

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 25, 2021

Board Members

Mr. J. Miller – President  
Mr. Baltazar-Lopez –V. President  
Mr. K. Thompson  
Mr. D. Vezmar  
Mrs. R. Wiley  
Mrs. J. Wylie  
Dr. K. Dickerson, Exec. Secretary

Admin. Present

Dr. Peel  
Dr. Amory  
Mrs. Croce  
Ms. Manges  
Mrs. Hallman  
Dr. Kilgore  
Mrs. Wallace  
Mr. LoBiondo  
Mr. Parsley  
Mr. Zoll  
Mr. Sharp  
Mrs. McKenzie

Public

S. Whaley  
J. Griffin  
Debby  
Sue  
H. Motter  
T. Gerken  
A. Dukes  
K. Mosher  
J. Fitzgerald  
B. Baylis  
D. Christie  
A. Walls

Public

M. Webb  
K. Marvel  
M. Faulkner  
A. Lockwood  
J. Deeney  
S. Fitzgerald  
M. McMillman  
K. Conway  
A. Jones  
K. Sharp

*Media: Brooke Schultz, DE State News, Terry Rogers, Milford Live*

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education was called to order by President Miller at 6:00 PM on Monday evening, January 25, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR /SECONDED BY MRS. J. WYLIE** to adjourn into Executive Session.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

Returned to Open Session at 7:06PM. **MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR** to adjourn into Executive Session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. R. WILEY/SECONDED BY MRS. J. WYLIE** to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2020 as is. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

***Recognitions***

Deena Johnson was selected as 1 of 7 finalists in the MLK Voice 4 Youth Competition that occurred Sunday, January 17. MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH is a spoken word competition that provides a platform for high school students to speak up on issues important to them and creatively share how Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy guides their response to today's challenges. Deena's outstanding speech, "Have You Seen the Other Side", was in response to Dr. King's speech "I've Been to the Mountaintop". Deena recently received early acceptance into Goldey Beacom College, is currently taking college courses as a senior and has completed both Business and Allied Health career pathways at MHS. Congratulations to Deena - she represented herself and MHS extremely well during the competition and we are proud of her for her accomplishments.

Dr. Julius Mullen, 1989 MHS Grad, and his wife, Natasha Mullen, co-authored *Just Love Me*. The book encourages readers to love all children regardless of any demographic, characteristic, or life situation. The authors believe that love is the most simplistic yet powerful path toward helping children thrive in the world. Dr. Mullen is the Chief Clinical Officer for Children and Families First of Delaware, Inc. and a college instructor.

Jennifer Antonik and Jessica Rash, MHS Alum, published *The Music Man, Our Rootin' Tootin' Hero* about longtime outstanding MHS volunteer and community member, Mr. Joe Lear. Jennifer has been invited to speak to our students.

Josiah Moore, MHS Senior, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Optimist Club of Sussex County essay contest and was awarded a \$500 scholarship. He will now compete at the district level.

The district team has raised over \$5,600 for Special Olympics Delaware through the Polar Bear Plunge. Our team of 32 members will be plunging Saturday, February 6 at 11am at MHS Briggs Stadium. Thank you to Carlisle Fire Company for partnering with us and bringing the plunge to Milford.

Milford native, Tom Summers partnership with the Milford Museum created a film "The Other Side of the Tracks" regarding the experiences of Dr. Reba Hollingsworth, a 94-year-old African American woman who spent her early years in Milford. We hope to share this outstanding feature and exceptional insights from Dr. Hollingsworth with our district-community in recognition of Black History Month this February.

