

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 3, 2020

Board Members

Mrs. R. Wiley – President
Mrs. J. Purcell –V. President
Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mr. J. Miller
Mr. D. Vezmar
Mr. K. Thompson
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
Dr. Kilgore
Mr. LoBiondo
Mr. Zoll
Dr. Cooper
Mr. Diaz
Mrs. Messick
Mr. Buford
Mrs. Hallman

Public

S. Whaley
J. Griffin
K. Marvel
S. Forrest
R. McPhatter
J. Thompson
J. Rowan
P. Zabel
L. Williams
P. Pastor
J. Filicicchia
R. Parker
G. Parfitt
C. Meszaros
C. Bontrager
B. Shupe
S. Smith
J. Bruns
T. Knotts
K. Weissberg
L. Nailor
R. Newsome
C. Butasi
S. Hodne
S. Geesaman
N. Ridgeway
K. Stahl
A. Slonacher
W. Dodge
C. Holleger
K. Galati
E. Rohe
L. Holleger
K. Davies
B. Hamilton
N. Brannan
J. Jumper
J. Jester
C. Wimer
J. Cinelli
T. Lancaster
B. Baylis
T. Davis

Public

A. McPike
J. Deeney
J. Conaway
A. Jacobs
C. Lee
R. Proudfoot
R. Winkleblech
J. Layton
K. Starkey
T. Pastor
J. Greenly
K. Conway
S. Gilbert
K. Lynch
M. Brooks
M. Mackert
N. Link
N. Bordley
C. Stevenson
M. Faulkner
M. Stone
P. Yeich
S. Puddicombe
D. Young
K. O'Brien
A. Mahan
L. French
S. Sapp
J. Dickerson
K. Nichols
S. Holloway
G. Layton
D. Louis
E. Snyder
A. Wilkinson
J. Emory
O. LaRagione
A. Johnson
A. Sharp
J. Tolbert
J. Roberts
V. Evans
B. Koppenhaver
E. Rust

Media: Terry Rogers, Milford Live

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education was called to order by President Wiley at 7:00 PM on Monday evening, August 3, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE BY MRS. PURCELL/SECONDED BY MRS. J. WYLIE to approve the minutes for July 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Dr. Dickerson stated Hybrid Board Meetings can be held in the Milford Central Academy cafeteria and the High School Auditorium. Thank you to Mr. Scott Whaley and his technology team. Thursday, August 6, 2020 will be a virtual meeting.

Dr. Kevin Dickerson, Superintendent, verified the election of Mr. Rony Baltazar-Lopez for a 2 year term and Mrs. Jean Wylie for a 5 year term beginning August 1, 2020 as Board Members.

Mrs. R. Wiley administered the Oath of Office (14 Del. Code, §1053) to Mr. Baltazar-Lopez and Mrs. J. Wylie.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Thompson nominated Mr. Miller for the Office of President. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez nominated himself for the Office of President.

MOTION MADE BY MRS. R. WILEY/SECONDED BY MR. THOMPSON that the nominations for the office of President be closed.

Roll Call: Mr. Baltazar-Lopez voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mr. Miller voted for Mr. Miller
Mrs. Purcell voted for Mr. Miller
Mr. Thompson voted for Mr. Miller
Mr. Vezmar voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mrs. R. Wiley voted for Mr. Miller
Mrs. J. Wylie voted for Mr. Miller

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez had 2 votes, Mr. Miller had 5 votes.

Mr. Miller was voted as President of the Milford Board of Education for the 2020-2021 year.

Mr. Miller assumed the Office of President.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Thompson nominated Mrs. Wiley for the Office of Vice President. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez nominated himself for the Office of Vice President.

MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR that the nominations for Vice President be closed.

Roll Call: Mr. Baltazar-Lopez voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mr. Miller voted for Mrs. R. Wiley
Mrs. Purcell voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mr. Thompson voted for Mrs. R. Wiley
Mr. Vezmar voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mrs. R. Wiley voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez
Mrs. J. Wylie voted for Mr. Baltazar-Lopez

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez had 5 votes, Mrs. R. Wiley had 2 votes.

