

1 MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
2 MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2018, MEETING
3 MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, LECTURE HALL #182
4
5

6 A non-public meeting was held on February 19, 2018, in the SAU Conference Room in the
7 Milford High School at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Willette made a motion to go into a non-public session
8 pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Ms Siegrist seconded the motion.
9

10 **1. Call to Order**

11
12 Board Chair Ron Carvell called the meeting to order in Lecture Hall #182 at the Milford High
13 School at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Board Vice-Chair Kevin Drew, Mr. Bob
14 Willtette, Mr. Len Mannino and Ms. Jennifer Siegrist. Also in attendance were Superintendent
15 Robert Marquis and Mr. Bill Cooper, Director of Buildings and Grounds
16

17 Mr. Carvell stated that the agenda would be taken out of order.
18

19 **2. Reports and Presentations**

- 20
21 a. Annual Auditors Report – Matt Murray, Vachon & Clukay – (Exhibit attached to meeting
22 agenda)
23

24 Mr. Murray stated that the auditor’s report found the Milford School District to be in complete
25 compliance.
26

27 **3. Board Member Comments**

28 Mr.Drew made a motion to suspend the rules according to Policy 2162 to allow the Board to
29 discuss the concerns over the High School Varsity Coach. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.
30

31 **VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**
32

33 Mr. Carvell said that he appreciated everybody’s phone calls and e-mails and the Board was
34 reviewing all of the factual information. He said a decision would not be made at this meeting.
35

36 Mr. Carvell said that everyone was there for the students and asked anyone who chose to make
37 comments be respectful
38

39 **4. Public Comments**
40

41 Mr. Shane Hooker, 194 Whitten Road, addressed the Board and said that his son had graduated
42 last year and he was present to offer his support to Dan Ayotte who was asked not to return as
43 the soccer coach. He said he put a petition together online which indicated people’s displeasure
44 to dismiss Coach Dan Ayotte. He said he felt it was a disservice and asked the Board to
45 reconsider the decision. He further said that 411 people had signed the petition.
46

47 Mr. Carvell asked if all of the signatures were those of Milford residents. Mr. Hooker replied that
48 the majority were from Milford.
49

50 Cheri Federico, a Milford resident from Westchester Drive, addressed the Board and stated that
51 her family had known Dan for many years and the kids always had a positive experience with

52 him and he taught them leadership skills on and off the soccer field.

53
54 Carey Kenyon, a Milford resident from Badger Hill Drive and wife of Joe Ducharme the Middle
55 School Soccer Coach, addressed the Board and stated that she had asked her two children
56 what happened and they said that sometimes the coach had to set boundaries. She said her
57 children had never not wanted to go to soccer and she was very much in support of Dan.

58
59 Mr. Peter Simo, a Milford resident who was involved with Milford Varsity Soccer, addressed the
60 Board and said that he was completely confused and he did not see anything happen that was
61 out of the ordinary. He said they did not have all of the facts and they did not know what
62 happened. He further said that Dan was a dedicated coach and they would miss out if they let
63 Dan go.

64
65 Mr. Kevin Tronkowski, a Milford resident from Noons Quarry Road, addressed the Board and
66 stated that he was present to support Dan as the soccer coach. He said Dan was a conscientious
67 coach who supported and sometimes disciplined the players. He further said that sometimes
68 the outreach was not welcomed by the players or the parents but he did it diligently and
69 thoughtfully to improve the players.

70
71 Mr. Russ Matthews, a Milford resident, addressed the Board and stated that he was the girls'
72 varsity coach at Milford High school He said he had known Dan for many years and they were
73 like-minded when it came to teaching the game of soccer which was an extension of the
74 classroom. He said there were always going to be some complaints and he was in support of
75 keeping Dan on.

76
77 Mr. Richie Farrell, a Milford resident from Cortland Road, addressed the Board and stated that
78 he wanted to talk about a dangerous precedent being set. He said it was wrong to have a group
79 of parents determine the outcome of sports. He said it was wrong to fire Dan Ayotte for allegedly
80 telling the player's that "they sucked" at halftime.

81
82 Mr. Kevin Federico, a Milford resident from Westchester Drive, addressed the Board and stated
83 that Dan was all about the game and the kids and he was there to support him. He also said
84 that he agreed that it was a dangerous precedent to be set if they fired a coach due to parent
85 complaints.

86
87 Mr. Jeff Cordova, a Milford resident from Chase Lane, addressed the Board and stated that he
88 was the assistant coach and he thought Dan was perfect for the job. He said that he supported
89 Dan Ayotte and felt he was an asset to the community.