**Scott Fitzgerald addressed the Board regarding the temporary Area D Board Vacancy.**

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

**DSBA Update**

No updates

**TEMPORARY AREA D BOARD VACANCY**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR** to appoint Scott Fitzgerald through June 30, 2021.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Baltazar - no Mrs. R. Wiley - yes  
Mrs. J. Wylie - yes Mr. Thompson - yes  
Mr. Miller - yes Mr. Vezmar - yes

**6 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain. Motion passed.**

**2020-2021 Modified Dress Code Policy Review**

**MOTION MADE BY MRS R. WILEY/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR** to extend the adopted dress code policy through the end of 2020-21 School Year. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**2021-2022 School Choice Acceptance Report**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MRS. R. WILEY** to accept the 2021-2022 School Choice Acceptance Report as given in Executive Session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Revised Board Policy 1002 Parent Involvement Policy**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MRS. J. WYLIE** to approve Draft Policy 1002 Parent Involvement as presented by Dr. Amory. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Draft Board Policy Introduced by Mr. Rony Baltazar-Lopez: Board Member Conflict of Interest – First Read**

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez stated he drafted this policy because he feels there should be a policy that specifically states what a Board Member should do should there be a conflict of interest. Mr. Vezmar asked if legal counsel could review this policy. His concern is that his wife works for the district and he has children enrolled in the district, and that he may be precluded from voting as most actions the Board takes impacts teachers and/or students directly. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez stated he drafted this policy with the intent to regulate bidding and contracts. Dr. Dickerson will seek guidance from the district attorney to present at February's meeting. Mr. Thompson echoed Mr. Vezmar's concerns.

**Draft Board Policy Introduced by Mr. Rony Baltazar-Lopez: Board Member Duties and Ethics – First Read**

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez stated the current policy was adopted in 1975 and is outdated. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez drafted the policy with Mrs. R. Wiley's feedback to state what a Board Member's duties should be. Dr. Dickerson will seek advice from legal counsels. Mr. Thompson would like to make sure the verbiage detailing Board Member duties is broad enough to give permissions for a board to act on behalf of the district.

**Draft Milford School District Proclamation Introduced by Mr. Rony Baltazar-Lopez: Proclaiming the Monthlong Celebration of Black History Month in February – First Read**

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez presented a draft proclamation. Mr. Miller requested administration review the statistics in the proclamation to ensure accuracy for this school year. Dr. Dickerson will review the statistics and inform Mr. Baltazar-Lopez of any statistics needing updated.

**BUSINESS**

***Revenue and Expenditure Report***

**MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MRS. R. WILEY** to approve the Revenue and Expenditure Reports as of December 31, 2020. **Motion carried unanimously.**

***DDOE Financial Position Report***

**MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MRS. J. WYLIE** to approve the DDOE Financial Position Report. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT PROGRAMS**

***Student Learning***

***Hybrid Update***

Dr. Marvel stated schools have successfully resumed hybrid learning as of January 11, 2021. Marking Period 3 will begin Monday, February 1, 2021. The goal with hybrid learning is to continue to increase the amount of instructional time.

***Concurrent Teaching***

Dr. Marvel stated that concurrent learning will begin district-wide Monday, February 1, 2021. As a reminder, concurrent learning is in-person and online learning happening at the same time. Milford High School has been using the concurrent model since November 2020 and other schools have begun to phase into concurrent learning since December.

***Summer Programming***

Dr. Marvel stated Summer Programming will include 12-month programming for PreK-12, Credit Recovery for MHS Students grades 9-12, Voyagers for grades K-8 (with an online option), and Beginner Buccaneers for kindergarten readiness. New additions include Voyager Camp and HOLA Immersion camp.

***Elementary Math Pilot***

Dr. Amory stated the district has been piloting two math programs for grades K-5 and anticipate bringing a recommendation for a program at the February Board meeting.

***The Other Side of the Tracks Film – Dr. Reba Hollingsworth and Mr. Tom Summers***

Dr. Amory stated this will be shared during Black History Month. The film celebrates Dr. Rebecca Hollingsworth who spent her early years in Milford. Mr. Tom Summers created the film.

***The Music Man: Our Rootin' Tootin' Hero***

Dr. Amory stated that we are working with the author, Ms. Jennifer Antonik, to invite her to our classrooms to discuss its connection with our community and the process of writing and publishing a book.

***Odyssey of the Mind***

The program will continue both in-person and remotely.

***Freeman Arts Pavilion Student Activities***

Milford School District has partnered with Freeman Arts Pavilion. The district has received 4,300 Creative Nourishment kits which includes basic art supplies and instructions for art projects by grade level. Dr. Amory stated that the initiative will be used to create an online space where student artwork will be featured.

