

1 MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
2 MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2016 MEETING
3 MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL #182
4

5 1. Call to Order

6 Chairman Paul Dargie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Lecture Hall #182 at
7 Milford High School. Board members present were Mr. Ron Carvell, Mr. Len Mannino,
8 Mr. Bob Willette and Board Vice-Chair Mr. Kevin Drew. Also in attendance were
9 Superintendent Robert Marquis and Business Administrator Jen Burk. The recording
10 secretary was Dana Laviano.

11
12 2. Board Member Comments

13 Mr. Carvell announced that he had invited Milford Chief of Police Mike Viola to tonight's
14 meeting to answer questions regarding item 5b (Policy 5008 – Weapons on School
15 Property) on the agenda. He also made the request that this item be moved to the top
16 of the agenda.

17
18 Mr. Willette spoke about the recent article in the Milford Cabinet regarding Policy 5008,
19 saying that it was wholly inaccurate and amounted to scare tactics on the part of the
20 paper. He reported that he called Kathy Cleveland from the Cabinet and attempted to
21 correct the article's errors. Mr. Dargie said that in fairness the article factually reported
22 what was said at the School Board meeting last month, which turned out to be
23 inaccurate. But that he agreed that the article was sensationalistic.

24
25 3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda)

26 There were no public comments.
27

28 4. Reports and Presentations

29 a. Superintendent's Report

30 Superintendent Bob Marquis reported that the Jacques School will be celebrating Polar
31 Express Day on December 22nd. Students are given "tickets" to ride the train and "Mike
32 the Mailman" will be bringing packages from the North Pole. Students are also bringing
33 in canned goods to donate.

34
35 A holiday concert was held during the evening of December 19 at the High School.
36 Another performance just for students and staff will be held in the morning of
37 December 23rd.

38
39 At Project Drive, the focus of the past week was on the impact drug and alcohol use has
40 on individuals and families.
41

42 Mr. Marquis concluded his report by wishing the School Board, the staff and the
43 community Happy Holidays.

44
45 There were no public questions or comments on the Superintendent's Report.
46 4b. Budget Committee Recommendations – Mr. Rick Wood, Chair of the Budget
47 Advisory Committee

48 Mr. Wood addressed the Board to give an overview of where the Advisory Committee is
49 at in the budget review process. He said that the committee was targeting a 1% change
50 in requested increases (totaling ~\$409k.) This represents saving 1 cent on every dollar.
51 He said the committee has not reviewed the proposed warrant articles in depth yet. He
52 said the committee is trying to reconcile what has been requested in the budget with
53 what the committee thinks people are willing to pay for.

54
55 Mr. Wood then reviewed where the committee has cut in terms of requests. These
56 areas include salaries and benefits specific to secretarial and administrative staff, health
57 insurance and retirement funding. Additional areas are professional services and travel.
58 The committee is still reviewing requests for general supplies, gas and oil, and will do a
59 line by line review of all items listed in the budget.

60
61 Mr. Drew requested that the committee show the numbers for each line item involved
62 in the \$409k target. Mr. Wood said the \$409k target may not be reached. He then asked
63 permission of the Board to speak his personal opinion on the budget at its current stage.
64 Mr. Dargie consented.

65
66 Mr. Wood said in the area of equipment there is a lot of room in the budget under
67 replacement equipment or maintenance to work on some of the equipment requests.
68 He recommended a phased approach to obtaining some of the requested equipment.
69 The current default budget lists new equipment and Mr. Wood pointed out that
70 historically it is not typical to put new equipment in a default budget.

71
72 He also said that there is a need to review our approach to technology implementation
73 and to have more data (perhaps via the Google School system) informing our strategy.
74 He cited the need to use data around usage as an example. It isn't enough to just
75 provide the technology; there should be a review of how it is used to see if it is worth
76 having. Again, he stressed the preference of a need-based, phased approach.

77
78 Mr. Carvell asked if the committee is targeting specific positions in regards to secretarial
79 or administrative staff or if it is focusing on a dollar amount? Mr. Wood explained that
80 the committee's rationale is to look at the number of secretarial staff per building and
81 that level-funding these positions would impact students less than targeting teaching
82 staff. He said there is a savings just in level-funding the current positions but that

83 ultimately it is the administration that would determine what the approved funds would
84 reflect in terms of positions.

