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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes  
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)  
November 16, 2009**

1. **Call to Order** Chairman Bragdon called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2009, in Lecture Hall Room # 182 at the Milford High School. Those present, together with interested citizens, were:

**School Board Present** Bert Becker, Peter Bragdon, Paul Dargie, Len Mannino, and Bob Willette.

**Staff Present** Robert Suprenant, Superintendent of Schools; Katie Chambers, Business Administrator; and Laurel Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

**Recorder** J. Bradford Seabury.

2. **Board Member Comments** Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any comments from Board members. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.

3. **Public Comments** Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any introductory comments from members of the audience.

Mr. John Wilde noted that the list of possible warrant articles included site drainage at the High School, and he asked when the School Board was going to address the ongoing drainage problem on Johnson Street. Chairman Bragdon confirmed that the topic was on the agenda, saying he would move it up closer to the front, following the Superintendent's report.

4. **Reports and Presentations**

- a. **Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Suprenant announced that the Enrichment Program would be hosting a Parent-to-Parent Talk on the following evening, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle School, entitled *Supporting Your Student When The Pressure Is On*. He said the presenter would be Wendy Hill from the Greater Peterborough Family Center

Superintendent Suprenant noted that he had distributed to members of the Board a copy of an article that had been published in the Telegraph, written by Milford High School student Morgan Mason, describing a recent penny drive that had been organized by the class of 2012, in which \$1,500 had been raised for purchasing school supplies for less fortunate students attending the Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Norfolk, Virginia.

Superintendent Suprenant then turned the floor over to Special Education Director Johanna Johnson and Sage teachers Erik Anderson, Judy Broulliette, and Beth San Martino for a talk about plans for use of SRRA funding in the Special Education Department.

**(1) ARRA Funding**

Director Johnson referenced the presentation that had been given to the Board during the summer, saying the SPED group had responded by reviewing the program in light of the Board's comments; she then passed out a handout listing items the SPED group wanted to purchase.

Ms. Broulliette then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Sage budget, discussing the <http://ismartboard.colm.colm/10-12/9-12-social-studies-activities> Web site, and identifying the equipment that would be used with the program (projector, DVD/VCR players, a laminator, and computers). She noted that the math program also needed graphing calculators, sewing machines, and kitchen equipment, and she commented on why these things were needed and how they would be used. She then outlined some of the special equipment that the Special Education Assistance program needed, including a Read-Aloud Text program and headphones. Ms. Martino discussed details about the equipment, commenting on its benefits. Ms. Broulliette noted that they also wanted some funds for the gym budget, to provide safe and instructional equipment, as well as some furnishings for the Sage school, including metal tables, tall metal cabinets, and student/teacher chairs and desks. Mr. Anderson then discussed the Weatherbug Weather Station they wanted to put on top of the school, explaining how it would fit into the program, as well as some other science equipment that was needed, after which Ms. Broulliette noted that there also was a need for textbooks for the Business class.

Superintendent Suprenant confirmed that he was recommending these things as a good use of the ARRA stimulus funds. Chairman Bragdon noted that this was a high computer/student ratio; Director Johnson explained that the needs of the students at the Sage School were different from those of the students at the main school, requiring more individual programming. Chairman Bragdon asked if a vote were desired by Administration. Superintendent Suprenant noted that the Board had not taken votes on ARRA expenditures previously, saying the Special Education Department could move forward with the program unless there were questions from the Board. Director Johnson said the entire package would amount to about \$68,000, with none of it coming out of the appropriated budget.

Mr. Wilde asked how much ARRA money had been received. Superintendent Suprenant said the School District was entitled to about \$900,000, with \$600,000 for IDEA Special Education through the two years, with the balance for Title I.

Chairman Bragdon said he would turn next to Item 6.c, to address Mr. Wilde's questions.

**6. Old Business**

- c. 2010/2011 Warrant Article Discussion** Chairman Bragdon asked Business Administrator Chambers about the possible warrant article pertaining to site drainage at the High School. Ms. Chambers explained that Meridian Land Services, Inc., had been asked last fall to consider the drainage on the north side of the High School and come up with options on how the stormwater drainage might be reduced. She said Meridian had been asked to put some numbers on the concepts, as discussed on Page 3 of the Meridian memo. Mr. Wilde said he had a CD containing pictures showing how the water was affecting the neighborhood, saying it amounted to hundreds of gallons of runoff water, and he offered to show that to the Board. Chairman Bragdon invited him to set up the display.

Business Administrator Chambers discussed the remainder of the Meridian memo, commenting on the costs and need—pointing out that these changes should be tied in with the development of the Amato property, if the Board decided to purchase that property.

Mr. Mannino asked if a permit would be needed. Mr. George McDonald, in the audience, stated that all wetland areas required a permit; he then expressed a belief that the parking lot should not be built until the problem was taken care of.

