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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)
October 19, 2009**

- 1. Call to Order** Chairman Bragdon called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 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, Len Mannino, and Bob Willette. (Paul Dargie was not present,)

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. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.
- 4. Reports and Presentations**

 - a. Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Suprenant stated that he was both pleased and proud to report on the heroic efforts of four members of the High School staff with respect to an incident that had occurred the previous Thursday, when one of the students experienced a cardiac arrest during the class. He cited Marketing teacher Dana Bourassa, Nurse Mary Arrowsmith, Assistant Principal Diane Doran, and In-School Suspension Coordinator Jim St. Onge, who had used their training in the use of defibrillators, along with quick thinking and good judgment to literally save the life of the student. He then announced that he hoped to have all four of those staff members present at a future School Board meeting for appropriate commendations.

Superintendent Suprenant reported that Sixth Grade students would be leaving with their teacher teams next week for Nature's Classroom in Charlton, MA—noting that they were all hoping for good weather.

Superintendent Suprenant announced that NECAP testing had concluded the previous week, adding that the schools were finalizing the testing with make-ups this week.

Superintendent Suprenant concluded by reporting that the football team had shown tremendous improvement through the past two weeks, with a huge upset win over Souhegan and a win last Saturday over a tough Goffstown team. He said the Spartans were now 4-2 in league play, with two regular games left.

Assistant Superintendent Johnson passed out a handout, which she identified as a draft Standard-Based Report Card for Kindergarten, and she then reported on the work that had been done in developing the Kindergarten core standards. She noted that the draft handout represented the first of the inprocess report cards on standards, with others to follow.

Mr. Willette noted that this seemed a lot of subject matter. Ms. Johnson explained this covered the whole year, stating that all Kindergarten students would be expected to master all of these things by the end of the year.

**b. Board of
Select-
men**

Board of Selectmen chairman Tim Finan [accompanied by Selectmen Gary Daniels and Kathy Bauer and also with Town Administrator Guy Scaife] gave an update on the Garden Street parking lot, confirming that it was completed, with everything in. He stated that they had found that the parking lot was well used, being packed whenever checked. Addressing the finances, he reminded the Board that the estimate had been \$15,000, with the School District to provide half of that; he then reported that the DPW staff had done the work for \$2,300 to date. He stated that this low cost was an opportunity, saying the Town Administrator had suggested completing the job. He noted that the Town had lost approximately \$240,000 from the State revenues, with Town revenues also being off, so that the Town had been looking at a \$450,000 shortfall, which had been reduced by strenuous efforts to \$150,000. Noting that the Town had donated the land and had done the work, he suggested that the School District could pay for the paving if it turned out that the graveled lot was too muddy.

Chairman Bragdon asked if the Town's revenue shortfall had been mentioned during the first presentation. Selectman Finan answered in the negative. Selectman Finan said he felt the Town should cover the cost of the fence, but he felt the two coats of paving might be shared. Town Administrator Scaife then discussed the three components of the fencing project.

Superintendent Suprenant asked if paving would include the little walkway connecting the parking lot to the Community House driveway. Mr. Finan answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Mannino questioned who would be responsible for maintenance of the fence if it became damaged. Selectman Finan said he felt that would be a Town responsibility. Mr. Mannino asking about lighting. Mr. Scaife said

the Town was waiting on PSNH to install some lights; he then described the overall lighting plans.

Mr. Willette said he would be opposed to spending more money on this project at this time because the citizens of the community had not been given any say on the matter, since the project had not been put on a warrant. Selectman Finan said the current plan would be below the DRA limits for this year's fund balance. He said the Board of Selectmen wanted to give as much back to the taxpayers as possible, but could not go any lower.

Chairman Bragdon said he was supportive of doing something, as he felt the project was useful both to the Town and to the School District. He asked how other members felt, noting that there were only four members present this evening.

Mr. Mannino said he felt school-related activities represented a majority of the use of the parking lot, saying he felt this would be a pretty decent chance of continuing the partnership.