85
86 There were no public comments.

87
88 5. New Business

89 5a. NH School Board Association 2017 Delegate Assembly

90 Mr. Dargie said that the 2017 Delegate Assembly of the NHSBA is January 21. Continued
91 resolutions and proposed resolutions will be determined at this assembly. The Milford
92 School District has submitted a resolution to the NHSBA which is included in the
93 Assembly information packet (SEE EXHIBIT). #14 is about the full day kindergarten. The
94 NHSBA has said it does not recommend adopting the District's proposed resolution
95 because of the cost but that a vote at the assembly could still be in favor of it. Mr.
96 Dargie said he is interested in attending the assembly as the Board's delegate.

97
98 Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Willette seconded a motion for Mr. Dargie to be the delegate
99 to the Assembly from Milford. Motion passed 5-0.

100
101 Mr. Dargie asked for a motion authorizing him to vote at the assembly as he sees fit, as
102 this would allow him to vote on motions at the Assembly if they are amended. Mr.
103 Drew moved and Mr. Willette seconded a motion for Mr. Dargie to be authorized to
104 vote as he saw fit at the New Hampshire School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.
105 Motion passed 5-0.

106
107 5b. Policy 5008 – Weapons on School Property – First Reading

108 Mr. Dargie explained the background of this agenda item. The NH Attorney General's
109 Office issued a memorandum prior to the November elections which stated that it is
110 legal for individuals to bring firearms onto school grounds that are serving as polling
111 places, provided the individuals have the permits to do so. The School Board policy
112 committee compared this memo to the existing weapons policy and decided to change
113 the existing policy to incorporate the fact that firearms possessed by adults with
114 concealed carry permits are allowed on school grounds. A proposed change to the
115 policy was discussed at the meeting on November 21, 2016. (See minutes of the
116 November 21 session for full discussion.) At that time after much discussion, the Board
117 decided to send the policy back to the policy committee and to consult with an attorney
118 for further research into its implications.

119
120 Mr. Dargie reported we had received an email reply from Barrett Christina, and attorney
121 from the New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA), and read excerpts from it.
122 These were the excerpts that were read aloud:

123

124 “First, the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act only applies to students/pupils. It does not
125 apply to adults or the general public. While students are prohibited from having
126 guns/firearms on school property, there is nothing in federal law prohibiting adults from
127 having guns/firearms on school property. Such a prohibition would have to emanate
128 from state law.

129
130 The federal law is codified in state law via RSA 193:13, III and VI.

131
132 Second, there is no state law prohibiting adults from having guns/firearms on school
133 property. Related, RSA 159:26 states that only the state can enact laws, regulations,
134 bylaws, etc. relative to the use, possession, etc. of guns/firearms. RSA 159:26 prohibits
135 political subdivisions of the state (towns, cities, school districts, etc.) from enacting
136 ordinances or regulations relative to the ownership, possession, use, etc. of
137 firearms. While perhaps not explicit, the general thought is that RSA 159:26 would
138 likely be interpreted as prohibiting school boards from enacting policies relative to the
139 possession of firearms/guns on school grounds.

140
141 As result, it is reasonable to conclude that under NH law, adults are allowed to possess
142 guns/firearms on school property, presumably at any time, if the adult is in legal
143 possession of that gun/firearm.

144
145 There is no law prohibiting school boards from adopting policies restricting or
146 prohibiting the possession of other weapons on school grounds. School boards can adopt
147 a policy prohibiting the possession of knives, clubs, brass knuckles, etc. on school
148 grounds.”

149
150 The Policy Committee reviewed the email from Attorney Cristina and looked at the
151 existing sample policy of the NHSBA and concluded that the Board should scrap its
152 existing policy and adopt the sample policy as put forth by the NHSBA, with one
153 exception. That is, students and staff are permitted to carry aerosol pepper sprays
154 provided it is not used to menace anyone.

