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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)
April 19, 2010**

- 1. Call to Order** Acting Chairman Dargie called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010, in Lecture Hall #182 at the Milford High School. Those present, together with interested citizens, were:

School Board Present Paul Dargie, Carolyn Halstead, Len Mannino, and Bob Willette, and Peter Bragdon (arrived at 7:29 p.m.)

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

Recorder J. Bradford Seabury.

Acting Chairman Dargie said he was going to change the order of the agenda and go directly to Item 4.b.

4. Reports and Presentations

- b. MHS Basketball Team Recognition** Superintendent Suprenant expressed appreciation for the presence in attendance of the Milford High School Boys Basketball Team and its attendant coaching staff, noting that there were three State Representatives in attendance to honor the team for its outstanding efforts this year. He then congratulated the team members for their poise and for bringing home a State Championship for the first time in 35 years.

Superintendent Suprenant introduced Repr. Bob Willette, who in turn introduced Reprs. Stephen Palmer and Gary Daniels. Repr. Willette then read aloud from a proclamation of congratulations from the Speaker of the New Hampshire House, with members of the team coming up for recognition and congratulatory handshakes from the representatives as their names were called out. Coach Dan Murray then expressed his own appreciation for the team's good work this year.

- 2. Board Member Comments** Acting Chairman Dargie asked if there were any comments from Board members. None being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.
- 3. Public Comments** Acting Chairman Dargie 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 (Continued)

- a. Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Suprenant publicly acknowledged High School Librarian Kim Palmer for having taken the initiative to apply to the National Endowment for the Humanities for "We The People" bookshelves for the Milford School District libraries. He noted that this program had nothing to do with the We The People contest but instead was designed to encourage young people to read and understand literature while exploring themes in American History. He reported that each school library had received 17 age-appropriate hard-cover books, along with Ken Burns's CDs on the Civil War, as well as posters and bookmarks.

Superintendent Suprenant noted that the Destination Imagination and We The People teams were continuing their fund-raising efforts to support their upcoming trips to national competitions.

Superintendent Suprenant announced that the Middle School would be hosting a Career Day on Thursday of this week, with individuals from various professions speaking with students about the nature of their jobs. He then announced that the Heron Pond school would be hosting Ellis Island Day this Thursday, as well.

Superintendent Suprenant reported that he had attended the annual breakfast of the New Hampshire Gateway Chapter of the American Red Cross in Nashua on April 6th, at which time the four staff personnel (Mary Arrowsmith, Dana Bourassa, James St. Onge, and Diane Doran) who had saved Zach Harper's life last year were honored by the Red Cross in an impressive ceremony. He also reported that Zach Harper was using that experience to raise money for defibrillators for other organizations

Superintendent Suprenant then concluded by noting that New Hampshire's AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) results had been released by the NH Department of Education on April 7th, saying he had asked Assistant Superintendent Johnson to provide a brief report on that, with a full-blown report on the test results being given later on in the spring.

Ms Johnson noted that the threshold for making AYP had been raised this year, reminding the Board that the goal of the No Child Left Behind Program was for *all* students to reach *100% Proficient* status by 2012/2013. She reported that the School District had met AYP in the total school populations but did not make it in some of the subgroups at Heron Pond, the Middle School and the High School, but had met it in all subgroups in Reading at the Middle School. Because Heron Pond did not make the threshold value last year, she continued, it had been designated as a School In Need Of Improvement in both reading and math, and the school would have to go through an improvement-plan process.

Superintendent Suprenant noted that somewhere from 68% to 72% of New Hampshire schools had been designated as not meeting AYP, with 55% designated as Schools In Need Of Improvement.

5. New Business

- a. Hearing to Receive and Expend Unanticipated Funds RSA 198:20-b** Acting Chairman Dargie referenced NH RSA 198:20-b, stating that he was going to recess the School Board meeting at this time in order to hold the required public hearing. He then declared this meeting recessed at 7:20: p.m.