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez was voted as Vice President of the Milford Board of Education for the 2020-2021 year.

MOTION MADE BY MRS. PURCELL/SECONDED BY MRS. J. WYLIE to appoint Dr. Dickerson as Executive Secretary of The Milford Board of Education for 2020-2021 School Year. **Motion passed unanimously.**

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Discussion and Potential Action Upon Milford School District School Reopening

Dr. Dickerson presented a power-point with state and district reopening information, state scenarios, family survey data, hybrid and remote learning models, and consideration for reopening of schools. Mr. Thompson asked what plans and/or techniques would be used for connectivity for families. More will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dr. Amory reported that staff have been learning new skills to cope with the chosen scenario for the 2020-2021 school year. Initial conversations with child facilities and the Boys and Girls Club are being held. Plans are being discussed for synchronous learning and asynchronous learning. The Teaching and Learning Management Systems will be Google Classroom for grades Prek-4 and Schoology for grades 5-12. Each student will receive a Chromebook for remote learning. Mr. Miller asked if there would be a webinar for parents for learning how to use the technology. Mr. Thompson asked for an actual rate of return and reusable Chromebooks. Dr. Amory responded the School Calendar does have days before school starts for family orientations with technology. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez feels remote learning should be implemented for the first marking period for the safety of the students, families, and staff. He expressed concern for internet reliability and asked how many families were connected. Mr. Whaley stated the spring questionnaire captured this information. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if funding would be provided for internet connection. Mrs. Croce responded remote learning and connectivity was written into the Cares grant. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if an inventory of bus drivers has been established. Mr. LoBiondo responded training has been done; and there is no indication of a shortage of bus drivers at this time. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez inquired about physical education requirements. Dr. Amory responded the state is still discussing this topic; but has no knowledge of exemptions.

Dr. Dickerson stated the district will follow DPH guidance if there is a COVID case. The room would be vacant and shut down for twenty-four hours and then a deep cleaning of the room would be done. Mrs. Smith replied the room is vacant for twenty-four hours to reduce the risk to clean. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked how students would make up work if they became ill. Dr. Dickerson responded the district has homebound, tutoring, remote learning, etc. and will work with families.

Mrs. Purcell expressed compliments for the plan presented. She does have a concern for teachers and their health and well-being; but would like to see more rigor in the classes than there was last spring. Mrs. Purcell feels the bus drivers will have more responsibility with the protocols put in place.

Mr. Thompson thanked Dr. Dickerson and the staff for doing a phenomenal job with preparing multiple options until solid advice is received. He is concerned for students with IEP's and their adaptability. Mr. Thompson believes the high school years are very important for students. Mrs. Manges responded that IEP teams develop plans based on student needs. Extra support is offered to the students.

Mr. Vezmar asked about the substitute inventory. Dr. Dickerson stated the district will reach out to the current substitutes; but is waiting for guidance with whether the substitute will have to have a new criminal background check for not working forty-five days last year because of schools being closed. Mr. Vezmar asked if students would be allowed to check out library books. This is still being discussed. Mr. Vezmar stated that per a DSEA survey, ninety percent of the workforce is scared to return and he wants that taken into consideration. Students learn better in the classroom. He doesn't agree with employees having to decide between their health and their job. He would like to start this year virtual and move towards the hybrid scenario.

Mrs. Wiley commended the district for their time and effort with planning. She is concerned with the teacher and students safety. She liked the idea of giving families their choice of being remote or doing the hybrid schedule. Mrs. Wiley stated there have more suicides by young students than students losing their lives to COVID-19. Students need a safe haven. The fall could bring more illnesses with the cold and flu season.

Mrs. Wylie has mixed emotions about returning to school and commended the district for their comprehensive plan. She is glad parents have a choice in this matter. She is concerned with students needing help at home when there is none because of parents working. The teachers spend a lot of time working and monitoring the

students. Mrs. Wylie feels students need to be in the classroom for socializing and hands on. She is concerned for the safety of everyone.

Mr. Miller doesn't feel parents should be able to opt in and out with hybrid learning.

MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MRS. WILEY to offer parents the choice of sending their children to school for the Hybrid Scenario or Remote Learning Scenario pending the Governor's recommendation.