***Buccaneer Boat Project***

Dr. Amory stated the district received a Community Grant through Hertrich that will allow us to partner with Educational Passages. The goal is to launch the boat in Fall 2021.

***Abbotts Mill Pre-K-Grade 5 Field Experiences***

The district's partnership with Abbots Mill will continue with field experiences remotely for Grades K-5.

***Student Services Update***

Ms. Manges acknowledged the school nurses, counselors, and family interventionists for their work during this time.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

***School Walkthroughs***

Mr. Sharp, new Supervisor for Buildings and Grounds, stated he began doing walkthroughs of all the buildings. He stated the custodial and maintenance staff have done a great job and he looks forward to working with everyone.

**TRANSPORTATION**

***School Bus Transportation Updates***

Mr. LoBiondo thanked all the bus contractors and drivers for doing a fantastic job this year.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

**RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT – TEMPORARY CONTRACT\***

DAVIS, Jakiya  
High School – Counselor  
Effective: February 1, 2021

TAPPAN, Rebecca  
Central Academy – Health Sciences Teacher  
Effective: February 8, 2021  
DEGREGORY, Joseph  
High School – Driver Education Teacher  
Effective: TBD

**RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT\***

GILEWSKI, Richard  
District – Custodian  
Effective: February 15, 2021

BOWMAN, Matthew  
District – Maintenance Mechanic  
Effective: February 8, 2021

**RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT – READING TUTOR\***

Recommend for employment for contingent upon funding and enrollment

**Ross**

Corder, Wanda

**RETIREMENT**

COLE, Shirley  
Banneker – Chief Custodian  
Effective: June 1, 2021  
Service to MSD: 21 years

ELEAZAR, Lydia  
Banneker – Child Nutrition 3.0 hours  
Effective: January 1, 2021  
Service to MSD: 10 years

PARSLEY, Donald  
High School – Driver’s Education Teacher  
Effective: February 1, 2021  
Service to MSD: 35 years

DUFENDACH, Debby  
District – Finance Administrative Secretary  
Effective: July 1, 2021  
Service to MSD: 13 years

DOUGHERTY, Edward  
High School – Special Education Teacher  
Effective: July 1, 2021  
Service to MSD: 6 months

TRANSFER

HERITAGE, Pam  
From Part-Time Central Academy Paraprofessional One-on-One to Full-Time Banneker  
Paraprofessional One-on-One.  
Effective: February 1, 2021

STRASSLE, Lynne  
From Part-Time Ross Paraprofessional One-on-One to Part-Time Paraprofessional One-on-One  
Central Academy.  
Effective: February 1, 2021

RESIGNATION

WARRINGTON, Craig  
District – Visiting Teacher  
Effective: TBD  
Service to MSD: 18 years

FIGGS, Holly  
Mispillion – 4.0 hour Child Nutrition  
Effective: January 25, 2021  
Service to MSD: 1 year

RESCIND EMPLOYMENT - TEMPORAY CONTRACT\*

SMITH, Jacqueline  
High – Secondary School Counselor

RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT- 2020 – 2021 LIMITED CONTRACTS

District	Site Coordinator, Mentoring	ZEVENEY, Toni
High	Boys Tennis Coach	WILLIAMSON, Colton
High	Girls Basketball, Asst Coach	KEATON, Ebony

RESIGNATION – 2020-2021 LIMITED CONTRACTS

District	Site Coordinator, Mentoring	GEESAMAN, Sherrise
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\*Employment at Milford School District is contingent upon employment verification, education and other credential verifications, the receipt of satisfactory criminal background and child protection registry checks, and adherence to Milford School District policies.

**MOTION MADE BY MRS. J. WYLIE/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR** that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Board took a moment of silence for past district employee and Board Member, Mr. Eugene Rust. Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Zoll for his efforts with the Polar Bear Plunge. The Board congratulated and welcomed Mr. Fitzgerald to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MRS. R. WILEY** that the Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education held on Monday, February 22, 2021 adjourn at 8:20PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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Kevin Dickerson, Executive Secretary

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Trish Gerken, Recording Secretary

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