Mr. Becker said he was inclined to wait, adding that he would like to know how much of the parking was long-term school use, as opposed to people just bringing kids in and dropping them off. Selectman Finan said his understanding had been that the School District needs were short-term, rather than long-term. Mr. Scaife said everyone should keep in mind that the cars there were constantly changing during the day, saying he felt the majority of the use was short-term. He pointed out that the long-term costs would be the Town's, referring to maintenance, snow-plowing, lighting, etc. He then expressed a desire to put in a one-time base coat this fall, saying it would improve future utility and maintenance.

Mr. Willette said he believed the Board had received a report that there was no problem with Kindergarten parking, so he saw no emergency. He then expressed concern about runoff from a large surfaced area. Mr. Scaife said that area of concern had been reviewed, saying this was why the Town had spent \$4,500 to obtain a full review by CLD (Costello, Lomasney & deNapoli, Inc.), to ensure they had the proper basal area.

Mr. Bragdon said he would be willing to have the School District take care of the base paving. He then moved that the School Board approve the base paving, not to exceed \$13,000, with the understanding that the Town would be responsible for future maintenance of the lot. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** Mr. Mannino and Mr. Bragdon voted in favor; Mr. Willette and Mr. Becker voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (2-2). Chairman Bragdon then stated the issue would have to wait until a full Board was present.

*Failure of
motion to
approve
base
paving*

Superintendent Suprenant asked how time sensitive the issue was. Mr. Scaife said it was extremely time sensitive, as paving could not be expected to occur after November 15th.

Mr. Mannino noted that the Board had discussed increasing parking capability, saying he knew the Board would want its own lots properly paved, lighted, and fenced, because that as the responsible thing to do. He said the School District knew that the parking lot in question was being used primarily by parents dropping off their kids or attending School District activities. He then questioned where the hesitation was coming from, and he asked the other members to reconsider.

Mr. Becker said the School Board had not been given to understand that that kind of a problem existed, based on the original request. Mr. Willette noted that the School District did have a parking problem, but not at this site—adding that he felt the Board had to be responsible to the people of Milford, whose tax rates were going up.

Chairman Bragdon asked if either of the dissenting members were inclined to change their mind. No motion for reconsideration coming forward. Chairman Bragdon then stated that he did not see any sense in proceeding at this time. Mr. Becker commented that he would like to know more about the nature of the School District budget, first.

5. New Business

- a. School Board Goals, Review of Progress** Chairman Bragdon commented on the status of various benchmarks that had been identified for the School Board goals, saying he felt everything was pretty much on track.
- b. 2010/2011 Enrollment Projections** Chairman Bragdon said he would not bring this item at this time, because Superintendent Suprenant had determined that there was a discrepancy in the calculations he had prepared that had to be corrected.

c. Policy Proposals

Chairman Bragdon noted that two policy proposals were scheduled for review; he then suggested that the Board take up the second one first.

(2) Policy #7015, Programs Involving Candidates For Political Office (1st Reading)

Decision to approve 1st reading

Superintendent Suprenant said this would be changed to a new section number, if the policy were approved for its first reading. He then discussed his rationale for changing the policy.

*Decision
to approve
1st reading* Mr. Becker moved that the Board approve Policy #7015 for a first reading, as submitted; Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4–0).

(1) Policy #5055, Guidelines On Non-Resident Students (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant said this was an important policy for deliberation. He referenced an incident that had occurred at Oyster River a few years ago involving a dispute as to which school district should be responsible for the Special Education costs pertaining to a non-resident student, which had led to a court dispute. He said the Milford School District's current policy was fairly liberal with respect to a contractual arrangement between a nonresident staff member and the school district. Noting that he had handed out a copy of a policy currently being used in the Souhegan School District, which had been drafted by a Special Education attorney, he said the Policy Committed had woven many of the elements of that Souhegan policy into the existing Milford policy for the proposed revision. He then reviewed those new elements, noting that the first paragraph had to do with accepting nonresident students based on availability of space in the program, while the second paragraph stipulated that the student had to be a good kid, noting that a student who kept getting into trouble probably would not be a good fit for the District. He then noted that the third paragraph stipulated the need for a written agreement from the student's school district of residence whereby that other school district accepted full responsibility for the costs of compliance with IDA requirements. He said the Committee was asking for adoption of a policy that the school district in which the student resides would assume all Special Education costs, which was not covered in the current policy. He said he expected this change would limit the ability of children of staff members from different school districts to attend the Milford schools, saying most school districts would be reluctant to agree to this sort of agreement.

