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**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes  
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)  
Regular Meeting, January 19, 2010**

1. **Call to Order** Chairman Bragdon called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2010, in Lecture Hall #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.

Chairman Bragdon said he would recess the meeting at this time (7:01 p.m.) in order to open a Budget Hearing, which would be followed by a Bond Hearing, after which he would call this regular meeting back to order. [Note: Both Hearings are covered in separate minutes.]

Chairman Bragdon called this meeting back to order at 8:04 p.m.

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 noted that the Milford High School's "We The People" team had won the State competition for the ninth time in the past 12 years. He expressed congratulations to teacher/coach Dave Alcox and the students concerned.

Superintendent Suprenant announced that there would be an H1N1 clinic at the Milford High School this coming Saturday, assisted by Milford EMTs and Nashua Health personnel.

Superintendent Suprenant noted that the second semester for the school year would begin the following day, noting that there had been a Teachers' Workshop Day today.

Assistant Superintendent Johnson reported on the many activities and presentations of the Teachers' Workshop Day, noting that it included CPR training and first-aid training for about 250 people. Reporting that about 90% of the total staff was now CPR-trained. She then presented awards to administrators of the different schools, noting Milford was one of only two school districts in the state to receive this CPR-trained award.

**b. Pediatric PROMIS Initiative Survey**

Assistant Superintendent Johnson reviewed the Pediatric PROMIS program, run in conjunction with the Center for School Success (CSS) of West Lebanon, NH, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PA. She noted that the survey would be totally voluntary, saying she was looking for the School Board to give her the go-ahead to follow through with this program. Mr. Dargie asked if there were any cost; Assistant Superintendent Johnson answered in the negative. She then discussed expectations of student participation, saying there had been good relationships with the working group. Mr. Becker noted that written parental consent would be required. Chairman Bragdon suggested that the Board take this up at its next meeting. Mr. Becker asked if the School District had any indications of what the survey consisted of; Ms. Johnson said she had not seen the survey as yet, but she assured the Board that the survey would not be given out if it were found not to be appropriate.

**c. 403(b) Obligation**

Business Administrator Chambers referenced the 11-18-09 letter from Tamara Middleton, of Gatekeeper, noting that new IRS regulations had come into effect in 2009, and she then discussed the issue of moneys that had not been transferred to some of the investment company vendors because of delay in implementing the new regulations, noting that this had been a problem nation-wide. She said Administration had felt the money needed to be distributed by the end of the year or returned to employees, but Gatekeeper did not have the funds, so the School District had assumed the obligation, noting that Gatekeeper had been purchased by CPI, so the transmissions had been accomplished by the end of the year, and the system was finally proving itself out, although there were still some ongoing difficulties. She said the Finance Committee had agreed to sign off but had felt it was appropriate for the School Board to be advised of the situation. She said letters to the vendors from Gatekeeper and CPI had resulted in some of the money starting to come in from the vendors, although not yet quickly enough to satisfy all of the obligations. She expressed hopes to hear on the following day about the results of a recent meeting, with respect to getting back \$38,000. She said no action was needed by the Board at this time. Mr. Dargie discussed further details, saying the Finance Committee had asked for this presentation because there was some risk that not all of the money would be gotten back.

Mr. Mannino asked if the School District would not be covered by insurance. Business Administrator Chambers discussed the difficulties of that, but expressed confidence that the money would come back.

Chairman Bragdon asked if there were any questions from the audience. None were brought forward.

**5. New Business**

No new business was taken up by the Board at this meeting.

**6. Old Business**

- a. Default Budget** Business Administrator Chambers described details of changes that had been made in the Default Budget since her last presentation. Mr. Bragdon moved that the School Board approve the number of \$35,433,032 as the default budget amount for the warrant; Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. **Vote:** Mr. Willette, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Bragdon voted in favor; Mr. Dargie and Mr. Becker voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (3–2).