Acting Chairman Dargie declared the public hearing open for the purpose of receiving and dispensing funds at 7:22 p.m. He explained that the purpose of the public hearing was for receiving any funds in excess of \$5,000 more than had been expected in the budget, adding that funds of less than \$5,000 could be received and posted in the minutes without a hearing, but that what the District was doing in this case was lumping them all together. He then referenced a list of 20 or more items, noting that the budgeted amount had totaled \$1,438,291, with the total amount received having been \$1,577,938, providing a positive variance of \$138,647 for the special categories. Including Food Services, which he described as having in effect zero variance, he noted, the total amount budgeted had been \$2,268,291, with the total amount received or expected to be received being \$2,407,938, a variance of \$139,647.

Acting Chairman Dargie asked if anyone on the Board had comments or questions. No comments or questions were brought forward. He then asked if there were any comments or questions from the attending public. No one came forward.

Acting Chairman Dargie closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. and then called the regular meeting back to order at that same time.

Decision to receive and expend the funds Acting Chairman Dargie asked for a motion to receive and expend the funds for the various grants and programs. Mr. Willette moved that the School Board receive and expend the additional \$139,647 for the purposes outlined in the various grants and special programs. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Acting Chairman Dargie declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4-0).

- b. Financial Forecast** Business Administrator Chambers said the financial projections remained positive, saying \$767,312 was expected; she noted that half a million had been committed, so she was predicting that the District would exceed that by \$267,000 on the revenue side. She then reviewed the figures on the report she had provided, saying she was not expecting much of a surplus on the appropriations side and was currently projecting \$300. She noted that the introduction of the Mason students had provided the largest part of the funds, noting that more had come than had been expected. She noted the increase in Medicaid disbursement for this year only, noting that this and some other revenue sources were not expected next year. She commented on the possible effect of some State budget decisions, including significant reduction in State Aid, saying Milford School District

might lose \$30,000 to \$32,000 from what had been expected. She noted that the State was trying to come up with a formula for calculating vocational tuition, which had not been uniform in the past, and it looked as if there could be a possible reduction of about \$30,000 from what had been anticipated in vocational tuition. She noted that the State had changed the teacher retirement formula last year, and was talking about doing it again this year, but she expected it to be in the vicinity of \$75,000, so the \$267,000 surplus would be needed to cover some of those reductions.

Ms. Chambers said there would be about \$137,000, noting that the Board could reduce some expenditures at this point if it chose, saying some affirmative action was needed, but the District was still in good position, since revenues were higher than had been projected.

Acting Chairman Dargie at this time turned the meeting over to Chairman Bragdon, who had arrived during Ms. Chambers' presentation.

**c. Policy
Pro-
posals**

Superintendent Suprenant reported that there had been a meeting of the new Policy Committee, which had provided some new adjustments to previously proposed policies.

(1) Policy # 5096 Freedom of Assembly/Freedom of Religion (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant said the current policy was only being done at the Elementary School levels and was not done routinely at the Middle School and High School levels, with the Administrators feeling that implementation would be difficult at those levels. He then reviewed the proposed revision, saying most of the text came from the NHSBA (New Hampshire School Board Association) policy, and commenting on the changes. He confirmed that free time was available before and after school for observation of religious activities if desired.

Mr. Mannino asked if Category O prohibited the students from having prayer at graduations or other ceremonies. Superintendent Suprenant said he did not see anything to that effect.

