

1 MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
2 MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2017 MEETING
3 MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL #182
4

5 1. Call to Order

6 Board Chair Ron Carvell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Lecture Hall #182 at
7 Milford High School. Board members present were Board Vice-Chair Len Mannino, Ms.
8 Jennifer Siegrist, Mr. Kevin Drew and Mr. Bob Willette. Also in attendance were
9 Superintendent Robert Marquis and Business Administrator Jen Burk. The recording
10 secretary was Dana Laviano.
11

12 2. Board Member Comments

13 Chairman Ron Carvell advised the public in attendance that the Board would vote on
14 putting the Girls Lacrosse issue on tonight's agenda, under New Business, once we got
15 to that point so it will be a matter of record.
16

17 3. Public Comments

18 Rick Wood of Homestead Circle addressed the Board regarding the two submitted
19 request for funds from the Computer Club and Academic WorldQuest Team. (SEE
20 EXHIBIT) He pointed out that Superintendent Marquis had approved \$500 for each club
21 but that this worked out to be 62% and 24% funded, respectively. He stated that this
22 was inequitable and the Board should be aware of it. Mr. Carvell responded that the
23 Board Policy 5100 (SEE EXHIBIT) allows the Board's discretion in awarding \$500 per
24 team or group or 10% of the total eligible costs to be raised, not to exceed \$1500.
25 Superintendent Marquis' designation of \$500 per Club request satisfies that policy
26 requirement.
27

28 4. Reports and Presentations

29 a. Superintendent's Report:

30 At the Milford High School, the Spring Band and Chorus Concert will be held this
31 Thursday April 20. The Band and Chorus will be on a performing tour in Montreal during
32 April vacation week. Also at the high school: Fuel Up to Play 60 is sponsoring a Hula
33 Hoop contest in the café during lunches on Wednesday and Friday this week and a tree
34 will be planted in the Tundra this May by the Environmental Club.
35

36 Students at the Jacques School are learning about the life cycle of the chicken by
37 observing and caring for their newly hatched chicks! First graders participated in the
38 Empty Bowls program on April 9 by creating ceramic soup bowls.
39

40 At Heron Pond Elementary School, last week's STEM night for parents and students was
41 a big success with over 80 people in attendance. Mr. Marquis extends his thanks and
42 appreciation to all of the staff and students from the Applied Technology Center; as well
43 as the vendors and student alumni who came and were an integral part of the evening's
44 success.

45 Also at Heron Pond, the second graders will perform "Animals on Parade" this
46 Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 PM in the HP cafeteria. 5th graders will kick-off their
47 study of Shakespeare with a presentation from the Shakespeare Company on April 21.

48
49 8th graders at Milford Middle School had a field trip to Boott Cotton Mill in Lowell, MA
50 where they got to experience 19th century factory life and ride a trolley around the city
51 to see historic landmarks.

52
53 Students and staff at MMS participated in the 14th Annual Hoops for Heart Extravaganza
54 and raised \$1,437 to benefit the American Heart Association. Kudos to Julie Abbott for
55 being the top fundraiser! She raised \$695!

56
57 Throughout the month of March, students at Project DRIVE participated in the IMPACCT
58 workshops which covered topics like self-advocacy, employment skills, careers and
59 opportunities for post-secondary education. In April, Project DRIVE students will take a
60 field trip to Job Corps to learn about their programs.

61
62 Last Friday was the annual Spring Dinner at Project DRIVE where students and staff
63 share a meal together.

64
65 Superintendent Marquis said he continues to receive thanks from the students and staff
66 at Project DRIVE for the opportunity to use Chrome Books as part of their lessons and
67 research.

68
69 Students at the Middle School and Heron Pond have been doing the Smarter Balanced
70 testing. Juniors at the High School were administered the SAT as part of this assessment.

