

MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2017 MEETING
MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL #182

Hearing: Ratification of Vote:

A. Tonight's meeting of the School Board is to begin with a hearing to ratify the results of each spending issue put to the voters on March 18. Chairman Ron Carvell asked Mr. Pete Basilier to address the Board regarding the status of House Bill 329 (HB 329). Mr. Basilier explained that due to the blizzard that hit on March 14, 2017 (which was to be Town Voting Day), it was determined that Voting Day would be postponed to March 18, 2017. Subsequent to that, the NH Legislature determined that all towns and municipalities in NH who postponed Voting Day could ratify their elected official votes but the legislature did not address ratifying the spending bills which were voted on. This will happen at tonight's meeting. Mr. Carvell said he would go through each of the questions and the Board would vote to ratify the results one by one.

a. The first question was about the Capital Improvements Bond. It needed 60% of the vote to pass. 1332 voted Yes and 77 voted No. Mr. Willette moved to ratify the passing of the Capital Improvement Bond. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

b. The second question was for the 2017-2018 Operating Budget. 1359 people voted Yes and 491 voted No. Mr. Willette moved to ratify the passing of the 2017-2018 Operating Budget. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

c. The third question was for the self-funded kindergarten program. 1045 voted Yes and 796 voted No. Jen Siegrist made a motion to ratify the passing of the self-funded kindergarten program. Mr. Willette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

d. Custodial contract/collective bargaining agreement: 1306 people voted Yes and 498 voted No. Mr. Willette made a motion to ratify the passing of the collective bargaining contract. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

e. MESA Contract/Collective bargaining agreement: 1275 voted Yes and 524 voted No. Mr. Willette made a motion to ratify the passing of the collective bargaining contract. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

f. Contingency fund: 1209 people voted Yes and 608 voted No. Mr. Willette made a motion to ratify the acceptance of the contingency funds. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Carvell then read the official language for the ratification of these items. Once the Board members sign the documents, notification of this will be posted on the District website as well as at the Milford Town Hall, the Wadleigh Memorial Library and in the Nashua Telegraph. A motion was made to close the hearing on the ratification of

spending issues by Mr. Drew. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Hearing to receive and expend unanticipated revenue, pursuant to RSA 198:20b. Chairman Ron Carvell opened this hearing. Business Administrator Jen Burk reviewed a memo she had submitted to the Board outlining the origin of the unanticipated revenue as well as the procedures for the Board in responding and voting on it. (SEE EXHIBIT)

Mr. Mannino asked about the revenue received from the Mason school district, particularly if it fell outside the scope of our tuition agreement with the town of Mason. Ms. Burke said she was unsure as this was the first time we have received such funds. Superintendent Marquis said he would contact the Superintendent in Mason and make enquiries.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Carvell decided to delay voting on the unanticipated revenues until the Mason question was answered. It was determined that the Board could vote on the rest of the unanticipated revenues, minus the amount from Mason. Mr. Drew made a motion to close the hearing to receive and expend unanticipated revenue, pursuant to RSA 198:20b. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mannino made a motion to accept and expend the unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$37,954.70 as outlined in the memo. (SEE EXHIBIT) Mr. Willette seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Siegrist wished Board member Mr. Drew a Happy Birthday and presented him with a cupcake.

3. There were no Public Comments.

4. Reports and Presentations

a. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Marquis reported that SB 193 (a voucher bill before the state legislature) was "retained in committee" which means it will not come up again until next year when a committee charged with studying the potential impact the bill might have would report on it. This is a positive development for the District and for all public schools in NH.

The Board is invited to attend the “Showcasing Business and Student Connections” event on May 18 from 5:30-7:00 at the Milford High School. Mr. Marquis encourages board members to go and listen to student internship experiences with local businesses and to honor the local businesses who provide these opportunities for our students.

An article written by Frank Xydias highlighting STEM work between the ATC and Heron Pond was published in the NH Business Review’s online newsletter. The article focused on the high school students who volunteered to participate in the latest STEM event to help teach, empower and mentor younger students.

b. - c. Destination Imagination Request for funds for the High School Team and Middle School Team:

Cheri Federico who manages both Destination Imagination teams, as well as team members, addressed the Board to outline their requests for funding. (SEE EXHIBITS) Both teams are headed for the Global Finals in Tennessee this month and are requesting funds to help defray the costs of the trip. Their project has been to choose 1 of 7 problems and come up with a solution which will solve an issue in their community. The high school DI team has made grab-and-go bags for foster kids and the middle school team has stocked a store cupboard at Heron Pond with school supplies for kids who cannot purchase their own. The global finals include teams from all over the world and both DI teams will be doing additional fundraising for the trip.