Mr. Dargie moved to approve the first reading of Policy #5096. Mr. Willette seconded the motion. Mr. Dargie asked if it might be appropriate to have Atty. Drescher review the policy with respect to the issue of having prayer or any other religion activity at a school activity, such as graduation, deliberative session, etc. Superintendent Suprenant said he felt he could get the New Hampshire School Board Association attorney to look at it free of charge. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

(2) Policy # 5097 Non-School Sponsored Trip (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant noted that the current policy was a very lengthy procedural policy, saying the intent was to reduce it to basically one

paragraph--adding that this was deliberate. Mr. Dargie moved to approve Policy #5097 for its first reading; Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

(3) Policy # 7070 Appropriate Decorum Among Students and Staff Members (1st Reading)

Superintendent Suprenant said this was a non-issue. Mr. Dargie moved to approve Policy #7070 for its first reading; Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

6. Old Business

a. Kindergarten Addition Bonding

Business Administrator Chambers distributed a handout listing the different costs between 5-year and 10-year bond rates pertaining to the proposed 4-classroom addition to the Jacques School. She recommended the Lake Sunapee Bank bid for a 5-year loan, saying it was an outstandingly low rate. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board authorize a 5-year loan from Lake Sunapee Bank; Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

b. School Board Goals

Chairman Bragdon stated that he had left the paperwork pertaining to this item at the State House today, so it would be put off to the next meeting.

Chairman Bragdon called a break at 7:57 p.m. to change the tape, calling the meeting back to order at 7:58 p.m.

Chairman Bragdon reported on State government voting activities pertaining to State funding for the Kindergarten addition, saying the Senate vote should occur on Wednesday, after which the matter would go back to the House and then to the Governor for signing.

c. Early Drop-Off Program

Business Administrator Chambers said a bid had been put out for the Early Drop-Off program, with three responses, which had been narrowed down to two. She said the committee would interview those two if the Board wanted to continue. Chairman Bragdon noted that there was no guarantee the Board would approve it, in the end. Superintendent Suprenant said there should not be any cost to the School District from this program, other than cleaning the cafeteria and utility costs. Mr. Dargie said he would be in favor of having the cost figure for parents be as low as possible, in order to give low-income parents a viable option. Mr. Mannino asked what the benefit to the School District would be; Superintendent Suprenant said there was no benefit to the School District but it would benefit the children whose parents were both working and had to drop the children off, saying the children thereby would get a good breakfast and be ready to learn. Mr. Willette said

he would like to see some estimates on what the actual costs to the District would be. Without objection, Chairman Bragdon ruled that the Board was comfortable with having Business Administrator Chambers and the administrators negotiate further with the two responders.

7. Housekeeping Items

- a. Nominations** Superintendent Suprenant noted that he had provided nominations for two High School mathematics teachers. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the nominations of two High School math teachers, as listed; Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. Mr. Willette expressed a belief that it was common to hire new people at a higher rate than the people they were replacing. Superintendent Suprenant said he thought the District had come in with a lower rate throughout the six years he had been present, noting he had come in \$75,000 less last year, but there were certain positions that required higher salaries in order to get the expertise that was required. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

- b. Approval of Minutes** Chairman Bragdon addressed the 04-05-10 meeting minutes. Mr. Dargie requested the following changes be noted:
- Page 3, C — the second Professional Development Committee designation should be the Policy Committee.
 - Page 4, D — An exhibit was supposed to be attached. Chairman Bragdon said it was attached to the official copy in the Superintendent office, but it should also be provided on the Web site. Business Administrator Chambers said they could do that.
 - Page 7, 1st line — Mr. Dargie's name should be removed from the list of those voting in favor, as he had been in opposition, as designated.
- No other change requests being brought forward, Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the 04-05-10 minutes as corrected; Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor except for Mr. Mannino, who abstained, as he had not been present, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (4-0-1).

- c. Approval of Manifests** Chairman Bragdon addressed the manifests awaiting approval, listed as including Vouchers Nos. 21, 26, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, and 1173. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the manifests as listed; Ms. Halstead seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

Business Administrator Chambers said negotiations had resulted in a 3% reduction in natural gas costs over the next 12 months.

- 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

Superintendent Suprenant confirmed that there was a need to go into nonpublic session to discuss personnel issue. 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*, as well as to discuss collective bargaining issues. Mr. Dargie seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Ms. Halstead and Messrs. 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 8:20 p.m., and all members of the public left the room at that time.

While in non-public session the board discussed personnel issues, making no decisions.

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 9:24 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 9:25 p.m.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of Signing