

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – JULY 6, 2020

Board Members

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

Admin. Present

Dr. Peel
Dr. Amory
Mrs. Croce
Ms. Manges
Dr. Stevenson
Mr. Parsley
Mrs. Wallace
Mrs. McKenzie
Mr. LoBiondo

Public

S. Whaley
J. Griffin
K. Marvel
S. Willey
D. Heimbaugh
E. Rust

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education was called to order by President Wiley at 7:00 PM on Monday evening, July 6, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE BY MRS. PURCELL/SECONDED BY MR. THOMPSON to approve the minutes for June 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Thompson questioned nominating officers at this time. Dr. Dickerson stated he had conferred with the lawyer and nominations could be held in July as normal. Mrs. Wiley stated new members seldom serve as an officer their first year and thought the Board could move forward with the nominations. Mrs. Wylie agreed. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez thought the voting should take place at the August meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ to table the nominations until after July 21, 2020.

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|-------------------|--------------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Roll Call: | Mr. Baltazar-Lopez | yes | Mr. Vezmar | yes |
| | Mr. Miller | yes | Mrs. Wiley | yes |
| | Mrs. Purcell | no | Mrs. Wylie | yes |
| | Mr. Thompson | yes | | |

Motion passed with 6 yes, 1 no, and 0 abstain.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Recognition

Dr. Dickerson recognized Cherie White, Debby Dufendach, and Edna Rust for sewing masks and donating them for patients and staff during the pandemic to Bayhealth Medical Center, and shared that Bayhealth acknowledged their appreciation.

Dr. Peel recognized the district's Retirees, Teacher of the Year, Paraprofessionals of the Year, and Employees of the Year. The retirees include Peggy Short - District Administrative Secretary, Kathleen Schlabach – District Administrative Secretary, Carol Davis – Ross Elementary Paraprofessional, Sheree Burke – Ross Elementary Speech Pathologist, Leesa Lopez – Ross Elementary Teacher, Cynthia Peterman – Ross Elementary Teacher, Wanda Corder – Ross Elementary Teacher, Aaron White – Central Academy Custodian, Diane George – Central Academy Paraprofessional, Dr. Mark McDaniel – Central Academy Assistant Principal, Ken Outten, High School Science Teacher, Deborah Staub – High School Child Nutrition, Dawn Dehel, High School English

Teacher, and Dave Grobinski – High School Science Teacher. Teacher of the Year honorees include Jennifer Legg – Morris Early Childhood Center, Kimberly Webb - Ross Elementary and Milford School District Teacher of the Year, Sandra Tinsley – Banneker Elementary, Jennifer Nichols – Mispillion Elementary, Kristin Schlegel – Milford Central Academy, and Amy Roscoe – Milford High School. The Paraprofessional of the Year honorees include Ileana Heredia – Morris Early Childhood Center, Robert Newsome – Ross Elementary and Milford School District Paraprofessional of the Year, Duvanel Louis – Banneker Elementary, Darlene Groce – Mispillion Elementary, Mike Savage - Milford Central Academy, and Jessenia Carranza – Milford High School. Milford School District Employees of the Year include Cherie White – Secretary of the Year, Yvonne White – School Nurse of the Year, Ally Zanks – School Counselor of the Year, Sean Smith – Custodian of the Year, Alexis Monocello – Related Services Employee of the Year, Courtney Boone – Child Nutrition Employee of the Year, Josh Griffin – Technology Employee of the Year, and Chuck Caplinger – Maintenance Employee of the Year.

State School Reopening Workgroups

Dr. Dickerson stated three state workgroups have been collaborating regarding the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Recommendations are expected to be released during the week of July 13th.

District Planning for 2020-2021 School Year

Dr. Dickerson discussed preliminary district planning – preparing for three scenarios mirroring the state’s work (all students in, hybrid, and remote); examining school buildings, purchasing technology, determining videoconferencing and learning management systems for remote environment, purchasing personal protective equipment, purchasing plexiglass for protection in higher risk areas, and studying of other state reopening plans for a better understanding of possible protocols that may have to be in place. The members would like to meet on July 20, 2020 to discuss the state’s recommendations for schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Wiley would like to have an update on how summer school is going.

2020-2021 Calendar Revision Discussion

Dr. Dickerson discussed possible revisions to the approved 2020-2021 school calendar dependent on the state’s recommendations within their plan. Mrs. Wiley stated teachers need support and training before entering the classroom. Mr. Vezmar asked if there could be a delay of enforcing student uniforms for this school year. Mrs. Wylie asked what will be the district’s response if parents do not want to send their children to school and was concerned with teachers who have underlying health conditions. The district has been discussing these topics and will understand more how to proceed once the state’s plan is released.

DIAA Update

Dr. Dickerson reported out on DIAA’s approved temporary regulations and that student-athletes may now participate in summer athletic conditioning and out-of-season activities. Discussion included the health screening for participants, the need for water being available on-site for student-athletes as water bottles may not be shared, a possible permission or waiver form for families, response to COVID-19 cases, and how future scheduled out-of-state events may be handled. Training will be provided to coaches and personnel overseeing activities.

BUSINESS

Sussex and Kent County Tax Rate Proposal

Mrs. Croce reported for the fourth straight year there is a slight decrease in the tax rate proposal.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR to approve the Sussex and Kent County Tax Rate Proposal. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Budgets

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Budgets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

State Budget Bill Review

Mrs. Croce shared the details of the Fiscal Year 2021 State Budget bills. There was a slight decrease in Minor Capital Improvement funds in the State Bond Bill but overall the allocations remained the same as the prior year. Mrs. Croce expressed gratitude on behalf of the district for the budget considerations given to education. There were no major decreases to funds, but there were also no increases. The state maintained its commitment to State Opportunity funds, which are important to serving many Milford students.

Annual Leave Carryover Extension

MOTION MADE BY MRS. PURCELL/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR to approve The Annual Leave Carryover Extension. **Motion carried unanimously.**

INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT PROGRAMS

Student Learning

MHS Advanced Placement Program

Dr. Marvel presented regarding Milford High School Dual Credit, Honors and Advanced Placement academic programs. Participation data and aspects of the program were shared. Mr. Miller asked for data regarding the success of the students in the courses, how many credits earned and the proficiency rates. The numbers of students participating in the programs has significantly increased over the past few years. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez gave thanks for all the progress regarding these programs. Success rates, selection processes, support for students, and diversity of student participants were discussed.

Student Services

Summer Program Update

Mrs. Manges reported parents have been communicated with and teachers have been hired for in-person summer programming for approximately 70 students. The program will run from July 13th – August 6th, 4 days a week for an intensive program. The On-site Summer Programming Protocol Letter to Families, Summer School COVID-19 Health Protocol and DDOE's COVID Transportation Guidance were shared with the Board. Staff training will be held regarding health and wellness protocols and plans.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MR. THOMPSON that the Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education held on Monday, July 6, 2020 adjourn due to a storm. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Dickerson, Executive Secretary

Edna Rust, Recording Secretary