

--- FILE COPY ---

**MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD Minutes
(SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT No. 40)
May 3, 2010**

- 1. Call to Order** Chairman Bragdon called this meeting of the Milford School Board to order at 7:14 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2010, in Lecture Hall #182 at the Milford High School. Those present, together with interested citizens, were:

School Board Present Peter Bragdon, Paul Dargie, Carolyn Halstead, 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. Mr. Dargie noted that there had been an odd transaction in the manifests, as the state had paid the Kindergarten money intended to Hudson to Milford, so Milford had been asked to send the money to Hudson. No other comments 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. A member of the audience, who expressed a desire to remain anonymous, stated that he was here before the Board today to address a meeting between his daughter, whom he identified as a Special Needs student at the Middle School, and her Director of Special Needs. Chairman Bragdon said he would set the meeting up later in the week between the gentleman, the School Board, and the Superintendent. The gentleman said that would be fine. No other comment being brought forward, he continued to the next agenda item.
- 4. Reports and Presentations**

 - a. Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Suprenant reported that the "We the People" team had returned from its competition in Washington, D.C. He noted that the final results were not yet been announced but that Coach Alcox had stated that the students had had a great learning experience—and also that there had been as many as twenty parents in attendance, the highest number ever. He expressed congratulations to the team members.

Superintendent Suprenant announced that 6th-Grade student Jeremy Wisbey had earned Honorable Mention honors in the national *Time For Kids* magazine for his poem, *Monday Mornings*, adding that he had distributed a copy of that poem to members of the Board. He expressed congratulations to Jeremy.

Superintendent Suprenant announced that he had received confirmation from DOE Commissioner Barry that the last half-day of school for students, scheduled for Monday, June 21st, had been waived, so that the actual last day of school would be Friday, June 18th, a full day, and that the last day of school for teachers and other staff would be Monday, June 21st.

5. New Business

- a. Annual Review of Capital Improvement Plan for Town** Business Administrator Chambers said the School District had been contacted about the 2010/2011 CIP plan and what it wanted to propose; she then distributed a handout, commenting on the Jacques addition, the Milford High School parking project, and renovation program for the Milford High School/Middle School/and the Bales School. She suggested that the bonds should be sold in 2011 so that that the first interest payment would be in 2012. Mr. Dargie expressed a belief that the bond article should not be placed on the next warrant but should be postponed for a year, saying there was going to be a significant maintenance article. Chairman Bragdon said the current intent in Concord was that there would be no new projects for a year. He suggested that the Board might want to consider a place holder for a large project. Chairman Bragdon said it might be best to say that there would not be a large project but that there would be renovation projects averaging \$200,000 a year for several years in a row. Mr. Dargie said there was some money in the current bond that could be used for the parking project. Mr. Dargie said he would be in favor of adding something to the warrant pertaining to the property next to the High School, bumping up the amount a little. Chairman Bragdon pointed out that this did not mean that a decision had been made to put anything on the warrant. Superintendent Suprenant said he had some information to share in nonpublic session about the parking lot.

Chairman Bragdon asked if the Board were in favor of keeping something for renovation on the CIP Plan, as a placeholder, noting some of the things that had been discussed, including a new roof at the bales school. Mr. Dargie outlined the purpose of the CIP Plan, noting that the goal was to keep the Town's tax rate as low as possible.

Chairman Bragdon asked if any member had something else in mind to be pot on the plan, other than the listed items. Nothing was brought forward. Mr. Dargie said the Board needed to appoint a representative to the CIP Committee, adding that he would like to do that. Without objection, Chairman Bragdon appointed Mr. Dargie to that position.

6. Old Business

- a. School Board Goals** Chairman Bragdon distributed copies of a list of potential goals that had been mentioned a few weeks ago, adding that the second item was potentially wrong, based on the preceding discussion. He asked what else

might be suggested, or what should be decided with respect to #2, Facilities Planning. He then explained that he would put together a timeline once the Board determined what it wanted to do, for subsequent discussion by the Board. Chairman Bragdon asked for comments on Item #2; Mr. Dargie suggested putting it on hold, saying it would have to be done over again if done too early.

Mr. Dargie referenced #4, saying he was not optimistic that the Board could come up with something that would be manageable. Chairman Bragdon moved that the Board approve Items #1, #3, and #4; Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

**b. Early
Drop Off
Program**

Business Administrator Chambers recalled the discussion of the prior meeting, saying the two Elementary School principals had reduced the program candidates to two, but one of those had then withdrawn, so the committee had met today with the Morning Schools group, based in Bedford. She noted that this firm had been in business for many years, dealing with something like 27 different schools, adding that the committee was recommending awarding the bid to that firm. She reported that they had come up with a figure of \$1800 per year for each school, noting that the average was \$1,850—adding that this amounted to \$10 per day per school. Katie said the firm charged \$4 per child, with a 20% discount for additional siblings, but could charge as much as \$5 per day. She said the procedure would be to purchase a \$20 coupon book, with the coupons good at any time. She said it seemed to be very flexible program, adding that the firm had a great record of working with administrators and custodians.

Chairman Bragdon asked how the program would be marketed to parents. Ms. Chambers said the firm did whatever the district wanted it to do, but had used such techniques as open houses, etc. Ms. Chambers clarified that Jacques would start in September, with Heron Pond being added when practical, explaining that 20 to 22 students were needed for the company to break even, and adding that the program could be adjusted to whatever the Board wanted it to be, but breakfast would be an added charge.

