

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Special Meeting Minutes

January 20, 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
Jim Richetelli
Chris Brown
Wendy Kopazna

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Glennon acknowledged an email the Board received from Cathy Berni of 99 Centennial Drive. Mrs. Berni is in support of the proposed Superintendent budget as presented.

III. FINAL DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE BOARD'S 2021-22 BUDGET

Dr. Cutaia provided some additional information on K-2 classroom libraries in response to a request for clarification. She confirmed that there are existing libraries in all K-2 classrooms and shared pictures of them both pre-COVID and after. She shared her belief that upgrading of the libraries can be delayed. Additionally, as new curriculum is rolled out, new refreshed titles that better align to our curriculum will be purchased in the future. The systemic approach to purchasing classroom libraries will provide equity across the eight elementary schools with a focus on HQI. While the desire to expand classroom libraries remains, she expressed other priorities need to take precedence at this time.

Being no further questions, Ms. Glennon called for a motion to approve the budget. She called for a motion.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the Superintendent's proposed 2021-2022 budget as presented, in the amount of \$99,734,375 and direct the Administration to transmit it to the Mayor. Mr. Fowler seconded.

Ms. Glennon called for discussion.

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Mr. De Young made a motion to amend the Superintendent's recommended budget to add \$140,000 to fund K-2 classroom libraries. Mr. Pawlowski seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Mr. De Young thanked Dr. Cutaia for the clarification on the classroom libraries. He believes delaying the plan due to fiscal reasons should not be the driver.

Ms. Glennon said she appreciates the sentiment but recognizes that Administration had to prioritize the needs of the district in this challenging budget year.

Board members expressed their trust in Administration in the prioritization of the budget funds.

Following the brief discussion, Ms. Glennon called for a roll call vote. The motion failed 9-1 (De Young).

Ms. Glennon called for further discussion.

Ms. Ratner supports the fiscally responsible budget.

Mr. Fowler appreciates the work of the Administration on the budget, however, he would like to see less of an increase. He believes the increase will be hard on taxpayers.

Ms. Petroske fully supports the budget. Administration has risen to the challenge. She is very excited to see some work moving forward.

Ms. Wasson thanked the Administration for the budget and is in support.

Ms. McDonough-Souza also voiced her support.

Mr. De Young echoed the other Board members' comments. However, there is a big difference between being fiscally responsible and fiscally conservative. This Board is acting fiscally conservative. He believes we need to invest in the kids.

Mrs. Hennessey thanked Dr. Cutaia and her team. It is a bare bones budget. She commended the Superintendent with what she managed to keep in the budget.

Ms. Glennon echoed what others said. She believes the budget does invest in the kids. She also thanked Dr. Cutaia and her staff.

Ms. Griffin reread the motion on the floor.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approve the Superintendent's proposed 2021-2022 budget as presented, in the amount of \$99,734,375 and direct the Administration to transmit it to the Mayor. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote 9-1(Fowler), the motion passed.

Ms. Glennon cancelled the committee of the whole meeting scheduled for the 25th.

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Dr. Cutaia thanked the Board for their diligent work and analysis of the budget.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Ms. Glennon called for a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin