

MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2017, MEETING  
MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL #182

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Willette stated that in the past the Board had discussed more ways to bring income into the general fund and one of the ideas was to sell advertising on the fence at the football field. He said he noticed at the last football game that there were banners on the fence and asked if they had to be authorized and where the money for that advertisement went.

Mr. Marc Maurais, Athletic Director, stated that it had always been the standard procedure for the Booster Club to generate monies that they used to operate their club and program which supported the kids with their equipment, the cheerleaders and for scholarships.

Mr. Drew stated that recently there was a sub-contractor walkthrough for the high school piping project. He said the bids were due on November 6<sup>th</sup> and the rooftop unit project was already out for bid.

**3. Public Comments**

There were none.

**4. Reports and Presentations**

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marquis read aloud from his report as summarized as follows:

**Milford Middle School**

- The middle school students left for Nature's Classroom this morning.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Trash on the Lawn Day" will be held at the middle school on Friday, October 27, 2017. This is a learning project where the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classes sort a day's worth of trash into categories, weigh it and record the results. This helps the students determine how much trash could be diverted from the school's waste as recyclables, compost, etc.

**Heron Pond Elementary School**

- The Heron Pond staff participated in a discussion around the importance of creating STEAM activities with students with Mr. Skip Marshall from V&A Cleaning Systems at their staff meeting.
- Thanks to the Milford Elementary School PTO. They will be sponsoring a performance called “I’ve Got Your Back” by Plymouth State University’s TIGER show on October 26<sup>th</sup>, an anti-bullying program. TIGER is an acronym that represents:
  - Taking action when someone needs help.
  - I can say no when others are being mean to me.
  - Getting help when you or others may be in trouble.
  - Using Empathy to walk in another person’s shoes.
  - Responding in a respectful way with words or actions.

### **Milford High School**

- Congratulations to the girls’ volleyball and soccer teams for having made the NHIA tournament.
- Also, congratulations to Hunter Hoffman, who shot an 88 at last Thursday’s game to qualify for this past Saturday’s State Golf Tournament.
- From October 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> the high school and the middle school bands and chorus students will be participating in workshops with the Young Americans. The workshops will include instruction/coaching in vocal music, instrumental music, dance, music interpretation, public speaking and art. This work will culminate in two performances.
- Superintendent Marquis invited the Board and the public who had children in grades 4 and beyond to attend a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) He said it would be held at the high school on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### **Project DRIVE**

- Tomorrow the students from Project DRIVE will be visiting the Nashua Community College.
- Students and staff continue to be very appreciative of the ability to use Google Classroom each day.
- Students continue to learn about various career opportunities that are available to them. Recently, they hosted a guest speaker from the People’s Bank.

Superintendent Marquis stated that there had been a lot of press recently regarding what had been labeled as “some additional funding resources for schools to apply for.” He said at the last legislative session RSA-198:15-Y was established – to use 2017 surplus dollars to be available for public schools, including charter schools for the following types of projects:

- E-Rate state match projects (bringing fiber connections to schools)
- Addressing life and safety deficiencies with schools
- Improving security in schools

Superintendent Marquis said that it was presently estimated that there would be about \$19 million in the funds but that figure could change and the funds were expected to be released in early of 2018. He further stated that they had received two of the three applications; the E-Rate application and the Life & Safety Deficiencies application. He noted that they had not yet received the application for the Improved Security in Schools. Superintendent Marquis stated that the fund was not tied to school building aid and the process was not governed by the Department of Education but was run by a Commission which was made up of four legislators, Representative Ladd, Representative Umburger, Senator Feltes and Senator Daniels as well as others. He said he had been told that the Commission was to make the recommendation to the Governor on which projects to approve and the Governor would select the projects in consultation with the Commission and then the project would need to move through the Fiscal Committee and then the Executive Council for approval. He further said that they would not qualify for the E-Rate state match but they may qualify for one project under life and safety deficiencies. Superintendent Marquis stated that the Commission would meet next in November and they would find out more at that point.

Ms. Burk added that one of the clarifying pieces that they were trying to get from the state was a piece on the life and safety deficiencies which referred to local dollar match for projects and that it may have been limited just to what the district was matching.

Mr. Carvell asked if there were any questions from members of the Board or the public. There were none.

b. Elementary and Middle School PTO Presentation

There was no one present to represent the PTO.

## 5. New Business

a. Agreement Between the School Board and the Milford Administrative Group

Mr. Carvell said that the Board and the administration group had been negotiating a contract and they had come to an agreement. He said that this discussion was usually not held in public but they decided to put the vote out publicly.