155
156 Board Member Comments:

157 Mr. Drew referred to paragraph two of the draft policy (SEE EXHIBIT) saying it is too
158 vague and under this wording any object could be considered a potential weapon. Mr.
159 Dargie stated that this is the intention of the wording because the paragraph is speaking
160 to the act of using an object in a threatening manner as opposed to the inherent nature
161 of the object. To be designated a weapon, an object would need to be used in a
162 threatening manner and have physical attributes which make it inherently dangerous
163 (he gave the example of a balloon not being an effective “weapon” even if wielded in a
164 threatening way) but the wording is intentional in covering the threatening use of most
165 objects as weapons. Mr. Dargie said that the first section of the draft policy concerning

166 firearms applies only to students, and the second paragraph concerning weapons (not
167 firearms) applies to everyone including students, members of the public, and staff.

168

169 Mr. Mannino asked about the opportunity to do self-defense outreach to students in
170 regards to pepper spray. Mr. Dargie said that this sort of outreach has been done for
171 seniors going on to college as part of their Health/Wellness instruction.

172

173 Mr. Carvell referred to the first section of the draft policy to clarify that the restriction of
174 firearms is restricted from students but not adults. He asked if there was a way to
175 impose some restrictions on non-students who carry a firearm, for example having them
176 notify the office? Mr. Dargie referred to the RSA - which prohibits school districts from
177 enacting policies relative to the possession of firearms on school grounds. Mr. Carvell
178 rejoined that we would not be restricting but simply keeping a record. He said that we
179 already require visitors to sign in at the front office. This would be similar – simply
180 putting a process in place to manage the issue. Mr. Mannino said we cannot have a
181 member of the public on school grounds in possession of a firearm and no way to track
182 that we are aware of it. We must have something in place to indicate that we know of
183 its presence regardless of legal carry permits.

184

185 Mr. Marquis pointed out the difference between open carry and concealed carry and
186 that both are permitted. Principals are already directed not to let someone openly
187 carrying into the building and to notify the police immediately if this occurs. He said that
188 is a separate process from someone legally concealing a firearm. If this comes to light,
189 staff are instructed to report it to the office and notify police who will come and
190 determine if the person has a legal permit to concealed carry. Mr. Carvell then asked the
191 Chief of Police to come to the podium.

192

193 Public Comments:

194 Mr. Carvell asked Milford Chief of Police Mike Viola and Captain Shawn Pelletier their
195 opinion on the scenario of the school going into lockdown procedures after seeing
196 someone openly carrying a firearm. Would this mean we had just restricted their rights
197 under the RSA statute?

198

199 Chief Viola said that he would rather the school react in this way (initiating a lockdown)
200 and keeping safety as a first priority. He pointed out that the district has a SRO and a
201 juvenile officer as well as Captain Pelletier regularly visiting school grounds. The police
202 are always available to speak with anyone known to be carrying a firearm in order to
203 determine that person's legal right to carry.

204

205 Mr. Willette asked the officers if there is a person on school grounds who is carrying a
206 firearm, could that person be escorted by the police while on school grounds without
207 this being a violation of the person's right to lawful carry? Chief Viola expressed the

208 police department's willingness to be available for such a thing if the individual in
209 question agreed to it. Mr. Mannino mentioned that there are countless what if
210 scenarios that we need to anticipate. He pointed out the panic that might ensue if a
211 person openly carrying was seen in the hallways either escorted or unescorted by
212 police. Mr. Marquis then interjected that his overall perspective on the issue is that the
213 vast majority of people entering the building are parents and known to teachers and
214 administrators. He operates under the assumption that most people are reasonable
215 people and matters can be settled with them on how to proceed if the issue of open
216 carry comes up.

217
218 Mr. Carvell thanked Chief Viola and Captain Pelletier for coming tonight and said we
219 have one of the best police departments in Milford. Chief Viola closed by saying that he
220 met with Superintendent Marquis last week on this policy issue and that we do have in-
221 house prosecutor who is also available for consultation. The Milford Police are available
222 to be of help in any way they can, especially in regards to the gray area of employees
223 carrying weapons onto school grounds. He stated that he has kids in the school system
224 and is just as concerned about this as all parents are. He said that the school offices
225 already do an excellent job of checking everyone in and good safeguards are already in
226 place.