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

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

2020-2021 School Uniform/Dress Code

Dr. Dickerson presented a modified dress code policy for the 2020-2021 School Year. With so much undecided regarding students returning to school, the district feels parents would save the expense of purchasing items. Students will be required to wear face coverings. Mrs. Purcell stated the dress code was designed to have all students look similar and feels this will lessen their desire to return to the previous requirements. Mr. Thompson feels the dress code should be re-visited each marking period. Mr. Parsley informed the group that the Pilot Dress Code went very well this spring for the high school students. Students were excited to know their voices were heard. Mrs. Wiley wanted to wait until the public comments were heard and make a decision at Thursday evening's meeting. She did feel the modification should be for the entire year. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked how the dress code would be enforced and what the penalties would be for not following it. Dr. Dickerson stated schools will work with families and steps taken follow the Code of Conduct. Mr. Vezmar feels the students need to follow the current policy.

MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MRS. WILEY to table the School Uniform/Dress Code until August 6, 2020 meeting to evaluate the Governor's guidance with returning to school. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Cinelli thanked the district for their planning efforts for the remote learning.

Kerry Stahl discussed her concerns for safety and school reopening. She suggested teaching remotely for six weeks.

Jenn Rowan expressed concerns for mental health services and students ill in the nurse's office. Ms. Manges stated mental health is a priority concern and a range of services, providers, and opportunities are available.

Sue Smith stated the number of students in the buildings will be significantly reduced with the Hybrid Scenario. Families will have the flexibility to keep their children home with medical conditions. Isolation areas will be available and parents will be notified to transport their student home.

Caleb Bontrager mentioned holding the meeting in a virtual setting. He commended the planning of the district and understands remote learning has challenges. He asked the protocol if a student would contract COVID-19. Dr. Dickerson responded the district will follow DPH's recommendation.

Ann Mahan discussed teachers' responsibility and workload. Teacher work hours should be established. Mr. Vezmar commented his wife has the same concerns and set hours are important.

The question was sent in asking if mental health resources are available to teachers. Dr. Dickerson responded regarding resources and further information will be shared at a future board meeting.

Tina Knotts discussed the importance of school reopening.

Questions sent it: If the Governor makes a decision as a whole, would the district be mindful of the number of cases in the communities. Dr. Dickerson responded yes. Dr. Dickerson discussed the importance of health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff, families, and the community.

Sue Smith reported the district is concerned with keeping the best interests of everyone. Dr. Dickerson is pleased to have a DPH liaison for district guidance.

Mr. Thompson stated the Board is doing what they can to have students return to school. Decisions will be made as information is gained. He believes teachers will teach to the best of their ability. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez feels the concerns of the community and employees need to be heard.

INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT PROGRAMS

Student Learning

2020-2021 Calendar Revision Discussion

MOTION MADE BY MRS. PURCELL/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to table the 2020-2021 School Calendar until August 6, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

BUSINESS

MSD Financial Position Report

Mrs. Croce stated this will be presented at a future board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE BY MRS. WILEY/SECONDED BY MRS. PURCELL to adjourn into Executive Session at 10:50PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MRS. PURCELL to adjourn Executive Session at 11:10PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PERSONNEL

Personnel Report

RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT – PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT*

BUTASI, Charlene

Ross – English Learners Teacher

Effective: School Year 2020-2021

CREAMER, Teri

Morris – Special Education Coordinator (11 mo.)

Effective: School Year 2020-2021

RESIGNATION

TURNER, Jeri

Morris – Special Education Coordinator (11 mo)

Effective: August 13, 2020

Service to MSD: 1 year

TURNER, Tia

Morris – Kindergarten Teacher

Effective: July 29, 2020

Service to MSD: 1 year

RETIREMENT

DUFFY, Joy
Banneker – Elementary Teacher
Effective: August 31, 2020
Service to MSD: 38 years

PIESHALA, Erin
High School – Clerk
Effective: August 31, 2020
Service to MSD: 4 years

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MRS. WILEY that the Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education held on Monday, August 3, 2020 adjourn at 11:12PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Dickerson, Executive Secretary

Edna Rust, Recording Secretary