Mr. Drew made a motion to accept the contract as negotiated. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Carvell stated that the Board had also voted and accepted the contract for Superintendent Marquis.

b. Review of Capital Needs Analysis

Ms. Burk stated that the discussion would be around any updates that the Board might have to capital needs. She said they had done the bond for the next few years so there were a lot of projects and that Mr. Drew was keeping them updated.

Mr. Carvell said that he did not feel there was anything else they needed to address regarding the item. Mr. Drew agreed.

c. Anticipated Cost of Hockey Program – Mr. Marc Maurais, Athletic Director

Mr. Maurais addressed the Board, stating that he was asked to put together some costs regarding a start-up program for ice hockey. He said a huge chunk of the cost would be \$15,000 for ice time which would range from \$520 to \$600 per game. He said he had heard back from the St. Anselm's rink and they would not have room for any type of new program. He said that a coaching stipend would cost about \$3,500 but most schools were in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range. Mr. Maurais said that transportation would cost \$25.00 per hour for a bus and \$2.25 per mile for a total of \$3,061. He also said officials would cost \$88.00 (noting that two officials were needed for home games) with a scoreboard operator for a total of \$944. Mr. Maurais said that there would also be a cost for uniforms as well as miscellaneous supplies; noting that the total for a start-up figure would be about \$28,655 with ice time being a serious factor.

Mr. Maurais stated that he had found a school that was charging their players to represent their school \$1,100. He said he found that Hanover charged the least amount to their players at \$150 and less than 50% of the schools he found paid all of the expenses (meaning no cost to the students) and most had Booster Clubs and volunteers that contributed greatly to that cost.

Mr. Maurais then reviewed the Classification of Ice Hockey Schools for 2018-2019 & 2019-2020. (This sheet is attached to the meeting agenda)

Mr. Maurais commented that what was not included in his estimations was the cost of medical coverage. He said that in one day (of sporting events) there was one broken foot, one broken collarbone and one concussion and he wished he could have sent an EMT or school nurse to cover each of the events. He said there had to be medical coverage at an ice hockey rink.

Mr. Maurais stated that there was a possibility of participating in co-op schools which would be two or three schools coming together to form a team. He said in that case the cost would be greatly reduced because it would be shared between the schools.

Mr. Drew asked if hockey games required there to be on-site medical coverage. Mr. Maurais replied that he felt it was required but he was not sure if it was dictated by the NHIA.

Mr. Mannino asked if it would be a co-gender team. Mr. Maurais replied that it would be for an all boys' team at this time.

Mr. Carvell stated there seemed to be a lot of concerns with the proposed program. He asked if it was possible to do the program at all and if it was they could perhaps afford it and if they could partner with another school.

Mr. Maurais stated that they needed to get a better idea of how many kids were interested in playing ice hockey.

Mr. Carvell commented that he felt that more research needed to be done and the Board could put the subject on the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Mr. Carvell asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment.

Mr. Mike Viola, addressed the Board and stated that he was in favor of the hockey program. He said as a hockey parent he knew it was very expensive to run but that a lot of the parents were used to paying money for hockey. He said he felt a lot of kids wanted to play hockey for their high school and also felt there would be a lot of volunteers.

Ms. Lauren Goodcart, addressed the Board and stated that she and other parents had spent a lot of money for their kids to play hockey and it was disheartening that the high school did not support the program.

Mr. Rick **(Inaudible)**, addressed the Board and stated that there were ten kids between grades 5 and 8 playing in the Souhegan Valley Program.

Ms. Marcia **(Inaudible)**, addressed the Board and stated that hockey was a very expensive sport and felt it was important to have a high school team.

Mr. Carvell stated that he would like to see it work but cost was a discussion point. He also stated that he felt further research needed to be done.

#### d. Enrollment Projections

Mr. Paul Dargie, reviewed the enrollment projections (document is attached to the meeting agenda) He said that the forecast was 2,352 for this year and they came in at 2,362. He further said if you stripped out the pre-school numbers, the kindergarten numbers and others which was students from other schools; the forecast was 2,170 and they came in at 2,211 which was a difference of 41 students which he said was a really big miss. Mr. Dargie said that there had not been any new construction in Milford for a while but that recently there was new construction, in particular, the apartment buildings which were mostly three-bedroom units.

Mr. Dargie stated the he felt two additional students should be added per grade as a forecast and that would be more representative of where Milford was now with new construction and children.

