

Milford Board of Education

Virtual Business Meeting and Live Streamed on YouTube

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Board members present:

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

Administration present:

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

Others present:

Carolyn Dugas, Esq.

Board members absent:

Nicole Wasson - excused

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the virtual board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. By a roll call, nine Board members were present. Ms. Glennon said that Nicole Wasson was not feeling well. She then led the Board in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. STUDENT REPORTS

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. CABA STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Dr. Cutaia recognized 10 students for being selected as a CABA Student Leadership Award recipient for their willingness to take on challenges and commit to a project, the capability to make difficult decisions, the ability to work with others, understand issues clearly, and exemplary leadership skills.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Glennon told the Board she attended two events on Saturday, the Danni Kemp Memorial Field dedication at Foran and the opening day of the new Baseball field at Jonathan Law. The Board of Aldermen (BOA) budget public hearing will be this Wednesday, followed by the BOE budget to be presented to the BOA on April 21st.

She called for liaison reports.

Ms. Glennon introduced Mrs. Jessica De Young to speak on the behalf of the PTA Council. Mrs. De Young announced that the Milford PTA Council had nominated Dr. Cutaia for Connecticut PTA's Superintendent of the Year award. She then congratulated Dr. Cutaia for having been chosen as the recipient of the honor. She thanked Dr. Cutaia for her transparency in keeping the parents informed, her leadership and her vision of keeping the students in school this past year. An awards ceremony is planned for May 5th at the state level.

Ms. Glennon thanked Mrs. De Young for the information.

Dr. Cutaia thanked Mrs. De Young and the executive board members of PTA Council for the honor. She emphasized to the Board and public at large that relationships are at the core of what is done in Milford Public Schools.

Ms. Ratner updated the Board on the work of the Milford Prevention Council. Drug take back day is April 24th.

Mr. De Young said the Milford Education Foundation continues to work with MPS on developing virtual programs. Students have been painting chairs in preparation for the Chairity Auction.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Instructional Highlight – Elementary Mathematics

Dr. Fedigan and Dr. Nobili narrated a presentation on elementary mathematics that highlighted efforts that will be made to reimagine education after the pandemic. It provided the Board with the rationale for utilizing acceleration over remediation. Acceleration has been recognized as strategic and intentional while remediation has been found to position the student backward with the curriculum. The shift to acceleration will help the elementary math students master the unfinished mastery skills due to the pandemic. Math coaches shared examples that demonstrated how acceleration has impacted instruction and will help students to master the level of instruction to promote them to the next level.

Board Policies for a Second Reading

Dr. Cutaia told the Board the policies are ready for approval with the suggestions and/or corrections discussed during the first meeting having been incorporated in the policies being presented tonight. Blue ink denotes new language added. Dr. Cutaia also noted Attorney Carolyn Dugas was present to answer any questions the board might have, as some of the language in the policies is required.

Ms. Glennon called for a motion.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 5145.13 “Conducting Research in the Schools” as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 5145.14 “On-Campus Recruitment” as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded.

Mr. Pawlowski asked for clarification of military recruiters having access to the information. Mrs. Dugas told him it is part of the legislation.

By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 5145.15 “Directory Information” as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Cutaia reviewed the changes made to proposed Board policy 6162.51 Survey of Students. A discussion ensued around the language of “the administration of any non-emergency physical examination or screening.” Mrs. Dugas told the board the language is required by the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). It is language required by federal law and must be included in a policy. She noted that other districts have adopted this policy with this language.

Ms. Glennon asked Board members to share their views as to whether to keep the language in this policy or place it in another policy. Five members were in agreement to keep it as is while four were not. With no further discussion, she called for a motion.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 6162.51 Survey of Students" as amended. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 5-4 no (De Young, Fowler, Petroske, Pawlowski), the motion passed.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves Board policy 6176 “Career and Vocational Education” as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

High School Graduation Dates, 2021

Dr. Cutaia told the Board the district will be able to hold one graduation for each high school while practicing social distancing. The last day of school will be June 15, therefore, Joseph A. Foran will have its graduation on June 14, 2021 and Jonathan Law’s graduation will be held on June 15, 2021. Since the graduations will be held outside, a rain date has been established for June 16 in the event either school is rained out. Students will be allowed to have two family members in attendance due to COVID restrictions.

Following a brief dialogue, Mrs. Glennon asked for a motion to approve the graduation dates.

Mrs. Petroske made a motion that the Milford Board of Education approves the high school graduation dates of Monday, June 14, and Tuesday, June 15 for the senior classes of Joseph A. Foran and Jonathan Law High Schools, with a rain date of June 16 for both high schools. Mr. Fowler seconded. By a roll call vote of 9-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Kopazna presented the Human Resources Report for March. Included in the report were the personnel changes as well as stipend appointments. Of note, 19 retirements have been submitted to date.

Dr. Cutaia informed the Board of the complexity of the need for staff next year. The administration is planning for school buildings with staff and students practicing distances of both three and six feet. The state and the local health departments will dictate the requirements that will be to be in place..

Quarterly Budget Report

Mr. Richetelli provided an update on the budget. Due to the savings by the district, grants and excess costs, the district is projected to have a balanced budget. The budget will be supplemented through those three funding sources.

Disbursement Report

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

VII. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Consideration of Minutes:

March 8, 2021 Business Meeting

March 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. De Young commented about the Danni Kemp Softball Field dedication and MPS being named by the NAMM Foundation as a Best Community for Music Education. It reconfirms that Milford offers well-rounded diverse opportunities to kids.

Mrs. Petroske congratulated Dr. Cutaia for being named PTA Council's Superintendent of the Year.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Approved

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Mrs. Una Petroske