

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

Board members present:

Adam De Young
Andrew Fowler
Susan Glennon (Chair)
Rita Hennessey
Emily McDonough Souza
Warren Pawlowski
Una Petroske
Betsy Ratner
Nicole Wasson
Cindy Wolfe Boynton

Administration present:

Dr. Anna Cutaia
Dr. Amy Fedigan
Wendy Kopazna
Jim Richetelli
Chris Brown

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the virtual board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. By a roll call, all 10 Board members were present. Ms. Glennon then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

Angel Santiago and Alexis Broderick offered a report from Law. Ben Carlson and Daniya Chopra offered a report from Foran.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon told the Board March is Music in Our Schools Month. Music videos can be viewed on the MPS website. The Board of Finance is scheduled to vote on the BOE budget on March 10. There will be a public hearing of the Board of Aldermen following and, then, the Board of Aldermen will vote on the budget sometime in May.

She called for liaison reports.

Mr. De Young briefed the Board on the recent activities of the Milford Education Foundation which included mini grants and a series of video productions.

Mr. Fowler provided an update on the Permanent School Building Committee and the recent architect firm selection, Tekton Architects, for the Pumpkin Delight renovation project.

Ms. Ratner updated the Board on the Milford Prevention Council's upcoming work on billboard changes. The Council has also been working on prevention videos.

Ms. Glennon reported on the February PTA Council meeting. Council received a grant and was able to provide 200 books that deal with social and emotional programs to school social workers. The local PTA units are doing a tremendous job adapting to the current situation. She announced the Council will present the Life Achievement Award to Mrs. Kovacs, who is a music teacher in the district.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cutaia took a moment to acknowledge March being Board of Education Appreciation Month. She thanked the Board members for their service to the children and Milford Public Schools.

Instructional Highlight – Career Pathways

Dr. Fedigan and Mrs. Swanson narrated a presentation on Career Pathways. The Board was provided with a history that led to the development of the current two career pathways MPS has in place for its students that began in 2016. In 2019, the state updated the career clusters and provided more guidance in developing career pathways along with a program of studies to support them. This prompted the district to review its program of studies. The district's program of studies was revised in the fall of 2020 and will now offer students 11 very broad career clusters. Dr. Fedigan and Mrs. Swanson shared the goals and program expansion plans.

COVID-19 Instructional Model Update

Dr. Cutaia provided an update to the Tier 1 Instructional Model that will go into effect on March 17. The district has been in person for four days a week using Wednesday as a distance learning day. The distance learning day will now be an in person learning day. Students will begin attending school in person five days a week for a five hour school day the week of March 15th. In collaboration with the Health Department, Dr. Cutaia said she believes it is time. Over one half of staff have received vaccines. More clinics are planned and the positive case percentage in Connecticut has remained low. However, she did note the district is not ready to return to full time instruction. There are barriers that remain, including fewer number of students in a classroom, cleaning procedures, lunch period and prep periods for teachers, etc.

Ms. Glennon thanked Dr. Cutaia for the update. She reminded the Board there are some school districts that have been 100% remote all this time.

Board Policies for a Second Reading

Dr. Cutaia told the Board the policies are ready for approval. The Board made its suggestions and/or corrections to the policies and they have incorporated in the policies being presented tonight.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 4118.4/4218.5 "Acceptable Use of Computers and Technology" as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 6141.321 "Acceptable use of Computers and Technology (students)" as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 5132 Dress and Grooming as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs - Life-threatening Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease" as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Food Services Financial Report

Mrs. Faustich reported on the year-end financial report for Food Services, July 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021. The district has been providing free meals to students seven days a week due to the pandemic. With the state offering an incentive to school districts by the number of meals served, the department shows an increase in its income for December and January. Currently the department has a \$67,000 loss. However, meals will continue to be offered seven days a week.

CT Healthy Food Certification Program

Mrs. Faustich made a recommendation that the district participate in the Healthy Food Certification program. By participating in the program, the Milford Public Schools will receive 10¢ for each meal sold, but will be required to adhere to the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, which are published annually by the Connecticut Department of Education, but that the Board can exempt certain events, however, action by the Board is required.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the healthy food option: to participate in the Healthy Food Certification and certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will meet said standards during the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises whether or not school sponsored. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the combined food and beverage exemptions: to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes

provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report for February. Included in the report were the personnel changes as well as stipend appointments. Of note, 18 retirements have been submitted to date.

Disbursement Report

Mr. Richetelli presented the Disbursement Report for the month of February. The report continues to call attention to COVID related expenses in yellow.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Minutes:

February 8, 2021 Business Meeting

February 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Mr. Fowler seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 10-0, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Ratner told the Board she watched music videos and attended the Games of Tiara play performed by Foran Drama virtually. She thanked Dr. Cutaia for bringing the students and teachers back five days a week.

Ms. Glennon also watched the Games of Tiara. She also said a science fair was held virtually.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Petroske made a motion adjourn. Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____

Mrs. Pam Griffin

Approved

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske