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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)
September 21, 2009**

1. **Call to Order** Chairman Bragdon called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2008, in Room 182 of 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. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.

4. **Reports and Presentations**

- a. **Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Suprenant reported that the Heron Pond and Jacques Schools had been selected by the New Hampshire Partners In Education Committee as Blue Ribbon Schools, honoring the number of parent volunteers and volunteer activities within those schools. He noted that 348 parents had contributed 4,249 hours to those schools, providing such programs as the Artist In Residence activity, Ellis Island Day, and various field trips.

Superintendent Suprenant reported that Jacques School Principal John Foss had started a **Fast Start for Early Readers** program for students and families. He explained that this program was an at-home, parent/child reading routine, designed to improve early child literacy skills, and jointly funded by the PTO and a Title I grant—adding that Toadstool Books was providing a 25% discount on the booklets used for this activity. He reported that 227 of approximately 350 families had signed on for participation in the program.

Recalling that the Town had started an Energy Committee, Superintendent Suprenant noted that Business Administrator Chambers was a member of that group and would provide a report tonight. Ms. Chambers said the

committee had gathered data about all the public buildings in Milford. She passed out a handout summarizing the information that had been collected so far, noting that there would be a lengthier report distributed in the future, and adding that there would be a work session with the Town Administrator this coming Thursday evening.

Mr. Willette asked why the High School was identified as the highest source of greenhouse gas emissions, noting that it was far above all of the others. Ms. Chambers said she could not answer that question without getting more information herself; she then described some of the elements used in the EPA program calculations.

Chairman Bragdon asked if there were historical data of this nature going back to past years. Ms. Chambers said there was information, adding that in most cases there clearly was improved energy use.

Superintendent Suprenant said Administration was continuing to receive information about H1N1 and ILI and was staying in touch with local and State agencies. He reported that he had been informed that the first vaccine would be available early in October for targeted populations, including people in the age range from 5 through 24.

Mr. Willette expressed a belief that the Blue Ribbon School selection should have been noticed in the newspaper. Chairman Bragdon noted that this was award had been from the State program, not the Federal one.

**b. Skoolab-
orate,
Teacher
Presenta-
tion**

Superintendent Suprenant introduced Ms. Jean Shankle, accompanied by Ms. Linda Flagg, who then provided a PowerPoint presentation on Skoolaborate, a program designed to offer “digital natives” (defined as persons for whom digital technologies already existed when they were born, and who hence had grown up with digital technology) educational and creative outlets for their technological talents. Ms. Shankle explained that she had become interested in the concept after experiencing a conference event on Second Life. She clarified that Skoolaborate involved a Second Life area that was only open to teachers and schools, saying she had previously introduced it in the Milford schools in a club format, which had not worked out as well as she wanted, but she had done some research this past summer working with Ms. Flagg, an intern, and an autistic student and other SPED students, developing an orientation program whereby students coming into the High School this fall received a better understanding of what High School life was about and how to behave. She noted that engineering students had constructed their own area, which was then used by the Special Education students to explore their capabilities—and getting them to learn to love to read and do things they otherwise would not have done.

Ms. Shankle said the program was being incorporated into the curriculum in most places it was used, but was after-school for her, as that was when she

had computer access. She noted that Australian and Asian students were very much into this—citing, as an example, that Japanese schools were using it to learn English. She clarified that the Skoolaborate project had been approved by Linden Labs, and she described the vetting process to keep out adults other than teachers, explaining that it was Second Life software, but away from the Main Grid.

- c. Down-town Parking Update** Superintendent Suprenant noted that the Board had voted to approve the parking lot pending agreement between himself and Town Administrator Guy Scaife, saying he had given the go-ahead after getting acceptable answers to the questions that had been raised, as listed in his 09-21-09 memorandum, with the result that the project was now under way. Mr. Dargie reported that the project in fact was nearly completed.

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of Potential Non-Budget Warrant Articles** Chairman Bragdon noted that there was a potential for a parking item for the High School and also something to do with an addition for the Jacques School, as well as something pertaining to collective bargaining. Superintendent Suprenant noted that the School District was working with the Town to establish the Milford High School as a safety/fallout shelter—noting that a generator for pickup power would be needed. He said a solution within the cost range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 might be possible by using a Town-owned portable generator and establishing appropriate connections for it, but purchase of a new unit would cost considerably more—adding that he would be researching that. Business Administrator Chambers noted that the Town's generator currently was set up to provide power for Town Hall in emergency situations. Mr. Dargie suggested that drainage issues be added to the list for consideration.