227
228 Ms. Jennifer Siegrist, Osgood Road:

229 Ms. Siegrist addressed the Board with her concerns and shock over the need for this
230 policy revision based on the memorandum put forth by the NH Attorney General's
231 Office. She said she is very concerned for her children's safety. She asked if it is indeed
232 legal for any district employees to carry a gun while they are at work. Mr. Dargie replied
233 that it is if they have a legal permit to do so. Ms. Siegrist said that the idea of a police
234 officer escorting armed people around the buildings is not feasible, especially from a
235 financial point of view. She said the District should let parents know which employees
236 are carrying and asked if it is a violation of state law to ask any visitors if they are
237 carrying any weapons when they sign in at the office. Mr. Dargie said that believes we
238 would not be able to do that without violating the terms of RSA 159.26. Ms. Siegrist
239 went on to say that when the schools are used as polling places they are closed so
240 students are not in harm's way then but what about parent-teacher conferences? Does
241 the federal law cover those? Mr. Dargie said the federal law only covers students. He
242 also said that with the state house, senate, and governorship all having republican
243 majorities, that there is a possibility that New Hampshire will adopt "constitutional
244 carry" instead of "concealed carry" which will likely make things worse instead of better,
245 as everyone would have a legal right to concealed carry without going through any
246 checks.

247
248 Mr. Rick Wood, Milford resident

249 Mr. Wood pointed out the need for the policy language to make exceptions for articles
250 that can be used for instructional purposes such as knives for the culinary training
251 program and bow and arrows for the archery program. He stressed the need to be
252 thoughtful about how the language is drafted so as to avoid unnecessary overreach or
253 panic in response to “show and tell” situations.

254
255 Mr. Dargie responded by saying that the original policy did have an exception for jobs-
256 related or instructional purposes but this is not included in the NHSBA policy which the
257 Board has chosen to adopt. He explained that the very last paragraph of the draft policy
258 does allow the Superintendent to exercise judgement on inadvertent violation of the
259 policy. This would safeguard against the “show and tell” phenomena. He stressed that
260 this relates only to non-firearm weapons as firearms are required by law to be reported.

261
262 Mr. Mannino asked that if we know how other school districts are responding to the
263 Attorney General’s memo as this is obviously a state-wide issue. Mr. Marquis said that
264 the Oyster River district has petitioned the NHSBA to change its weapons policy but that
265 the NHSBA is not recommending their proposed change. (SEE page 8 of EXHIBIT for
266 Agenda item 5a.)

267
268 Mr. Carvell stated the need for Attorney Drescher to weigh in on the following
269 questions: 1. Can we ask every visitor if they are carrying a firearm?
270 2. Can the Board put policies in place stating that all employees must alert the
271 Superintendent’s Office if they are carrying? 3. Can we post these things in school
272 buildings? Mr. Marquis said he would consult with an attorney and Chief Viola on these
273 questions.

274
275 Mr. Willette moved and Mr. Dargie seconded a motion to approve the first reading of
276 the revised Policy 5008. Motion passed 5-0.

277
278

279 6. Old Business

280 6a. Trust Fund Information

281 The information is unchanged since the last meeting of the Board where this was
282 discussed. (SEE EXHIBIT) Ms. Burk has reached out to the chair of the trustees of the
283 trust funds but has not heard back from them. She will try them again.

284

285 6b. Update on Multi-Year Natural Gas Contract

286 Superintendent Marquis reported that on December 6th he had signed an 18-month
287 contract locking in a 0.623 cent dekatherm rate which should result in a savings of \$64k
288 this year. The contract expires June 30, 2018.

289

290 6c. Budget Work session

291 Mr. Dargie explained that since the last Board meeting he had approached
292 Superintendent Marquis making additional cuts totaling ~\$157k. (SEE EXHIBIT)
293 Mr. Dargie reviewed the items in the memo outlining where these cuts would come
294 from:

- 295 1. Eliminate one special education administrator position and add a part-time
296 position to cover some of the responsibilities. This would net a \$55k savings
- 297 2. Small reductions made throughout the budget totaling ~\$58k in savings
- 298 3. Decreasing some of the technology requests with a net \$44k in savings.

299
300 Mr. Dargie moved and Mr. Drew seconded a motion to remove these three items from
301 the budget.