- b. Warrant Articles** Chairman Bragdon noted that the State had not budgeted any money for the Kindergarten construction program, saying he was going to file a bill in the coming week to transfer the money from some other capital project account. He then suggested that language needed to be added to the warrant article to protect the voters by stating that no work would be done if the State did not provide any funding. Business Administrator Chambers reviewed the proposed changes that had already been inserted in the proposed text. Chairman Bragdon said that he would declare, without objections, that this change was not substantive. Mr. Dargie expressed a desire to vote on the matter; he then moved that the School Board officially adopt and approve the language in the proposed Budget Hearing handout. Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

Chairman Bragdon said the Board would discuss Warrant Article 5 in nonpublic session. He then suggested that the Board should take some votes on these articles.

Chairman Bragdon addressed Warrant Article 1, asking the will of the Board. **Vote:** Mr. Mannino, Mr. Dargie, Mr. Becker and Mr. Bragdon voted in favor of recommending; Mr. Willette voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (4-1).

Chairman Bragdon addressed Warrant Article 2. **Vote:** Mr. Willette, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Bragdon voted in favor of recommending; Mr. Dargie and Mr. Becker voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (3–2).

Chairman Bragdon addressed Warrant Article 3. **Vote:** All members voted in favor of recommending, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

Chairman Bragdon addressed Warrant Article 4. **Vote:** All members voted in favor of recommending, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Bragdon said the Board would deal with Warrant Article 5 in nonpublic session, following this meeting.

Chairman Bragdon addressed Warrant Article 6. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Bragdon addressed Warrant Article 7. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).3

Chairman Bragdon noted that the warrant would say the School Board recommended each item on the warrant.

Mr. Peter Basiliere asked why the Board was not voting on Warrant Article 5 in public session. Chairman Bragdon said the Board needed to review some costs, saying the listed amount could go down or stay unchanged but would not go up.

Business Administrator Chambers reminded the Board members that the State form would be available to be signed on Thursday.

## **7. Housekeeping Items**

**a. Approval of Minutes** Chairman Bragdon addressed the 01-04-10 meeting minutes. Mr. Dargie requested the following changes be noted:

- Page 1, Section 4c: the word "sits" should be replaced by "its."
- Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: the word "not" should be added.
- Page 3, a pound sign symbol should be changed to a dollar sign symbol.
- Same page, last paragraph: the phrase "pay or play" should be "pay for play."

Mr. Becker referenced Page 4, large paragraph, saying there should be a period after \$200, with the following being a separate sentence saying the School District received some large sum of money from the trust funds.

Mr. Dargie then moved that the Board approve the minutes as amended; Mr. Bragdon 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. 17, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, and 1117. 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).

- c. **Approval of Treasurer's Report** Chairman Bragdon addressed the October 2009 and November 2009 Treasurer's Reports, awaiting approval. Mr. Dargie moved that the Board approve the Treasurer's Reports 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).
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 that the Board 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*. 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 8:44 p.m., and all members of the public left the room at that time.

The board discussed a situation that might affect a person's reputation. Following discussion, Mr. Dargie moved that the board authorize that up to \$7,000 from the general fund be spent to resolve an issue with floor tiles in the high school renovation project, with the total cost to be shared between the school district, the architect, and the general contractor. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.

Mr. Bragdon then moved to amend that motion by making the source of funds the high school renovation project, rather than the general fund. Mr. Willette seconded this amendment motion. **Vote:** Mr. Bragdon and Mr. Willette voted in favor; Mr. Dargie, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Becker voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have failed (2–3).

No other discussion being brought forward, Chairman Bragdon called for a vote on the original motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

The board discussed a real estate issue, with no decisions being made.

The board then discussed a personnel issue with the superintendent.

No further nonpublic business remaining before the Board, Mr. Bragdon moved to exit from the nonpublic session; Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, with the Board returning to public session at 9:54 p.m.

**10. Adjournment**

All scheduled items having been addressed, Mr. Bragdon moved to adjourn; Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, with this meeting adjourning at 9:55 p.m.

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Chairman of the School Board

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Date of Signing