71
72 Mr. Marquis closed his report with reference to the ratification of the vote in March: the
73 NH Senate has passed HB 329 (which will now go on to the House and need to be signed
74 by Governor Sununu before it becomes law.) Mr. Marquis spoke with School Board
75 Association attorney Barrett Christina about the wording of HB 329. As it is presently
76 written, the bill allows the School Board to be the governing body over all affairs of the
77 school district. It would be empowered to ratify the annual district meeting by placing it
78 on the agenda at a Board meeting and ratifying it via vote. The bill does not require
79 public comments but the Board can take them if it so chooses.

80
81 Mr. Marquis invited Business Administrator Jen Burk to provide an update on the issue
82 of the Bond Bank which has indicated it will hold a separate or 2nd Bond sale in June or
83 early July to accommodate districts delayed by the timing of HB 329. Ms. Burk assured
84 the Board that all of our paperwork for the bond bank has been completed and
85 submitted.

86
87 b. Computer Club Request for Funds

88 Members of the MHS Computer Club told the Board about their work, their past

89 competitions and reviewed their request for the Board's help with funding for their
90 participation in a national competition held at Lockheed Martin in Stratford CT during
91 April vacation. (SEE EXHIBIT) Mr. Willette asked if the Club had checked school policy
92 regarding travel to club events in private vehicles and club advisor Tammy Andrew
93 assured the Board all of that was in order. Board Vice Chair Len Mannino made a motion
94 to approve \$500 in funding in accordance with SB Policy 5100. Bob Willette seconded
95 the motion. Motion was passed 5-0.

96
97 c. Academic WorldQuest Team Request for Funds

98 Members of the Model UN Club who are participating in the Academic WorldQuest
99 competition presented to the Board about their club's purpose, achievements and need
100 for funds to help them attend the national competition in Washington DC during April
101 vacation. Jennifer Siegrist made a motion to approve \$500 to fund the team's trip. Bob
102 Willette seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Kevin Drew abstaining.
103 There were no public comments.

104
105 5. New Business – Board Vice Chair Len Mannino made a motion to add Girls Lacrosse to
106 tonight's agenda under New Business. Bob Willette seconded the motion. Motion
107 passed 5-0.

108 a. Junior/Varsity Club Girls Lacrosse Program

109 Superintendent Marquis reviewed a memo submitted to the Board outlining the recent
110 concern by parents and educators that the Girls Lacrosse Club program would not be
111 funded as a Junior/Varsity Team at the High School level. (SEE EXHIBIT) Mr. Marquis
112 reviewed the pertinent SB policy (5015) regarding co-curricular activities and the
113 estimated cost to fund the club as a full team sport at the JV and Varsity level for high
114 school girls.

115
116 Public comments:

117 Teresa Wood, Homestead Circle, addressed the Board about her concerns over girls who
118 play lacrosse at the elementary and middle school level who cannot play at the High
119 School level. She spoke about three grants she has found which might help defray costs.

120
121 Another parent told the Board about her conversation with the Athletic Director at the
122 High School whom she contacted in order to determine the outcome of the Board's
123 intentions for the girls lacrosse club to be transitioned into a funded team. (SEE SB
124 MINUTES 11/07/2016) She said the Board needs to decide on this this evening as time is
125 running out to get on the docket for the 2 year schedule cycle of games. She also
126 explained at length about the popularity and success of lacrosse over all other youth
127 sports at every age bracket. Lacrosse, especially women's lacrosse, is a Division I sport at
128 the collegiate level and provides more opportunities for girls to receive scholarships
129 than other sports. She explained that students who want to play and pursue lacrosse at
130 the college level will leave the district to attend private schools which do provide
131 lacrosse as a funded, full-fledged team sport.

132 For clarification Superintendent Marquis mentioned that the Board has until its next

133 meeting to decide on this issue. This will be within the deadline for getting on the game
134 roster.

135
136 Keith Waters, Wyman Lane, explained that this had become a sudden issue because up
137 until this point parents of players at the middle school were expecting the Board to vote
138 to move forward with funding the Club and making it a Team Sport at the JV/V high
139 school level and were very surprised to learn it had not made the cut during the budget
140 cycle. Mr. Waters said lacrosse is so popular it will be an Olympic sport soon. He said
141 that we have current athletes that are good enough to play at the college level and we
142 need to provide our girls with the same opportunities as the boys have. He also
143 mentioned that McKinley at Hampshire Hills has many contacts and can help with the
144 search for a coach.