302
303 Mr. Mannino asked what the position in item 1 was. Mr. Marquis said it was one of the
304 special education assistant directors. The work would then be divided up among other
305 staff and the proposed additional part-time positions would be funded with the IDEA
306 funding that was partially paying for the existing position. Mr. Mannino then asked why
307 this was being proposed when the special education pilot project model that we've
308 approved over the last few years was designed to attract out of district students.
309 Doesn't reducing the staff in this program hinder this goal? Mr. Marquis replied that it
310 doesn't help it but also doesn't hinder it. He said the proposed position to be eliminated
311 isn't in Project Drive which is where those goals are focused. This is about a
312 restructuring of the Special Education administrative staff.

313
314 Mr. Mannino stated that he is opposed to eliminating that position and that if it is
315 approved he will attend the deliberative session "with an army" to put it back into the
316 budget.

317
318 Mr. Carvell said that the caseloads of the special education staff are very high in our
319 district and that special education law is complex. How would there be no impact from
320 eliminating this position? He said that this should not be on the list as it clearly impacts
321 students.

322
323 Mr. Marquis said that when this was discussed, other positions were also considered.
324 The two positions in question have distinct responsibilities: one of them covers out-of-
325 district placement (this is not the position proposed for elimination). The other position
326 includes assisting with IEPs and that no children are identified as working with the
327 position to be eliminated. Mr. Carvell said that the Board has just been working to
328 develop the staff in this area and that IEPs directly affect students. He said that we just
329 put this position in a few years ago because we saw the need for it. Mr. Marquis replied
330 that it would not be proposed for elimination if it hadn't been determined that the level
331 of expertise couldn't be provided by remaining staff. Mr. Carvell said he would prefer to
332 find the \$55k in savings elsewhere in the budget. Mr. Mannino agreed with Mr. Carvell.

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Mr. Dargie offered to pass the motion on the table with a caveat that the administration finds the \$55k savings elsewhere.

Mr. Carvell said he is leery of item 2 as well. He cannot vote to approve it if he doesn't know exactly what the items are. Mr. Marquis said he can provide the detail and that these were all very difficult decisions made in the context of the need to make cuts.

Mr. Wood thanked the Board for going back over the budget to see where more cuts could be made. He asked for clarification on how the \$55k amount was arrived at in item 1. He said it would start at \$100k then subtract \$20k for IDEA funding which leaves \$80k. Subtract \$55k from that and there is \$25k savings cited which is unaccounted for.

Mr. Dargie said that information could not be disclosed as it is a personnel matter.

Mr. Wood asked what other administrative positions were considered and is there a tally of administrative positions at the high school. Mr. Marquis said that administrative and secretarial positions were all considered but specifics cannot be shared. He also said he does not support a decrease in administrative positions at the high school as enrollment there has not declined as it has in the other schools. He stated that the present staff is imperative to the success of the programs at the high school.

Mr. Wood's rejoinder was that enrollment at the high school is down several hundred kids in the last ten years. He said that no one wants to talk about administrative positions at the high school but it needs to be open for discussion. He then asked for a list of the items in #2 by the December 20 meeting of the committee.

Superintendent Marquis stated and clarified that if he doesn't recommend something it does not mean he hasn't considered it.

Mr. Mannino asked if there is a non-public session scheduled tonight to discuss the actions around the \$25k in cuts from item 1. Mr. Dargie confirmed that it was an action that cannot be discussed publicly and that it would be discussed in the non-public session to be held at the end of meeting.

Mr. Drew asked about the motion on the table – are we voting on dollar amounts or specific items. Mr. Dargie said dollar amounts and that the Board asked Superintendent Marquis to come to the next Board meeting with something else to replace item 1 in the proposed cuts.

Mr. Carvell expressed his concern that these cuts were given without detail or lead time for the Board members to familiarize themselves and prepare thoughtfully for

375 discussion. He said he understands the very difficult job the Superintendent has right
376 now but more information must be provided.

377

378 Mr. Dargie said the motion can be amended to account for \$95k in cuts. Mr. Mannino
379 said the issue is there is not enough information provided so they cannot proceed. Mr.
380 Dargie said he withdraws the motion and makes a new motion to approve the \$102,669
381 in cuts from items 2 & 3. Mr. Drew seconded the motion.