90
91 Mr. Chris McNeil, a Milford resident from Ridgefield Drive, addressed the Board and stated that
92 he was present to get information. He said his son learned to hate the game of soccer because
93 of Dan. He said he was not saying that Dan was a bad person but not everyone had shared the
94 same experience with Dan.

95
96 Ms. Betsy Hansen, a Milford resident from Cortland Drive, addressed the Board and stated that
97 she was the assistant varsity girls soccer coach and she was a big supporter of Dan and she felt
soccer was in his blood.

98 Mr. Erdody, 19 Johnson Drive, addressed Superintendent Marquis and asked if the appropriate
99 procedure was followed.

100 Mr. Carvell replied the matter was being discussed in a non-public session.

101 Ms. Celeste Karski, 275 Savage Road, addressed the Board and stated that she was in support
102 of Dan Ayotte.

103 Ms. Tara Williams, a Milford resident from Mason Road, addressed the Board and said her son
104 had a good experience playing for Dan.

105 **Mr. Gabe ?????**, a Milford resident, addressed the Board and said that it was unfortunate when
106 a coach could brag about cutting a senior from the team.

107 Mr. Carvell stated that each one of the Board members was reviewing the decision that the
108 Superintendent made and it was a personnel matter and it would be handled in a non-public
109 session.

110 Ms. Siegrist stated that she appreciated all of the comments and hopefully, they could abide by
111 whatever decision was made.

112 **5. Reports and Presentations**

113

114 b. Superintendent's Report

115

116 I would like to congratulate Kaylani Figueroa whose environmental art piece was selected and
117 would be on display at the Environmental Art's Show in Keene as well as the Seacoast later this
118 year.

119

120 I would also like to congratulate Hanah Army who won the Milford Middle School Spelling Bee
121 and to Jacob Lydon who was deemed the runner up. Hannah will participate in the NH State
122 Spelling Bee in Concord on February 24th.

123

124 Earlier today, the unified basketball teams from Milford and Keene played at the high school in
125 front of the student body and faculty. The game provided our athletes the opportunity to highlight
126 their student's basketball skills and sportsmanship. I would like to thank the student athletes,
127 Coach Erdody and the student assistants for making this such a great event that was enjoyed
128 by everyone.

129

130 This Wednesday the third graders will be immigrating to the United States via Ellis Island. This
131 will take place between 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. This is a major culminating activity for
132 students, teachers and parents that "brings to life" the experiences of some of their ancestors
133 and relatives.

134

135 The district has applied for two more infrastructure grants to improve security in our schools.
136 We have applied for \$25,000 for classroom lock down shades for the high school; and to add
137 \$120,000 worth of security cameras throughout the district.

138
139 I would like to address to community regarding the tragic events in Florida. The safety of the
140 students and faculty is always paramount. We have an exceptional relationship with the Milford
141 Police Department. We do have established protocols and I believe the staff continues to have
142 a pulse on what is going on in their buildings. The students do approach them as a result of
143 things they have seen on social media.

144
145 Mr. Greg Atwood, Mileslip Road, addressed the Board and asked if there was a contingency
146 plan for funding in the event they did not receive the grants. Mr. Carvell replied that they were
147 chasing every grant that was available and there was a long-term plan in the budget.

148
149 Mr. Carvell asked about the event at Heron Pond that was happening on Thursday.
150 Superintendent Marquis replied that the school was attempting to break a Guinness Book of
151 Record for the most people dressed in costume. Mr. Carvell asked what time the event was to
152 start. Mr. Marquis responded that he did not know but that the school could be contacted to
153 determine the time.

154
155 **6. New Business**

156
157 a. Contingency Fund Prioritization – **(Exhibit attached to meeting agenda)**

158
159 Superintendent Marquis read aloud a memo addressed to the Board as summarized below:

160
161 Below the Board will find a listing of items with anticipated/estimated costs that could be funded
162 with the use of the \$200,000, Contingency Fund.