145
146 Ron Carvell clarified that all the members of the Board are passionate about our student
147 athletes and want very much to support the program. The issue is not a lack of passion
148 or support but a very serious lack of money. He explained how the at the start of the
149 budget process for the 2017-2018 school year, the girls lacrosse club had been on the
150 list of items to be funded but not recommended by the Superintendent. Over the course
151 of budget deliberations it was not able to be recommended for funding over more
152 critical repairs and updates to the physical plant. The Board looks at every single line
153 item very closely. If the Board were to find the \$9k for this program, it would mean
154 taking it from somewhere else and also funding the other teams which have remained
155 unfunded up until now. (SEE EXHIBIT) As the budget has very little wiggle room, it is
156 unlikely such funds will be found but, the Board will look. The Board will review the
157 budget and report back what monies (if any) could be provided for this effort.

158
159 Rick Wood, Homestead Circle, thanked the Board for putting this issue on tonight's
160 agenda. He agreed with Mr. Carvell's statement about the budget but would like the
161 Board to consider the issue in the light of equitable treatment for girls and boys. He
162 asked about the District's compliance with Title IX's requirement of equal access for
163 females to grants and scholarship opportunities. He said that the amount being
164 requested comes out to about \$300 per player. If the Board can fund 30% of that, the
165 parents would work to raise the rest.

166
167 Mr. Carvell replied that the Board needs time to evaluate this request and come up with
168 a plan. It will be on the agenda for the next SB meeting. He said the Board and
169 Administration will do an internal audit to make sure we are Title IX compliant.
170 Superintendent Marquis said that such an audit would take about a month and so would
171 not be ready by the next Board meeting.

172
173 Mrs. Boudreau, Windsor Drive, spoke to the Board about the lacrosse players in her
174 family. She said that more girls try out for lacrosse than boys and we need to support
175 them. She also pointed out that students who do sports statistically have better grades
176 so the Board should not decide against funding the team in preference for academics.

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Megan Wood, Homestead Circle, told the Board about her experience playing lacrosse, what it has done for her and what it means to her.

Todd Boudreau, Windsor Drive, said that he wants the same equity and opportunity for our girls playing lacrosse that other high school sports receive.

James Minetti & his daughter Victoria Minetti addressed the Board citing their hard work and dedication to the sport and the desire to continue playing once Victoria is at MHS.

Mike Hannon, who is on the Board of Directors of the Amherst Lacrosse Club, said that the Souhegan Schools aren't losing students to other schools because they provide this program for their students. He said that the girls program with Souhegan Valley Lacrosse Club is growing.

Mr. Carvell thanked all who came in support of this issue and reiterated the Board's commitment to reviewing it.

b. Review of Openings – Custodial and Kitchen Staff

Mr. Marquis reviewed his memo to the Board regarding two positions for custodial and kitchen staff that have recently become open. (SEE EXHIBIT) The memo explains the history of the positions and the impact caused by leaving them unfilled. Mr. Willette clarified that the custodial position is due to staff turnover and so the salary for it is already in the budget. Mr. Carvell stated he is fine with filling both positions.

Mr. Marquis asked if he needs to present the anticipated staff opening due to retirement this June once this transpires and Mr. Carvell said no.

c. Brox Property and Town Rule Proposals

Mr. Carvell reported that the Milford Selectmen discussed target shooting at the Brox Property during their meeting last week. The Milford Police Department made a proposal that target shooting be prohibited on the property. Mr. Carvell asked the Board if they would like to take a position on this proposal. He said he is in favor of it. Mr. Drew, Mr. Willette, and Jennifer Siegrist all agreed. Mr. Carvell requested a motion of the Board supporting the rule as proposed by the Milford PD and for a member to present this support at the next meeting of the Milford Selectman. Kevin Drew made the motion, Bob Willette seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Len Mannino abstaining.