382

383 Mr. Carvell stated he does not want to lock into this if other areas can be found for cuts
384 and we should wait until there is more information.

385

386 Mr. Willette moved to table the motion until the next Board meeting. Mr. Mannino
387 seconded. Motion passed 3-2, with Mr. Dargie and Mr. Drew in opposition.

388

389 Public Comments:

390 Mr. Wood questioned the Board about the Tax Impact Analysis (SEE EXHIBIT). He asked
391 why there was a discrepancy in the original tax impact as reported versus the amount
392 now reported. Ms. Burk explained that the Department of Education had released new
393 information with updated numbers on state education taxes. The analysis reflects that
394 new information.

395

396 Mr. Robert LaPlante, a Milford resident, addressed the Board to express his thanks at
397 the work to cut costs and decrease taxes. He said that he cannot afford any additional
398 increases in his property taxes and that the Board needs to find a way to work with what
399 it already has.

400

401 Ms. Siegrist said that state adequacy aid funding is supposed to be phased out in the
402 next several years which will result in a decrease in revenue but expenses continue to go
403 up. At some point we have to let residents know that continued cuts cannot go on
404 forever and that new sources of revenue must be discussed. She said that Milford
405 residents are up against the wall in terms of property tax burdens and the "no tax
406 pledge" is not working. She said the Board should speak to this at each meeting in order
407 to bring the public's attention to it.

408

409 6d. Default Budget

410 Mr. Dargie read the definition of a default budget. (SEE EXHIBIT) He then reviewed the
411 draft of the 2017 default budget which totals \$41,047,525. He said that this needs to be
412 finalized by the next meeting if not earlier.

413

414 Mr. Willette said that the state law is vague and that the two teacher positions will not
415 be renewed, that they qualify as "not likely to recur in succeeding budgets" and

416 therefore should be removed. Mr. Dargie disagreed saying that this is an ongoing
417 expense and comes up every year.

418
419 Mr. Mannino pointed out that the default budget is higher than the operating budget.
420 Mr. Dargie said that the purpose of the default budget is to give voters an option of
421 staying with the status quo. It allows them to disagree with the cuts and still make a
422 choice for a budget. Mr. Carvell and Mr. Willette said that this is what the deliberative
423 session is for.

424
425 Mr. Carvell then asked if the elimination of the special education position in item 1 is in
426 the default budget. Ms. Burk replied yes. Mr. Willette asked if we decide to send all the
427 special education students out of district, should all of that money go into the default
428 budget. Mr. Dargie reiterated that the default budget is only to preserve the status quo
429 for another year. Mr. Mannino disagreed saying that the default budget is to protect the
430 district and its contracts. He said he does not understand why a position proposed for
431 elimination would be in the default budget but not in the operating budget.

432
433 Public Comments:

434 Mr. Wood asked the Board if there was a legal obligation to give teachers notice whose
435 contracts are not being renewed. Mr. Marquis said yes, by a certain date. Mr. Dargie
436 added that sometimes it is unnecessary due to attrition. Mr. Wood asked for
437 clarification on the positions being eliminated if not by attrition. He said that the default
438 budget numbers are real dollar value but the amounts in the operating budget are fluid
439 and may not work out to be exact. Mr. Wood asked the Board to take a serious look at
440 submitting a default budget that is lower than the operating budget.

441
442 Mr. Willette made a motion that the salary and benefits of the three teacher positions
443 being eliminated due to decreased class size be eliminated from the default budget.
444 Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Mr. Mannino asked if there were other positions
445 available for the three teachers and Mr. Marquis said no. Mr. Dargie referenced the
446 draft budget (yellow book) saying that the total for the three positions is \$238, 894. Is it
447 possible to use that dollar amount in the motion? Ms. Burk said yes.

448
449 The Board voted 3-2 in favor of removing \$238, 894 from the default budget, with Mr.
450 Drew and Mr. Dargie in opposition.