Mr. Dargie said that there had been declining enrollments in Milford for years. He recommended the Board go with the "Plus 2 Forecast" which would show a decline of 45 students for next year. He further said that the reason the forecast was done was to look at the class sizes and determine how many teachers were needed as well as looking at miscellaneous expenses which were relative to the number of students; i.e. like how many books to buy.

Mr. Dargie commented that with 69 teachers there were three grades that were above the recommended guidelines, noting that the guidelines were that there be 16 students in kindergarten, 20 students for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 22 in 2nd grade and then 25 students per grade from there and up. He said they were above the guidelines for grade 5 stating that the guideline was 25 and the actual was 25.4, grade 7; the guideline was 25 and the actual was 26.3 and grade 8; the guideline was 25 and the actual was 27.1. He said the last two grades were high and problematic.

Mr. Carvell stated that forecasting was a concern of the Board and a company had been hired to perform a deeper analysis but it would not be done this year.

Mr. Dargie noted that kindergarten was separate as there was no way of knowing how many four year olds there were in the town and that forecasted number was frequently off the mark.

Mr. Carvell asked if there were any members of the Board who had questions or comments. There were none.

## **6. Old Business**

### a. Full Day Kindergarten

Ms. Siegrist stated that there was support for the full-day kindergarten program and there was a lot of information learned through the exercise of looking into it. She said that there was an imbalance received as far as tuition waivers as opposed to paying students and felt if it were worded differently they could have probably gone forward with at least one full class. She

also said she felt strongly that everything possible should be done to have the program and thought the language could be fine-tuned.

Ms. Siegrist said that all full-day kindergarten programs that had enrollments as of the first day of the upcoming year, the state would fund an additional \$1,100 per student on top of the \$1,818 that they currently received for kindergarten students.

Ms. Siegrist said that she had also talked about going out to area businesses and she still wanted to explore that. She also said she had been in contact with the attorney for the NH School Board Association to make sure that the policies and the RSA jived together.

Ms. Siegrist said that she was committed to doing the program without affecting the property tax but added that when the state mandated the full-day kindergarten program the property taxes would go up.

Mr. Carvell stated that he supported the full-day kindergarten program and there were only two options, either the taxpayers would pay for it or it would be a self-funded program. He said that ethically he did not think contacting area businesses regarding funding was a good idea. He further said that he wouldn't be opposed to having an information night or a public forum to hear what the taxpayers of Milford had to say about it.

Mr. Mannino said that he felt their work was certainly cut out for them. He said that 44% of the parents who participated in the survey stated that they felt the program was too costly but 38 parents indicated that it was not an option for them for a host of other reasons like transportation childcare issues, some were home and not working and did not see a need for full-day kindergarten and some felt it was just too long of a day. He asked if the Board thought they were maximizing the resources and if they could attract interest in those parents who opted not to participate for a variety of reasons.

Ms. Siegrist stated that she felt that having an informational session with the public would be great so they could educate the community as to what kindergarten was.

Ms. Siegrist asked the Board if they had any suggestions and when the Warrant Article had to be finalized by. Ms. Burk replied that the Warrant Article had to be done by the second Tuesday in January.

Mr. Carvell stated that he felt the information night would be good to provide information as to what the program was but he did not know if it would be an information night for talking about the benefits of kindergarten. He said at the end of the day it was the taxpayer's choice.

Mr. Carvell asked if there were any members of the public who had questions or comments.

Mr. Dargie, addressed the Board, stating that he felt trying to get money from an outside source was not practical. He said he felt it could be self-funded or partially self-funded; perhaps having the taxpayer's pay for the free and reduced lunch children. He said the other

option would be going for a complete program and putting it before the voters and let them decide what they would like to do.

## **7. Housekeeping Items**

- a. Approval of Minutes 10/02/17

Mr. Mannino made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2017, meeting. Mr. Drew seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Approval of Professional Nominations

Mr. Mannino made a motion to approve the Professional Nominations. Mr. Drew seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

- c. List of Employees Leaving Service (Informational Only)
- d. Approval of Manifests: 8,1039,1040,1041,1042,1043,1044 &1045.

Mr. Willette made a motion to approve the manifest. Mr. Carvell seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

- e. List of Email Correspondence (Information Only)

## **8. Public Comments**

There were none.

- 9. **Non-public Session:** Pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I (a) Strategy or Negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, and/or RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel.

Mr. Mannino made a motion to go into a non-public session. Mr. Willette seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

**Mr. Willette** made a motion to come out of the non-public session. **Mr. Mannino** seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

**10. Adjournment**

**Mr. Mannino** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Drew** seconded the motion.

**VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at **9:15** p.m.

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School Board Chair

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Date of Approval