163
164 Infrastructure Funding (20% HS Door locks; DW Security Cameras; HP Lockdown shades) 80%
165 contingent on final approval: \$15,000

166
167 Infrastructure Funding (20% Upgrade monitors, card access (HP, J and MS) recent applications
168 80% contingent on approval: \$29,000

169
170 Middle School Rooftop Unit - near back of Gym: \$15,000

171
172 LED lighting at Bales: \$25,500

173
174 LED Lighting at Jacques: \$47,000

175
176 Sander: \$ 7,000

177
178 Roof Repair Jacques: \$16,000

179
180 High School fencing repairs/replacement: \$10,000

181
182 Flushing Heating Systems at Jacques and MMS: \$ 6,000

183
184 High School Chimney removal: \$25,000

185		
186	Heron Pond carpet replacement (library):	\$10,000
187		
188	High School carpet replacement (library):	\$10,000
189		
190	High School - emergency notification system:	\$ 2,500
191		
192	Middle School Painting:	\$ 30,000
193		
194	Total Amount:	<u>\$248,000</u>

195
 196 Superintendent Marquis said the total amount was \$48,000 over what was available and it was
 197 up to the Board to review the list and decide which projects to spend the available funds on.

198
 199 Mr. Carvell stated that he did not see anything for things that have been passed over, except for
 200 the sander, like some of the items in the ATC - a lathe. He said some of items were probably
 201 getting to their life expectancy.

202
 203 Superintendent Marquis replied he would look into that.

204
 205 Mr. Mannino asked Mr. Cooper other than the security components if there was anything that
 206 was a high priority.

207
 208 Mr. Cooper replied the roof at Jacques was a priority.

209
 210 Mr. Carvell stated that they needed to update their financial forecast. Superintendent Marquis
 211 replied that he would have a report for the Board at its next meeting.

212
 213 **6. Old Business**

214
 215 a. Hockey Program - **(Exhibit attached to meeting agenda)**

216
 217 Mr. Mark Maurais, Director of Athletics, Milford High School, addressed the Board and said that
 218 he was directed to see if there might be an opportunity to work with an existing school to help
 219 form a cooperative hockey team. He said Alvirne High School currently had a contract with
 220 Skate 3 Ice Rink in Tyngsborough, MA.

221
 222 He said that he and the Alvirne High School Athletic Director, Karen Booney, had estimated the
 223 cost per player would be about \$800.

224
 225 Mr. Maurais said that the coaching stipend for a head coach would be \$3,850 for a head coach
 226 and \$2,700 for an assistant coach that totaled of \$6,550. He said a 50/50 split would be \$3,275
 227 for each school. He said directors would share game management duties, be involved in the
 228 evaluation of coaches and provide such to the respective principals of each school.

229
 230 Mr. Maurais stated that based on an eighteen game schedule with preseason scrimmages,
 231 equally sharing the cost of transportation was estimated to be \$2,500 per school. He further

232 said that said that the total estimated Milford school funding cost would be \$10,542 that included
233 uniforms and supplies. (i.e. jerseys, socks, pants, pucks, water bottles and travel bags)

234
235 Mr. Maurais said that the cost for game management and officials was as follows:
236

- 237 ● 9 Home Games
- 238 ● 2 Officials at \$88 per Game with 9 Home Games: \$1,584.00
- 239 ● Medical Coverage Provided by Milford at \$75.00 per Game x 5: \$ 375.00
- 240 ● Other Games Covered by the Alvirne Athletic Trainer: \$ 0.00
- 241 ● Volunteer Scoreboard Operator: \$ 0.00
- 242 ● Total: \$1,584.00
- 243
- 244 ● Divided in Half: \$ 792.00
- 245 ● Plus \$375.00 for Medical Coverage: \$ 375.00
- 246 ● TOTAL: \$1,167.00

247 Mr. Maurais stated that additionally the cost for uniforms would be approximately \$2,000 based
248 on eight players and the cost of supplies would be approximately \$1,000 based on the same
249 eight players. He said the total estimated Milford School funding cost would be \$10,542.

250
251 Mr. Carvell asked if there were any members of the public who had questions or comments.

252
253 Mr. Jeff Partridge, from Brookline Road in Mason, addressed the Board and said that he would
254 pay that fee and thanked Mr. Maurais for his hard work.

255
256 Mr. Drew said that he was sure that some would be happy to pay that fee but some would not
257 be able to afford it and they needed to a scholarship program.

258
259 Ms. Marsha Brew of Foxmoore Circle, Mr. Chris McNeil of Ridgefield Drive, Ms. Tracy Gerard of
260 Wallingford Road, and Mr. Rob Howard of Young Road, addressed the Board and they all said
261 that they would be happy to pay that fee.

262
263 Ms. Siegrist asked how much groups would be able to raise for students who could not afford
264 anywhere close to \$800. A resident of Milford replied that even a simple fundraiser at Walmart
265 had raised approximately \$2,000.

266
267 Mr. Carvell thanked Mr. Maurais for his work and thought it was a great opportunity.

268
269 Mr. Mannino made a motion to move forward with the Hockey Program. Mr. Carvell seconded
270 the motion.