451
452 Ms. Burk mentioned that the default budget can be changed by the Board up until it is
453 printed for the ballot which is about one week after the deliberative session. Mr. Carvell
454 requested a detailed list of each of the categories in item 2. He said that even with the
455 three positions removed from the default budget it will still be higher than the proposed
456 operating budget. Mr. Wood said that some of that is attributable to the inclusion of

457 new equipment in the default budget. He recommended crafting the budget in such a
458 way that it achieves goals in other ways.

459
460 Mr. Carvell stated that we need to move away from borrowing money every year and
461 that things need to be managed internally.

462
463 6e. Full Day Kindergarten

464 Mr. Dargie said that proposal for Full Day Kindergarten is unchanged since the last
465 meeting (SEE EXHIBIT). He asked for board comments.

466
467 Mr. Carvell said that the original proposal was self-funded and now we are asking
468 taxpayers to pay \$68k. He said by doing this we run the risk of it not passing. If we
469 instead raise the monthly tuition to cover the cost we give people the choice to opt out.
470 If the warrant article is defeated because of the burden on taxpayers, then no one has
471 any choice.

472
473 Public Comments:

474 Ms. Siegrist addressed the Board to say that when this was originally proposed it was
475 meant to be a money maker for the town. She said that Mr. Carvell is right and that
476 people are already reeling from their property tax burdens. She said the choice should
477 be given to parents to pay the tuition or not and to state simply that there are only so
478 many waiver slots available. She said the desire for the full day kindergarten is there but
479 it is a mistake to make it a tax burden for people.

480
481 Mr. Wood said that administrative costs are not reflected in the program outline. (SEE
482 EXHIBIT) He said that the program will result in increased operating expenses, increased
483 interaction with the school nurse, and IEPs that will require additional resources from
484 staff. He said that these expenses will occur even if enrollment numbers are not made
485 and they need to be built into the business model. He said an increased tuition of
486 \$427/month makes sense because it covers the cost of the program regardless of
487 enrollment. Mr. Wood stated his opinion that if it goes ahead as is, it will likely be
488 defeated and therefore we will be robbing other areas of the operating budget to pay
489 for a new initiative.

490
491 Mr. Bob Thompson, a Milford resident, said he agrees with Mr. Carvell. He said the need
492 for a full day kindergarten is great and the surrounding districts all have one. He said he
493 has paid private kindergarten tuition for his children that is more than the \$427 which
494 he considered to be competitive.

495
496 Mr. Drew said that at first he was on board with the waivers but that the arguments put
497 forth since then are causing him to reconsider. He said if we can find parents who would
498 be willing to pay the full tuition it would be preferable. Mr. Dargie said that the

499 discussion can be continued at the next meeting but that it would still have to be a
500 warrant article to authorize the expenditure, even if self-funding.

501

502 6f. Draft 2017 Warrant

503 Mr. Dargie briefly reviewed the draft warrant. (SEE EXHIBIT) He explained that item 1 is
504 the bond, item 2 in the warrant is language that is set by law, Item 3 is for the full day
505 kindergarten program, Item 4 addresses the LED lighting project, Item 5 is about the
506 collective bargaining agreement, Item 6 is a placeholder for the Milford Educational
507 Support Staff Agreement which has not yet been submitted, Item 7 is regarding the
508 contingency fund.

509

510 Mr. Drew asked about the lack of a set amount for the contingency fund. Mr. Dargie said
511 it is any amount up to 2.5% and as an ongoing item, it requires approval for spending.
512 He said if there is a dollar figure associated with it, then the authorization has to be
513 obtained via warrant article every year. If there is no dollar amount cited then there is
514 only a need for authorization from the DOE.

515

516 Public Comments:

517 Mr. Wood referenced the last sentence in the Contingency Fund language. He asked
518 how, as it is worded there, it is any different from the regular budget. Ms. Burk
519 explained that it is money left over from the previous year. The contingency fund allows
520 for the spending of the money in the following fiscal year and that is how it differs from
521 a regular budget. Mr. Wood said the \$200k fund balance for estimated taxes needs to
522 be removed or it will be lost revenue. Mr. Dargie agreed that this is correct as it cannot
523 be in both places. Mr. Wood said currently we have two bonds, one for \$3M and one
524 for \$700k. He recommends rolling the \$700k into the \$3M so there is only one bond put
525 forth.