Superintendent Suprenant said he had begun a similar program in 2000, at his previous superintendency, and had found the program very rewarding, with the vendors handling all communications with parents, adding that he had never heard a negative comment about the activity. Mr. Willette said he had problems with the plan, saying he did not like supporting monopolies, adding that there was a local business that did this and this would be taking money out of the local economy. He then protested that this had nothing to do with education. Mr. Mannino asked what the firm did as allowances for hardship cases, asking if that burden would fall on the School District. Chairman Bragdon said he expected hardship issues would not be the School District's responsibility. Ms. Chambers said she did not have an

answer to that question at this time. Mr. Mannino asked how long the proposed contract would be for; Ms. Chambers said it was being proposed for one year, saying responses had been solicited from approximately 15 firms. Mr. Mannino asked at what point the company would know it was not going to get enough participation, asking what protection was in the contract to let the School District part ways with the firm. Ms. Chambers said the agreement language had not been put together yet. Chairman Bragdon asked if the committee were looking for permission to develop a contract. Superintendent Suprenant assured the Board that the committee would structure a contract that would protect Milford, but added that he would rather hear from the Board sooner rather than later. Mr. Mannino asked how the service worked in the wintertime when there might be no school; Superintendent Suprenant said the communication would be done by the vendor, saying arrangements had not been worked out for delayed openings, but that was when parents really needed such a service. He said the program would be scheduled to start at 6:45 a.m., and parents would know by that time. Mr. Mannino asked when he would learn about hardship cases; Ms. Chambers said she would find out tomorrow. Chairman Bragdon suggested that any decisions about hardship would be made at the vendor's expense; Ms. Chambers said she understood that there was some funding available, coming through the operator. Mr. Willette said there had already been expense to the School District, in administrative efforts and advertising, and there would be costs for lawyer fees to review the contracts.

Mr. Dargie moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent to pursue and authorize a contract for the providing of an early drop-off program; Chairman Bragdon seconded the motion for the purposes of discussion. Mr. Mannino said he was close to supporting it but he would feel more comfortable if language were built into the contract basically to keep the lines of communication open. Chairman Bragdon said he was pleased to hear that the existing local services had been contacted and given an opportunity to participate, but he was a little concerned about the marketing of the program, which would not include information about other services. He said it would be good if parents were given a list of other providers in the area that they could choose, if they liked. Mr. Dargie said he thought information on local providers was provided if they desired; Superintendent Suprenant concurred. Superintendent Suprenant noted that in other districts the firm had made efforts to hire staff, so this would create jobs. Mr. Willette said a lot of individuals sent their children to neighbors, and this could be taking money out of Milford. No further discussion being brought forward, Chairman Bragdon called for a vote on the motion to negotiate and sign a contract. **Vote:** Mr. Dargie, Mr. Mannino, and Mr. Bragdon voted in favor; Mr. Willette and Ms. Halstead voted in opposition. Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried (3-2).

- c. Kindergarten Addition Bond** Chairman Bragdon said the Kindergarten bond was contingent on State funding and there currently was no money, but a bill passed last week provided some money, with both sides of the house having agreed to changes—adding that the agreement did include money for Milford and that the bill would be on the floor of the House on Wednesday. Ms. Halstead asked about the sale of bonds. Business Administrator Chambers said the Lake Sunopee bank had offered a very attractive rate, and they were waiting for word, as outlined in the minutes of the last meeting.
- d. Policy Proposals** Chairman Bragdon noted that three previously proposed policy revisions were back for a second reading.
- (1) Policy #5096 Freedom of Assembly/Freedom of Religion (2nd Reading)**
Superintendent Suprenant noted that Mr. Mannino had raised a question about freedom of assembly at football games, etc., and he had contacted the attorney for the NHSBA, who had said the national law on prayer did not allow for prayers to be said at graduation or other events if they were school sponsored—but that, if a student were doing a presentation including a benediction, it was not a violation. He clarified that it was against the law only if posted as an agenda item. Superintendent Suprenant expressed a belief that the proposed policy met the requirements of the law. Mr. Dargie moved to approve Policy #5096 for a second reading, and Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **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 (2nd Reading)**
Superintendent Suprenant said there had been no comments about this policy at the time of its first reading. Mr. Dargie moved to approve Policy #5097 for its second reading; Mr. Willette 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 (2nd Reading)**
Mr. Dargie moved to approve Policy #7070 for its second reading; Mr. Willette seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

7. Housekeeping Items

- a. Nomination** Superintendent Suprenant said there were no nominations to present this evening.
- b. Approval of Minutes** Chairman Bragdon addressed the 04-19-10 meeting minutes. Mr. Dargie referenced Page 2, next to last paragraph, 3rd line, saying the word should be *proficient* not *sufficient*. Mr. Dargie then moved that the Board approve

the minutes as corrected; Mr. Bragdon seconded the motion. **Vote:** All members voted in favor, and Chairman Bragdon declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5–0).

- c. Approval of Manifests** Chairman Bragdon addressed the manifests awaiting approval, listed as including Vouchers Nos. 28, 29, 30, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, and 1184. 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).

Chairman Bragdon noted that Mr. Dargie had suggested that the Chairman appoint any other Board member to be an alternate member of the Finance Review Committee, in the event that either Mr. Dargie or Ms. Halstead were not available at any time. Without objection, Chairman Bragdon then appointed each member as a substitute to the Finance Review Committee

- 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 a personnel issue 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 so moved; Mr. Bragdon 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 8:14 p.m., and all members of the public left the room at that time.

The board discussed several personnel issues, taking no action.

The board reviewed a request to withdraw days from the sick day bank. Following discussion, Mr. Bragdon moved that the requested days be awarded; Mr. Dargie seconded the 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, taking no action.

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 9:34 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 9:35 p.m.

Chairman of the School Board

Date of Signing