Mr. Drew made a motion to grant \$1017 to the high school Destination Imagination team for their trip to the global finals. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Drew made a motion to grant \$712 to the middle school Destination Imagination team for their trip to the global finals. Mr. Willette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

d. Financial Forecast:

Jen Burk reviewed her memo of April 26 regarding the 2016/2017 financial position of the District. (SEE EXHIBIT) There is an expected positive fund balance of \$352k, the origins of which are outlined in the memo. Ms. Burk advises the Board to review the end of year financial status of the school lunch program and factor in some of the monies for balancing the program. She will report on this at the May 15, 2017 meeting of the Board.

Mr. Carvell referred to the problem of finding substitute teachers as mentioned in the memo and expressed concern that this must be affecting our classrooms. Ms. Burk explained that when substitutes can’t be found, other education aids or program associates are asked to fill in. Sometimes teachers give up their planning period to cover as well. Some substitute teachers cover two classes at the same time. The low pay rate of \$65/day is likely to be affecting our choice of substitutes who often work in other districts where the pay rate is higher. Ms. Burk said that even districts that pay \$75-

\$85/day have a hard time finding substitute teachers. Mr. Carvell asked Ms. Burk to bring a breakdown of other district's comp rates for subs to a future meeting so the Board could study this in advance of next year's budget work.

Public Comments:

Theresa Wood, Homestead Circle, said that she knows people who are subbing in MA because they pay \$150/day. She said that is the reason why we have so few subs to choose from.

5. New Business

a. Authorization of bonds and approval of loan agreement between NH municipal bond bank and the Milford School District:

Jen Burk reviewed the loan agreement with the bond bank that was submitted for the Board's approval. (SEE EXHIBIT) Ms. Burk explained that the agreement was drafted by bond counsel who specializes in this area.

Jen Siegrist made a motion to authorize the District to accept the bond agreement. Mr. Drew seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mannino made a motion to authorize the Board to sign the loan agreement in the amount of \$3M. Mr. Willette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

There were no public comments.

b. Approval of bids:

Bill Cooper reviewed a memo submitted to the Board which outlined his recommendations for CIP projects. (SEE EXHIBIT) Mr. Drew said that he agreed with all of Mr. Cooper's recommendations. Mr. Carvell requested a spreadsheet that lists each project and its timeline once all the contracts are signed.

1. Gymnasium Flooring: Mr. Drew made a motion to accept and award the bid to N.E. Sports Floors for \$95,350. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Gymnasium Bleachers: Mr. Cooper explained that this project would have a longer lead time (16 weeks). He said he is recommending that 3 sections of the still useable bleachers be cut down and put in at the Bales School for their use. The others are not salvageable. Ms. Siegrist asked if the ATC could use the wood and Mr. Cooper said they would have to retrieve it themselves on our schedule in order not to interrupt the work. Mr. Drew made a motion to accept and award the bid for the gym bleachers to the Robert Lord Co. for \$50,232. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Middle School Fire Alarm: Mr. Carvell questioned that difference between the two bids received. Mr. Drew said that Irish Electric is a reputable company and the bid is good. He made a motion to accept and award the Middle School Fire

Alarm bid to Irish Electric w/BK Systems for \$112,840. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Heron Pond Roof Replacement: Mr. Cooper explained that the recommended bid came in surprisingly lower than the other bids but that he had vetted the company and checked their references and he is satisfied with them. Their offer includes a 20 year warranty. Mr. Drew agreed with Mr. Cooper. Ms. Siegrist asked what happens if a company goes over their bid amount. Bill explained that there are sometimes change orders for unforeseen issues but they are unusual. Mr. Drew made a motion to accept and award the Heron Pond Roof Replacement to the Melanson Company for \$86,870. Mr. Mannino seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Mr. Cooper told the Board that we are running about \$100k under budget with these 4 projects. He explained his recommendation to disqualify the bid received for the High School Heat Pipe Replacement and to re-bid the project in the fall of this year to solicit more bids. Mr. Mannino made a motion to disqualify the bid from Granite State Plumbing and Heating for \$692,112 and to re-bid in the fall. Mr. Drew seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

c. Annual Review of CIP for submission to Town of Milford:

Mr. Marquis explained that a Board representative meets annually with the town and reviews items that the Board is undertaking in terms of Capital Improvement Projects. A member of the Board meets with the Selectmen usually in the summer. Mr. Carvell said that Mr. Drew would handle this. He explained that it helps the District to mesh their plans with those of the Town so that projects can be phased and the taxpayers are not overwhelmed with bonds.

Mr. Carvell asked the Board to consider “priority 1” projects from a District-wide perspective instead of building by building in order to include more preventative maintenance. He asked for Bill Cooper to compile the list and present it to the Board before next fall.

There were no public comments.

6. Old Business

a. JV/Club Girl’s Lacrosse Program:

Superintendent Marquis distributed a memo which outlined the options for the Board to consider in the request to make the Club Girls’ Lacrosse Team a funded sports program at the high school level. (SEE EXHIBIT) The memo cautioned the Board to keep in mind a possible decrease in federal revenues of about \$60k which might be happening. Mr. Carvell thanked everyone for their patience on this issue and reminded everyone that this is based on funding. He clarified that there is no Board policy stating that “after 3 years the Board funds a Club sport.”