Mr. Dargie asked which of the three options outlined by Meridian were most compatible with the parking lot. Ms. Chambers said the first two should be part of that plan, noting that the new regulations taking place in January might change things. Chairman Bragdon clarified that some of the remaining renovation money could be used for this project. Mr. McDonald asked if this proposal had gone out for bid; Business Administrator Chambers said they did not have final plans as yet.

Mr. Wilde displayed a collection of pictures on his laptop, showing flooding conditions that had occurred on his property and in his neighborhood, and he commented on the conditions shown in each one, identifying when the different pictures were taken. Mr. McDonald contended that the whole problem would be taken care of if the Town ran its sewer system up Johnson Street, adding that he and Mr. Wilde had spoken to the Town about these problems and the Town had said they would have to come to the School Department. Ms. Chambers said she had met with the Public Works Director and Town administrator, adding that the Public Works Director had similar thoughts, and she then discussed details of things that could be done, noting that easements would be required.

Mr. Dargie asked which of the three proposals were favored by the neighborhood residents. Mr. McDonald said he did not favor any of them, saying a drainage system up Johnson Street was needed, but that Option C could be an effective temporary measure. Mr. Wilde noted that Mr. McDonald did site work for a living.

Chairman Bragdon expressed concern about the option pertaining to Option C, questioning whether it might cause more problems elsewhere; Ms. Chambers discussed the drainage details. Mr. Willette expressed concern that doing this would push more water down the street, to the Mill Street supersite. Mr. Dargie asked if the Board had to wait until the parking lot was developed to do this, noting that it might be a few years. Chairman Bragdon said the Board needed to direct Meridian to put something together, in the \$8,000 range, which would then come back to the Board, involving some kind of ditching or swale with a berm, and he directed Business Administrator Chambers to proceed accordingly.

Chairman Bragdon said he would now take up Item 6.a,

**a. Adoption  
of 403(b)  
Plan  
Docu-  
ment**

Chairman Bragdon noted that the documents presented to the Board had been written and reviewed by consulting experts, based on the IRS rules. Business Administrator Chambers said the document had also been reviewed and approved by Legal Counsel. Ms. Chambers said the Statement of Intent needed to be made a part of the minutes, together with the preceding resolution. Mr. Bragdon moved that the School Board adopt the Statement of Intent and attach it to the permanent records of this meeting. Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Bragdon moved that the School Board adopt the resolution adopting the SAU-40 Retirement Plan, which also would be attached to the permanent record of the meeting, noting that the motion would also authorize the chairman to sign the document. Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. Business Administrator Chambers noted that minor changes in the vendor list could be handled by the committee, saying it would not have to come back to the School Board unless there were substantive changes. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

**b. 2010/2011  
Budget  
Discus-  
sion**

Superintendent Suprenant said he had nothing to add that the Board had not already heard. Chairman Bragdon suggested that the Board needed to settle on a target figure. Business Administrator Chambers noted that Atty. W<sup>m</sup> Drescher had approved the timeline for District voting, except for changing the first date for the Deliberative Session from January 31 (a Sunday) to January 30th.

Business Administrator Chambers distributed copies of the calculated Default Budget, and she then revised details of that document, noting the effect of wages and benefits, discussing what numbers had gone up and what numbers had gone down, as well as answering questions raised by members of the Board about details of her calculations.

Chairman Bragdon noted that the proposed budget was about \$75,000 less than had been previously outlined, noting that the effect of negotiations was yet to be determined. He clarified that these were working numbers.

Chairman Bragdon said the next step was for the Board to pick a final budget number. Mr. Dargie said he wanted to ask Administration to come back with a new number; referring to Page 17 of the yellow-covered budget book, he noted that the given increase in assessment was listed as \$1,399,724, and he moved to have Administration come back with \$500,000 less than that figure, or \$899,714, as a combination of expense decreases or revenue increases—noting that this figure typically excluded any warrant articles. Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion.

Mr. Dargie expressed appreciation for Administration having come forward with what he regarded as a pretty good budget, noting that there were still some unknowns. He said he thought some revenue areas could be addressed, saying he thought a \$500,000 reduction should be manageable.

Chairman Bragdon said he only wanted to deal with one amendment at a time. Mr. Willette asked how this change would affect the tax rate. Business Administrator Chambers said it would bring the tax increase down from 84 cents to 34 cents. Mr. Willette asked for the percentage. Mr. Bragdon said it was currently 6.2%, saying that this would bring it to 4.1%. Mr. Bragdon said he planned to support Mr. Dargie's motion. Mr. Willette asked if the Board could come back to this if it were defeated. Chairman Bragdon said he was sure the Board could make that happen.