Chairman Bragdon noted that Superintendent Suprenant would come back with a budget proposal in November, after the enrollment projections had been finalized.

b. Policy Proposals

(1) Policy #2285 Wellness Policy (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant noted that the New Hampshire Department of Education Bureau of Credentialing had not responded favorably to the previously approved Wellness Policy. Business Administrator Chambers reported on the work done by a Policy Committee subcommittee she had spearheaded, explaining the changes that were being proposed for the policy, which would be supported by fully detailed guidelines.

Mr. Becker moved that the Board approve the first reading of Policy #2285; Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. Vote: All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

(2) Policy #2418 Seat Belt Use Policy (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant noted that this policy and the following one had been provided by Primex. Chairman Bragdon suggested that this policy, since it was so short, might be included in another policy. Chairman Bragdon also suggested that “school busses” should be changed to simply “buses” in order to cover occasions on which chartered buses were used.

Mr. Becker moved that the Board approve the first reading of Policy #2418 with the proviso that Superintendent Suprenant look for a different place for it, to incorporate it in another policy; Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

(3) Policy #2420 Temporary Alternative Duty (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant said there was no current Temporary Alternative Duty policy, noting that the Board had rejected the prior version this past spring. He then reviewed changes that had been made in the previously submitted draft.

Mr. Becker moved that the Board approve the first reading of Policy #2285; Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. Mr. Dargie questioned why this policy was limited to Workers’ Compensation and did not include injuries suffered at home, saying the same sort of practices should be in place to enable such people to get back to work. Superintendent Suprenant said he felt home injuries were covered under another policy, adding that Primex was only concerned with work-related injuries. Mr. Dargie said he felt the policy should cover everyone. Mr. Mannino expressed concern about a possible discrepancy between Parts I and II; Chairman Bragdon suggested that the Policy Committee should look into that. Business Administrator Chambers confirmed that part-time employees, including coaches, would be covered under this policy. . **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

**c. LEIP
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bership**

Chairman Bragdon addressed Superintendent Suprenant’s 09-21-09 memorandum, which listed 27 person who had volunteered to serve on the LEIP (Local Education Improvement Program) Committee, adding that letters had been received from the individuals listed in the packet, adding that he had also received a letter from Ms. Linda Beausoleil, who was not on the list. Superintendent Suprenant noted that two other people, Becci Young (president of the Elementary School PTO) and Ms. Shelley Ciccone (a Speech Therapist at the Jacques School), had also applied in the interim. Mr. Dargie noted that Ms. Ciccone had also said that her husband would be interested in being on the committee, but that he might have problems attending all meetings. Superintendent Suprenant said that Jillian Joyce, a High School senior, had expressed interest in representing students, as noted in his memorandum—adding that he had recommended she find an underclassman to join with her, in case the committee lasted beyond this school year. Superintendent Suprenant recommended that all

of the people listed in his 09-21-09 memorandum, plus the three new ones, be appointed to the committee. Mr. Dargie so moved; Mr. Becker seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

Ms. Arlene Fitzgerald, sitting in the audience, asked if she could sit in on the LEIP Committee meetings, as she was taking a course. Superintendent Suprenant suggested that she contact Ms. Janice French, in order to get on the mailing list for announcements, meeting schedule, etc.

Chairman Bragdon noted that there were still spots for two School Board members, saying he would appoint Mr. Becker and himself, with no objections. No objections were raised.

6. Old Business

No **Old Business** items were taken up this evening.

7. Housekeeping Items

a. Nominations Chairman Bragdon addressed nominations. Superintendent Suprenant said there were none being presented at this time.

a. Approval of Minutes Chairman Bragdon addressed the 09-08-09 meeting minutes.

- Mr. Dargie referenced Page 5, Item 2, last paragraph, saying the word "census" should be changed to "consensus."
- Mr. Dargie also noted that, in his comment about identifying the ARRA funds in conjunction with his request to hold the line for the forthcoming budget, in Section 5 on Page 5, he had meant to exclude any funds coming in from the ARRA program."
- Mr. Willette noted that the 4-1 vote with respect to the Town/School parking lot, listed in the fourth paragraph of Page 4 should have himself listed as being in opposition, rather than Mr. Mannino.

Mr. Dargie then moved that the Board approve the 09-08-09 minutes as amended; Mr. Mannino 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. 6, 8, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, and 1042. Mr. Becker moved that the Board approve the manifests as listed; Mr. Dargie 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 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), *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 8:16 p.m., and all members of the public left the room at that time.

The board discussed the possible purchase, sale, and/or lease of property, with no motions being made and no votes being taken.

The board discussed strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

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 9:05 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 9:05 p.m.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of Signing