Chairman Bragdon said he believed the Oyster River case had been settled out of court. Superintendent Suprenant noted that the main concern was that it would be difficult to determine costs in another district, which the district of residence would have no control over costs. He noted that the Milford School District was fortunate in that it had the Sage alternative school, saying the District did not currently have any students with emotional issues assigned to out-of-district schools.

Mr. Willette questioned how this would affect students who came in for one Vo-Tech course. Superintendent Suprenant said he did not think it would be a problem, as those students were here under a different State program.

Chairman Bragdon said he had talked with the attorney who had developed the Souhegan policy. He then referenced Section D, which grandfathered some students, saying there was a senate bill coming up in January that

would deal with that specific issue. He then suggested that the School Board put this on hold until after that proposed bill was resolved. He said the proposed bill would require all decision making to be given up to the school of attendance, which seemed problematic.

Mr. Willette asked if the School District currently had any way of preventing this from happening. Superintendent Suprenant said not really, other than the understanding that would be held with the sending district. Mr. Willette asked if Superintendent Suprenant could not refuse such students. Superintendent Suprenant described the acceptance procedure, saying the students were interviewed, along with the guidance counselors of both schools, after which a decision was made as whether the Milford School District would be a good fit for the student in question.

Mr. Theodore McShea, in the audience, asked if this pertained to teachers from out of the district, who wanted to bring their students in. Mr. Bragdon clarified that technically it applied to any nonresident who wanted to have their child attend the Milford schools but that it generally pertained to nonresident teachers, because of the discount.

6. Old Business

No **Old Business** items were addressed at this meeting.

7. Housekeeping Items

a. Approval of Minutes Chairman Bragdon addressed the 10-05-09 meeting minutes, asking if the members had had an opportunity to review the minutes; he then moved that the Board approve the 10-05-09 minutes as submitted; Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4-0).
Decision to approve minutes

b. Approval of Manifests Chairman Bragdon addressed the manifests awaiting approval, listed as including Vouchers Nos. 10, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, and 1065. Mr. Bragdon 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 (4-0).
Decision to approve manifests

8. Public Comment Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any closing comments from members of the audience. None being brought forward, 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),

Decision to enter nonpublic session 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. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Messrs. Becker, Bragdon, Mannino, and Willette all voted in favor of the motion, which carried unanimously (4-0). Chairman Bragdon then declared the Board to be going into non-public session at 8:02 p.m., and all members of the public left the room.

Decision to suspend the Board's rules for a motion Superintendent Suprenant informed the board of a personnel issue. Mr. Bragdon moved that the board suspend Policy #2415 (*Substitute Teachers*) for the purpose of allowing a replacement substitute teacher to be hired for 79 days, rather than the 90-day (one-half year) requirement as stated in the policy. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4-0), thereby satisfying the requirement for a two-thirds vote of the entire Board in order to suspend the rules.

Decision to hire replacement substitute teacher Mr. Bragdon then moved to approve the nomination of Ms. Heather Bierschenk as a replacement substitute teacher at the Milford Middle School. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4-0).

Decision to approve sick bank request Superintendent Suprenant informed the board of a sick bank request. Mr. Bragdon moved that the board approve the sick bank request; Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4-0).

Superintendent Suprenant then informed the Board of a personnel issue, with no motions being made with respect to that issue.

Decision to leave nonpublic session No further nonpublic business remaining before the Board, Mr. Bragdon moved to exit from the nonpublic session; Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, with the Board returning to public session at 8:44 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Decision to adjourn All scheduled items having been addressed, Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn; Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, with this meeting adjourning at 8:45 p.m.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of Signing