moved, and Mr. Dargie seconded a motion to accept the
199 manifest. Motion passed 5-0.

200 d. List of Email Correspondence: Information only. There were no comments.

201 e. Co-Curricular Appointment: Information only. There were no comments.

202 10. Non-Public Session RSA91-A3II

203 Mr. Drew motioned, and Mr. Willette seconded, to enter into non-public session regarding
204 negotiations. Motion passed 5-0 at 9:20pm.

205

206 Mr. Drew motioned, and Mr. Willette seconded, to exit non-public. Motion passed 5-0 at 9:25pm.

207 Mr. Drew motioned, and Mr. Willette seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0 at 9:25pm.