*Decision  
to reduce  
assessment  
increase  
by  
\$500,000*

Mr. Dargie recommended that the Board approve this motion. Mr. Mannino noted that a large proportion of this year's increase was due to wages and benefits, asking how this motion would affect that. Superintendent Suprenant said the wild card was Health Insurance, but there would be some impact on salaried positions and on the things that had been presented in the past few weeks. He expressed a belief that they could take another look at revenues and perhaps take some risks—but added that it was hard to answer without knowing the health insurance numbers. Mr. Dargie said he expected to come out very close to the default budget, as the default budget would change as well. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

Mr. Bragdon then moved to add a further \$500,000 reduction, bringing the total reduction to \$1,000,000, resulting in an assessment increase of only

*Decision  
to further  
reduce  
assess-  
ment  
increase  
by another  
\$500,000*

\$399.724. Mr. Willette seconded the motion. Mr. Bragdon said he was assuming that the health insurance figure was going to be pretty good, adding that he was making this motion in light of the current economy, and noting that he was also considering things that had happened with the budgets during the last few years, bringing the 3-year average down to 3.5%. He said bringing this year's budget down to a zero increase would be too much, adding that this change he was proposing might require some changes in staffing levels, but that he wanted to see what it would take to get to that \$1,000,000 reduction, noting that the Board always had the option to put some things back in. **Vote:** Mr. Bragdon, Mr. Willette, and Mr. Mannino voted in favor; Mr. Dargie and Mr. Becker voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (3–2).

Chairman Bragdon said he expected the Superintendent to come back with a list of what was needed to effect these cuts, listed in priority order. Superintendent Suprenant said there would be reductions, asking if the Board wanted to see the positions itemized or simply categorized as a broad statement—noting that televised details might cause anxiety. Chairman Bragdon said he would not be opposed to a broad level presentation, saying he did not want to be too specific. Chairman Bragdon noted that the principal and interest payments could not be touched, nor could the Food Services costs.

Superintendent Suprenant asked if there were anything sacred to the Board, that the Board would not want to see on the reduction list. Chairman Bragdon expressed a belief that nothing was sacred, at this point.

- c. 2010/2011** Chairman Bragdon proceeded to Item 6.c., reviewing the items listed:
- Warrant** 1. Administrative Agreement
  - Article** 2. Permanent Addition to Jacques
  - Discus-** 3. Additional High School Parking
  - sion** 4. Generator for High School Emergency Shelter
  - (Con-** 5. Site drainage at High School
  - tinued)**

Chairman Bragdon noted that #5 had been handled earlier in the meeting. Superintendent Suprenant said he wanted guidance on #2, #3, and #4. Chairman Bragdon said #2 would not have impact next year.

Mr. Dargie addressed #3, saying he would like to have the Board try to buy the property next year and then build the parking lot the following year, requesting the money for that project in the following year's budget. Chairman Bragdon expressed concern about binding the following year's Board; Mr. Dargie then suggested specifying the intent, splitting it up into two segments. Chairman Bragdon suggested coming back with new language at the next meeting. Referring to Items #3 and #4, he said he was hesitant to add warrant articles without some reduction in general budget spending, given the current budget situation.

Mr. Dargie said he would like to put #4 off unless there was a real driving need. Chairman Bragdon said he would drop #4 unless there were arguments. No arguments were raised.

**5. New Business**

- a. No **New Business** items were discussed this evening.

**7. Housekeeping Items**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** Chairman Bragdon addressed the 11-02-09 meeting minutes. Mr. Dargie requested the following changes be noted:
- On Page 3, correct the text for the vote, which listed Mr. Dargie as being on both sides of the vote, and to change the description of the vote so as to show that the vote had failed 2-3..
  - On Page 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, correct the spelling of the word “copies” and delete the second sentence.

No other changes being brought forward, Mr. Bragdon moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

- b. **Approval of Manifests** Chairman Bragdon addressed the manifests awaiting approval, listed as including Vouchers Nos. 12, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, and 1084. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the manifests as listed; Mr. Becker seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

- c. **Approval of Treasurer’s Report** Chairman Bragdon addressed the August 2009 Treasurer’s Report, awaiting approval. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the August 2009 Treasurer’s Report; Mr. Becker seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

8. **Public Comment** Chairman Bragdon noted that there were no longer any members of the audience in attendance, and he continued to the next agenda item.

9. **Non-Public Session** Chairman Bragdon moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c), *Matters which, if discussed in public, likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person*, and (d), *Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community*, as well as to discuss parameters for upcoming negotiations on collective bargaining issues. Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Messrs. Becker, Bragdon, Dargie, Mannino, and Willette all voted in favor of the motion,

which carried unanimously (5-0). Chairman Bragdon then declared the Board to be going into non-public session at 9:00 p.m., and all members of the public left the room at that time.

Superintendent Suprenant presented a request for an extended leave of absence, and he recommended approval. Mr. Dargie so moved; Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

The board then discussed a real estate issue, with no decisions being made and no motions taken.

No further nonpublic business remaining before the Board, Mr. Bragdon moved to exit from the nonpublic session; Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, with the Board returning to public session at 9:45 p.m.

**10. Adjournment**

All scheduled items having been addressed, Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn; Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, with this meeting adjourning at 9:46 p.m.

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Chairman of the School Board

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Date of Signing