

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." ~ Plato

Across the Board



Reporting on the BOE Meeting of December 12, 2011

The Milford Board of Education

Tracy Casey, Board Chair
James Maroney, Maj. Leader
Mark Stapleton, Min. Leader
Suzanne DiBiase
George Gensure
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
Beverley Pierson
Christopher Saley
Earl Whiskeyman

Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 9:** BOE Meeting, Regular Business Meeting, Parsons, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 23:** BOE Meeting, Committee of the Whole, Parsons, 7:00 p.m.

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ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Tracy Casey, Suzanne DiBiase, George Gensure, Susan Glennon, Dora Kubek, James Maroney, Beverley Pierson, Mark Stapleton, Earl Whiskeyman

Board Members Absent

Christopher Saley

Milford Public Schools Staff Present

Elizabeth Feser, Michael Cummings, James Richetelli, Jr., Wendy Kopazna, Susan Kelleher

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Tracy Casey, the new Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the first official business meeting of the 2011-13 Milford Board of Education.

Mrs. Casey said she views the BOE as a "Board of 10" and intends to make sure all activity will be conducted fairly, openly, and in an orderly fashion. She reminded Board members that *Robert's Rules of Order* are in effect and speakers must first be recognized by the chair in order to have the floor. This will give everyone on the Board the chance to be heard without interruption.

Mrs. Casey then reported that the Board had attended two introductory workshops thus far where members learned about the strategic, financial, operational and legal requirements connected to their work. Additional workshops will be held throughout the year as new Board members become more familiar with their duties.

Mrs. Casey then reported that Board members would, once again, be serving as liaisons to various related boards throughout the city. The liaison appointments for 2011-13 are:

Board of Aldermen: Earl Whiskeyman, Dora Kubek

Planning & Zoning: James Maroney

Health Department: George Gensure

PTA Council: Susan Glennon

Permanent School Building Comm.: Suzanne DiBiase, Chris Saley

ACES: Earl Whiskeyman

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Elizabeth Feser, Superintendent of Schools, began by introducing **Mr. Fran Thompson**, principal of Jonathan Law High School and **Mr. John Barile**, principal of Joseph A. Foran High School. The men then presented a report about the Advanced Placement (AP) Program in our high schools. A group of students currently enrolled in AP courses at the high schools also participated in the presentation.

AP Program

The Advanced Placement Program offers high school students the opportunity to take rigorous, collegiate-level courses while they are still in high school. Created by The College Board, each AP course is modeled after a comparable college course; the curriculum for the course is created by university faculty and/or experts in the subject matter to ensure it aligns with work expected at the college-level.

At the completion of an AP course, students take the corresponding AP Exam, created by the Educational Testing Service. Tests are scored on a range of 1 to 5 (1 is the lowest, 5 is the highest).

Based on the score a student receives on an AP exam, he/she may receive college credit, advanced course placement, or both at their chosen college/university (and depending on the institution's policy). In addition, taking AP courses demonstrates to college admissions officers that students have sought out the most rigorous curriculum available to them.

Once the annual AP testing period has concluded, The College Board releases their AP Scholar List. Only 18% of the nearly 2 million students who sit for these exams are named to this prestigious list and this year we are pleased to announce that 55 Milford students were included on the 2011 AP Scholars List!

Dean of Students Report

Mr. Barile and **Mr. Thompson** continued with their second presentation for the evening -- an overview of the Dean of Students position and its impact at the high school level since September. The Dean of Students position was created primarily to handle the majority of low level discipline issues that were preventing school administrators from doing more (cont.)

connections

There is a wealth of information contained on the Milford Board of Education Website. Go to www.milforded.org and check out the following items:

Milford Public Schools Event Calendar

Want to know what's going on in our schools? Click on the **Calendars** section on the right side of the home page. ALL of the events entered throughout the district are listed there. If you happen to plan events for other organizations, this tool may be extremely helpful!

BOE Meeting Minutes

You don't have to visit the City Clerk's office to get copies of minutes -- they are right on the web!

MGAT -- Channel 78

If you live in Milford and want to know what's going on during any of the city's public education meetings, tune in to Channel 78 ~ the Milford Government Access Television channel. Meetings are aired in their entirety and you can attend any time -- even in your jammies! [Please note: currently, this service is only available through Cablevision].

comprehensive work with the teachers in the building. The deans assist with student management, school climate, student interventions, and supporting new initiatives. Both **Mr. Thompson** and **Mr. Barile** indicated they have been able to spend more valuable time conducting formal classroom observations and visits. They are also now able to give immediate feedback to a teacher about instructional practice and have been able to begin much deeper dialogue around that instruction. **Valerie Fortney** is the dean at Jonathan Law; **Harold Greist** is the dean at Foran. The Board asked **Mr. Thompson** and **Mr. Barile** for future reports to continue their understanding of this position and its impact as the year continues.

Two Additional Instructional Pieces of Business

The Board was also presented with two pieces of business as required by state law. The *Safe School Climate Plan* was approved by the Board; this plan must be submitted to the CT State Department of Education by January 1st. The second piece of business that was considered by the Board was the *Administering of Medications Policy* (5141.21). This policy includes the most recent mandates from the State and was prepared by our local Health Dept. The Board is expected to take action on this policy at the next business meeting.

Operational Report

Mr. James Richetelli, Jr., Chief Operations Officer, brought forth two pieces of business for the Board's approval. The first was the formal authorization designating **Mr. Richetelli** as the official signatory for the district; the second was the request of a transfer of funds in the amount of \$30,000 from the 5101 Account (Special Education Transportation) to the 7392 Account (Special Education Capital Equipment) for the purchase of a new Special Education Van. **Mr. Richetelli** explained that the price for the van will be based on a larger cooperative bid that is being prepared through CES (Cooperative Education Services). The new van will replace an existing vehicle in the fleet, a 2001 Dodge Ramwagon with 132,000 miles on it. Significant and costly repairs are needed on this van and administration believes it will be more cost effective and safer to purchase a new vehicle and replace the old one. The Board approved the transfer.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Wendy Kopazna presented the Personnel Report. **Mrs. Kopazna** reported that activity had been light for the month as we approach the end of the year. She then shared the Open Positions, the Personnel Recommendations, the Retirements/Resignations/Terminations and the Stipend Appointments.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented. The items to be considered were: 1) Voucher List, 2) Overnight Field Trip/Foran, 3) Overnight Field Trip/Academy, 4) Overnight Field Trip/Jonathan Law. All items were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Two new pieces of business were brought forth at this meeting.

1. The 2012 Board of Education Meeting Calendar (see box on right).
2. Recommended Salary Adjustments for Non-Union Employees.

Both items were passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Board of Education Meetings ~ 2012

January 9	June 11	<i>All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and take place in the Board of Education Meeting Room, located in the Parsons building.</i>
January 23	July 9	
February 13	August 13	
February 27	September 10	
March 12	September 24	
March 26	October 9*	
April 9	October 22	
April 23	November 12	
May 14	November 26	
May 29*	December 10	

**BOE meetings generally take place on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. If the Monday in question falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the following Tuesday.*

The next BOE meeting will be held on January 9, 2012 at Parsons, 7:00 p.m.