Mr. Marquis explained his rationale when using the words “fairness” and “equitable” in the memo. He then reviewed all 6 options listed in the memo.

Mr. Mannino asked when we would know about the possible \$60k decrease in federal funds to the District. Mr. Marquis said he hopes we’ll hear by the start of summer this year. It is possible that the funding received will be the same as last year but there is talk that the Trump Administration may make more cuts to education – specifically Title 2-A which would contain this 60K class size reduction amount.

Mark Maurais, Athletic Director for the High School, addressed the Board. He explained that he had worked with the administration to create a matrix for programs and stipends and that based on this, option 1 or 2 are the most consistent with what has been done for other programs. He said if the Board went with option 3 he would have to move things around in his budget in order to fund the Lacrosse program’s other needs like buses and referees. He also said that if option 6 was chosen, the Club may not be able to get many games as it would be competing with NHIA-recognized teams for the schedule. If approval was given tonight for option 1 or 2 he could get in on the second year of the 2-year cycle of Varsity games without having to petition for games school by school.

Ms. Siegrist asked what would happen if the Board approved option 1 (fully funding the Girls’ Lacrosse at the JV and Varsity high school level) and the federal funds were cut. Mr. Marquis said that it would be a matter of concern because there are often other unanticipated expenses that can come up like an increase in special education costs for the District.

Mr. Carvell asked Mr. Maurais about drafting a policy so that the Board does not make a decision tonight that cannot be made for other clubs in the future. Mr. Maurais said that there have been other positions that have gone unfunded but not programs. He said that this Girls’ Lacrosse club is the only one he sees as a potential for funding.

Public Comments:

Jennifer Hannon, 1 Stone Ct., asked why the bass fishing club and B-level basketball and volleyball teams were included in some of the options. (SEE EXHIBIT) Mr. Marquis said that he included those clubs -unasked- to be fair and equitable. Ms. Burk pointed out that the Bass Fishing Club stipend has been part of the budget build for the past two years but has not been recommended by the Superintendent to be brought forward as part of the budget.

Keith Waters, Wyman Lane: Mr. Waters said, “We don’t need to know how the sausage is made.” He said the Board had just finished discussing savings on building projects and a budget surplus so this small amount for Girls’ Lacrosse should not be an issue.

Holly Tilapa: Ms. Tilapa reminded the Board that there are 30 students at the high school level that are interested in Lacrosse and only 4 in the fishing program. She said

we need to look at the equity of funding the boys programs and the girls.

Mr. Mannino asked if the funds are available for the options outlined in the memo. Ms. Burk said there should be no issue with funding the stipends. The buildings manage their own expenses for travel, uniforms, etc.

Mike Hannon, 1 Stone Ct.: Mr. Hannon respectfully requested the Board to fully fund the JV/Varsity Girls Lacrosse. He said the sport is growing and we don't want to lose kids to other schools who provide the program.

Theresa Wood, Homestead Circle: Mrs. Wood said that she had spoken about fundraising by the parents at the last Board meeting and she reiterated that parents are prepared to do some fundraising. She asked Mr. Maurais about the bussing costs and ref fees currently being incurred by the Club. Mr. Maurais explained that he pays for those with monies not utilized by other teams.

Cheri Frederico: Ms. Frederico said that there is no funding for a stipend for JV Field Hockey as well as for a girls soccer coach. Mr. Maurais confirmed this. Ms. Frederico said this demonstrates a precedent for the Board to decide on full funding for girls' lacrosse.

Mrs. Boudreau, Windsor Drive: Mrs. Boudreau said if the Board consents to full funding of the Lacrosse program for girls it will make it better for girls who are still at the elementary and middle school level as well as for the high school players.

Mr. Mannino clarified that uniforms for the girls' lacrosse program were not being requested.

Mr. Carvell asked if we have the \$21k (for option 1). Ms. Burk said she could find it. Mr. Carvell thanked everyone for coming out and speaking so passionately about this issue. Ms. Siegrist encouraged the public to continue to show up and participate in 'how the sausage is made.' Mr. Willette reminded everyone that the \$21k would be added to the property taxes for the town.

Ms. Siegrist made a motion to fully fund the JV/Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Program, the Bass Fishing Program and the Middle School "B" level Basketball and Volleyball programs for \$20950. Mr. Drew seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Housekeeping items

a. Approval of Minutes for 4/17/17: Mr. Mannino made a motion to approve the minutes after a correction to line 270 is made. Mr. Willette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Approval of Manifests: 25, 26, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133. Motion to approve the manifests listed above was made by Mr. Willette

and seconded by Mr. Carvell. Motion passed 5-0.

8. There were no public comments.

9. There were no Board comments.

10. A motion to hold a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:2 I was not needed.

11. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Willette and seconded by Mr. Mannino. Chairman Carvell adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.

School Board Chair

Date of Approval