6. Old Business

a. Retirement System Audit

Jen Burk provided the Board with the requested numbers regarding the recent audit by the NH Retirement System. The Supplemental pays not included in the retirement system (because of a misunderstanding of what co-curricular activities needed to be reported) are \$28k. This is money the District owes. However, the District is entitled to

221 \$11.5k in credits for personal day buy-backs, etc. So the net money owed is about \$10k.

222

223 b. Capital Improvement Items

224 Bill Cooper reported to the Board that despite being held up by ratification issues at the
225 Bond Bank, he and Mr. Drew have been busy collecting bids for various projects. 5 bids
226 have come in and most are at or below budget. The gym floor bid came in at \$95, 350;
227 Bleachers at \$47,750; Heron Pond roof at \$86,870; and the MMS fire alarm system
228 replacement at \$112,840 (this is about 12k over expectations). These bids still need to
229 be vetted. The 5th bid request (for the pipe project at MHS) only received 1 bid back and
230 it was very high at \$692k. Mr. Cooper recommends waiting until November to put it out
231 to bid again for the work to be done over Christmas, February and April vacations and
232 completed summer of 2018. He said the mechanical equipment projects would happen
233 next summer as well. There is one area of the pipes that is high risk and that section will
234 be replaced but the rest should be okay to wait.

235

236 Mr. Drew said that the next time the Board discusses CIP items, there will be a
237 spreadsheet for everyone to review. These bids just came in today so there hasn't been
238 time to put it together. He also said that we were late requesting bids for the pipe
239 project so he is not surprised by the unavailability of companies.

240

241 Mr. Carvell asked to reconsider forming a separate committee to manage the Bond
242 Projects as this will add delays and red tape to getting the work done. He said that Mr.
243 Drew should be Project Manager and continue to work with Bill Cooper. Mr. Drew
244 agreed.

245

246 c. O'Connor Trust Fund

247 Mr. Carvell explained that all Board members had received a nonpublic letter from
248 Attorney Drescher clarifying and explaining once and for all what the Board's options
249 are in regards to the O'Connor Trust Fund. The Board may only use the interest income
250 and any attempts to break open the fund and access the principal would lead to legal
251 fees and the risk that a family member would petition to take the funds back. Mr.
252 Carvell thanked Superintendent Marquis and Jen Burk for all the work to get to the
253 bottom of this.

254

255 d. School Board Goals 2017-2018

256 Mr. Marquis reviewed the School Board calendar for 2017-2018 which he amended to
257 include the School Board goals for 2017-2018 and indicate at which meetings reports on
258 goal progress would be heard. (SEE EXHIBIT)

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260 e. Update on the District-wide Capital Improvement Committee

261 This was addressed under item 6b above.

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7. Housekeeping items

265 a. Approval of Minutes 04/03/2017: Mr. Drew made a motion to approve the
266 minutes with a correction to include Len Mannino's title as Board Vice-Chair. Jennifer
267 Siegrist seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Bob Willette abstaining.
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269 b. Approval of Manifests: 24, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124:
270 Mr. Drew motioned to approve the above manifests. Mr. Carvell seconded. Motion
271 passed 5-0.
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273 8. There were no public comments.
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275 9. There were no Board comments.
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277 10. A motion to hold a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:2 I was made by Ron Carvell.
278 Len Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
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280 11. Chairman Carvell adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.
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282 12. Non-public was convened at 9:15. Motion to come out of non-public made by Mr.
283 Drew; seconded by Mr. Willette. Motion passed 5-0
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285 13. Board meeting was reconvened at 9:45.
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287 14. Discussion was held amongst the Board members around Project Drive and the
288 Bales School and how to best actively advertise and promote the program as a viable
289 option to surrounding school districts for special education students. There are aspects
290 to this that will be addressed including upkeep of the classrooms, painting the
291 classrooms and establishing continuity of the program - as this is the first year that the
292 elementary program portion has been in existence - as well as the specific population of
293 special education students that for which the program has been approved. This will be
294 an ongoing discussion item.
295

296 15. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mannino; Seconded by Mr. Willette. Motion
297 Passed 5-0
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299 16. Meeting adjourned at 10:05
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School Board Chair

Date of Approval