

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

Board Members

Mr. J. Miller – President
Mr. Baltazar-Lopez –V. President
Mrs. J. Purcell
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
Dr. Stevenson
Mr. Parsley
Mrs. Wallace
Mrs. McKenzie
Dr. Kilgore
Mr. LoBiondo
Mr. Zoll
Dr. Cooper
Mr. Diaz
Mrs. Messick
Mr. Buford
Mrs. Hallman
Mrs. Carter

Public

S. Whaley
J. Griffin
A. Metzner
A. Martin
A. Reynolds
A. Cinque
A. Hurd
A. Roscoe
A. Jackson
A. Walls
A. Hood
A. Ochs
A. Sharp
A. Beisaw
A. Grant
B. Bishop
B. Humes
B. Humes
D. Louis
E. Rivera
C. Cintron
E. Roche
E. Lehr
E. Allen
G. Parfitt
G. Arce
H. Morton
H. Evans
H. Maradiaga
H. Barron
J. Wolfe
J. Purcell
J. Hall
J. Trunzo
J. Cardines
J. Thompson
J. Lehman
J. Rowan
J. Hallman
K. Walters
K. Galati
L. Joseph
L. Lee
L. Martin
L. French
L. Calvert
L. Lofland
L. Perez
L. Jones

Public

A. Carmean
A. March
A. Cannon
A. Jacobs
A. Gaglione
A. Johnson
A. Slonacher
A. Walls
A. McPike
A. Mills
A. Zobel
A. Mahan
A. Youmans
A. Walls
A. Dukes
B. Bahder
B. Neeman
D. Fleming
E. Rust
E. Norris
E. Deeb
E. Coverdale
E. Snyder
F. Flinstone
G. Layton
H. Hitchens
H. Mantz
H. Hudson
H. Willey
I. Heredia
J. Hill
J. Pase
J. Jester
J. Jumper
J. Greenly
J. Tolbert
J. Albright
J. Conaway
K. Whitelock
K. Conway
K. Feher
L. Lane
L. Nailor
L. Vann
L. Moorman
L. Passwaters
L. Garlick
L. Luff
L. Gooding

L. Williams	L. Carrillo
M. Firch	M. Thompson
M. Gresick	M. Faulkner
M. Babbitt	M. Tyndall
M. Kirkpatrick	M. Schmidt
M. Skocypec	M. Mackert
M. Stone	M. Sharp
M. Brownstein	M. Fry
N. Ridgeway	N. Bordley
N. Link	O. LaRagione
O. Aten	P. Heritage
P. Wells	P. Pastor
T. Pastor	T. Chilton
T. Lancaster	T. Sayles
T. Harrington	T. Mentzer
T. Smith	T. Watson
T. Gerken	T. Davis
T. Brannan	V. Killinger
V. Carter	V. Newsome
V. Kneiff	V. Evans
V. Hudson	W. Newsome
W. Dodge	Y. Reyna

Media: Terry Rogers, Milford Live

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education was called to order by President Miller at 7:05 PM on Thursday evening, August 6, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATE'S COMMUNICATION IN REGARD TO SCHOOL REOPENING

Governor Carney announced Delaware Schools may open in a hybrid scenario with precautions. Districts have the option to open in a more restrictive scenario. COVID testing will be available for students, teachers, and school staff before and throughout the school year.

Discussion and Potential Action Upon State's Communication in Regard to School Reopening

Mr. Whaley, Technology Supervisor, stated 1400 devices were deployed last spring and 1300 were returned with 26 damaged. Additional Chromebooks have been purchased. Cameras have been purchased to be used as webcams. Students will have access to the HelpDesk for technology issues while using devices at home. Funds are available for connectivity purchases for families that qualify. The technology department has continuously worked with district families with technology issues. Mr. Vezmar asked if the district had enough Chromebooks to start the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Purcell asked if there were enough for each student. Mr. Whaley responded there are enough devices for everyone enrolled. Mr. Whaley explained the district's expansion of connectivity strategies for students.

Dr. Dickerson reviewed aspects of the hybrid learning model and remote learning model, as well as the district's hybrid plan.