271
272 **VOTE: 4 – 1 (Nay – Willette)**
273 **MOTION CARRIED**

274
275 b. Policy Proposals - **(Exhibits attached to meeting agenda)**
276

277 1. Policy #2410 Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check (Second
278 Reading)

279
280 Superintendent Marquis stated that the changes to the policy were in boldface type.
281

282 Mr. Mannino stated that he would not want the Board to be excluded from having discussions
283 surrounding it.
284

285 Mr. Carvell stated that his concern was around the decision, what went into the decision and the
286 delivery of information that could be made in public and where that information went beyond
287 that. Mr. Mannino commented that it would be eventually destroyed.
288

289 Superintendent Marquis said that he could bring it back to the Policy Committee and work on
290 the language.
291

292 Ms. Siegrist said that she would support going through it again as she did not hear the first
293 reading.
294

295 Ms. Siegrist made a motion to send Policy #2410 back to the Policy Committee. Mr. Mannino
296 seconded the motion.
297

298 **Discussion:**
299

300 Mr. Mannino stated that he would not want to step into the role of micromanaging.
301

302 **VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**
303

304 2. Policy #3570 Special Education Evaluation Procedures and Evaluation
305 Requirements for Children With specific Learning Disabilities (Second
306 Reading)
307

308 Mr. Mannino made a motion to approve Policy #3570. Mr. Willette seconded the motion.
309

310 **Discussion:**
311

312 Ms. Siegrist questioned whether a word was missing at the end of paragraph two, sentence one,
313 which read “a full and individual investigation evaluation of a student’s educational needs that
314 meets the criteria established in state and federal law will be conducted before determining
315 eligibility and before the initial provision of special education and related services to a student
316 with a disability.” Ms. Siegrist asked Superintendent Marquis if he would follow-up on that
317 .

318 Mr. Drew said that he read the sentence a couple of times and it made sense to him.
319

320 Ms. Siegrist also asked a question about the second sentence in the same, which read “The
321 district shall implement an on-going system to locate, identify and evaluate all children from birth
322 to age 21.” She asked if this was a new study, how the district would be responsible for this and
323 how much it would cost. Superintendent Marquis responded and explained that this was the

324 ongoing Child Find Process for those children 3-5 years old and the evaluation referral process
325 for all children in school and relied on parents responses or contacting the district individually.

326
327
328

329 **VOTE: 4– 1 (Nay - Siegrist)**
330 **MOTION CARRIED**

331

332 **7. Housekeeping Items**

333

334 a. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2018

335

336 Mr. Drew made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2018, meeting. Mr.
337 Mannino seconded the motion. Mr. Willette & Ms. Siegrist were not present at that meeting.

338

339 **VOTE: 3 – 0 – 2 (Abstained – Willette and Siegrist)**
340 **MOTION CARRIED**

341

342 b. Approval of Manifests: 18,19,1090,1098,1099,1100,1101,1102,1103,1104,
343 1105,1106,1107,1108,1109,1110 & 1111.

344

345 Mr. Willette made a motion to approve the manifests. Mr. Carvell seconded the motion.

346

347 **VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

348

349 c. List of Email Correspondence (Informational Only)

350

351 d. List of Classified Appointments (Informational Only)

352

353 **8. Public Comments**

354

355 Mr. Chris Labonte, Member, School Budget Advisory Committee, addressed the Board and
356 asked why some of the items on the list of anticipated projects to be done using the contingency
357 fund were things that really should have been part of a regular maintenance program and not
358 something that was unexpected and unforeseen. (i.e. – the painting at the middle school)

359

360 Mr. Carvell replied that they had not voted on anything yet and all of the money was still there.
361 He noted that there were two options with regard to the fund; either use the money by the end
362 of the fiscal year or return it to the taxpayers.

363

364 Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:2 I (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to
365 collective bargaining, and/or RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel.

366

367 a. Sealed Minutes Review

368

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

370

371 **VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

372
373 Mr. Willette made a motion to come out of non-public session. Mr. Drew seconded the motion.
374

375 **VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

376
377
378
379
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381

382 **10. Adjournment**

383
384 Ms Siegrist made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion.
385

386 **VOTE: 5 – 0 – MOTION CARRIED**

387
388 The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:15 p.m.
389

390
391
392
393
394 _____
395 School Board Chair

Date of Approval

396
397
398
399 Recording Secretary: Trish Gedziun

400
401
402
403
404 **Note: The video for this meeting did not record and is not available for viewing on the**
405 **website.**
406
407