526

527 Mr. Dargie asked Ms. Burk to move item #4 to position #2 because it is a bond.

528

529 6g. Capital Improvement Plan

530 Ms. Burk referenced a memo (SEE EXHIBIT) outlining the latest updates to the CIP. She
531 said that the asbestos abatement project cited under "Additional Items for Bond" has
532 been completed and suggested substituting the building automation systems project in
533 its place for the same amount.

534

535 Public Comments:

536 Mr. Wood made several points reiterating his previous recommendations to include
537 equipment upgrades and replacements in the maintenance and repair line items and to
538 be very clear on what is a "nice to do" item versus what is a "must do" item. Mr. Dargie
539 said it would be helpful for the Budget Advisory Committee to review the CIP and

540 identify things accordingly. Mr. Wood replied that taking the sound system for the gym
541 off the list was his first recommendation.

542
543 There were no other public comments.

544
545 6h. LED Lighting

546 Mr. Dargie said that estimates are still coming in from additional companies. There is
547 ~\$700k budgeted to do it all and that this project will result in about \$91k in annual
548 energy cost savings.

549
550 Public Comments:

551 Mr. Wood asked if it is possible to do something less than every building. This would still
552 result in some energy savings whilst reducing the expense. Mr. Dargie said that yes, the
553 Bales building has the worst energy efficiency rating and would therefore be a natural
554 place to start. And that it is possible to do a building at a time. He asked Mr. Wood what
555 his opinion was on improving the Bales building. Mr. Wood said it depends on what the
556 plan is for it. Are we keeping it? If so, what is the plan? If the decision has been made to
557 keep the building than we should invest in it. Mr. Carvell said he agrees with this and
558 reiterated his opinion that we need to stop putting everything out to bond. We can chip
559 away at some of the project with the fund balance.

560
561 7. Housekeeping items

562 7a. Approval of Minutes 11/21/2016

563 Mr. Dargie moved and Mr. Drew seconded a motion to approve the minutes of
564 11/21/2016. Motion passed 5-0.

565
566 7b. Approval of Minutes 12/05/2016

567 Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Carvell seconded a motion to approve the minutes of
568 12/05/2016. Motion passed 5-0.

569
570 7c. Approval of Manifests: 13, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064.

571 Mr. Willette moved and Mr. Dargie seconded a motion to approve the above manifests.
572 Motion passed 5-0.

573
574 7d. Mr. Willette commented that he would like all email communications between the
575 school district and the Board to include a cc to all Board members. Mr. Dargie said that
576 all district emails are public documents and that he would consider this request.

577
578 8. There were no public comments

579

580 9. Mr. Drew moved and Mr. Willette seconded a motion to enter non-public session
581 under RSA 91-A:2 I (a) strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining and
582 RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel. Motion was passed 5-0.
583

584 10. The meeting of the School Board was recessed at 10:37 PM.
585

586 11. The non-public session of the meeting was convened at 10:44.
587

588 The non-public session attendees were Mr. Dargie, Mr. Willette, Mr. Mannino, Mr.
589 Drew, Mr. Carvell, Mr. Marquis, and Ms. Burk.
590

591 The board discussed an issue relating to a member of the public that was relevant to the
592 school district.
593

594 The board discussed ongoing collective bargaining issues relating to the MESSA
595 collective bargaining group.
596

597 The board discussed the proposed budget cut that related to the restructuring of the
598 special education office. This was a personnel matter.
599

600 No votes were taken and no decisions were made.
601

602 12. Mr. Willette moved and Mr. Dargie seconded a motion to exit non-public session.
603 Motion passed 5-0 at 11:10 pm.
604

605 13. Mr. Willette moved and Mr. Drew seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 5-
606 0 at 11:10 pm.
607

608 14. The meeting of the School Board was adjourned at 11:10.
609
610

611 _____
612 School Board Chair/Designee Date of Approval
613

614
615 Note: If there is a "DRAFT" watermark on this document, then it is an unapproved version of
616 the document and it is subject to change. If there is no "DRAFT" watermark then this
617 version has been approved by the school board, and it is a copy of the approved final
618 version of the document. The original signed copy of the minutes is stored in the SAU 40
619 office at the rear (northeast corner) of Milford High School, 100 West St, Milford, NH 03055.