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MRS. WILEY to table the discussion for school reopening until after Public Comment. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Miller thanked everyone wanting to participate and reminded them of the five minute time limit. The Board will not participate with responses to any comment.

Grace Parfitt expressed concerns for reopening school and stands with DSEA with starting school remote for the first six weeks.

Brice Baylis expressed concerns for reopening school. He is not confident with returning students to school. Students should start the first six weeks remote.

Susan Puddicombe expressed concerns for reopening school and would like to begin the school year remote for safety reasons.

Vicki Hudson expressed concerns for reopening school and feels it imperative to start remote.

Kristi Whitelock expressed concerns for reopening school for health and safety reasons.

Jessica Rash expressed concerns for reopening school and would like to start the first six weeks remote.

Jeff Tolbert expressed concerns for reopening school and feels the district should begin the school year remote.

Sherry Geesaman expressed school reopening concerns.

Sara Wolfe spoke regarding school reopening and stated children who need one-on-one learning need to be in school.

Patrick Pastor spoke regarding school reopening and feels remote learning is the safest at this time.

Kristin Walters expressed concerns for reopening school and feels starting this school year remote is the best decision.

Val Newsome expressed concerns for reopening school and feels it would be unjust to start school in the Hybrid scenario.

Keith Mosher expressed concerns for reopening school.

Heather spoke on school reopening.

Ashley Walls would like to see the Hybrid scenario especially for special needs children.

Denise Heimbaugh feels remote learning for the first six weeks is best.

James Purcell feels the remote learning needs to be better than it was in the spring and mentioned the need for students to eventually get back into the schools.

Michele Stone spoke on school reopening and has faith in the staff to make remote learning good and positive.

Caleb Bontrager spoke on school reopening and is thankful for the remote learning option.

Lauren spoke on mental health needs and school reopening, and feels it would be smarter to start with remote learning.

Ann Mahan spoke on concerns with reopening school.

Sue Smith spoke on school reopening and is confident the district will keep everyone as safe as possible.

Kristin Conway spoke on school reopening and the importance of reopening.

Jenn Rowan spoke regarding if a waiver would be required for face-to-face learning.

Melody spoke on success of child care centers and the importance of reopening school.

#55 spoke regarding concerns for school reopening.

Mr. Thompson remarked a large number of people joined the meeting and asked Dr. Dickerson to share the district's acquiring of PPE's. Dr. Dickerson mentioned PPE purchased and ready for use.

Mr. Vezmar asked if more custodians would be hired with additional cleaning duties required. Would teachers decontaminate their rooms? Dr. Dickerson responded the district may reassign hours for current custodians and possibly hire part-time assistance.

Mrs. J. Wylie asked if the HVAC at the high school was antiquated and filters are being changed regularly. Will teachers prepare their courses from home or the classroom? Dr. Dickerson said the classrooms have more resources for staff to use; but this is not finalized.

Mrs. Purcell was concerned with staff feeling uncomfortable if they felt compromised because of health issues. Dr. Dickerson stated the district will try to protect everyone and make everything as safe as possible to return to work.

Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked why are we not listening to DSEA and MEA recommendations? Children can contract the virus. More money will be spent bringing students into the buildings with the precautions. He stated science should not be debated. If cleaning every fifteen minutes to two hours is recommended, is the district planning to hire more custodians? Dr. Dickerson stated the district is working through plans. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if the district would run out of money sooner than later. Dr. Dickerson responded the district is in good shape at this time. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if all students would be required to wear masks and was told yes. He then asked what will happen if families choose to not wear masks. The district has been successful in working with students and families during summer school. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if the district would commit to changing air filters every thirty days. Dr. Dickerson stated the district will do what is necessary. Dr. Stevenson described processes for changing filters. The high school HVAC system is in the best shape it has been for years with parts being replaced. Dr. Stevenson met with the custodians and discussed possibly changing shifts to overlap and the custodians were receptive to the request. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked about sick leave for staff. Mrs. Croce said the district will work under the Federal Guidelines which pays leave through December 31, 2020, for the virus. He then asked if the district is working with local child care facilities. Dr. Dickerson stated the district has been and will continue to contact community providers. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if state testing would be waived. Dr. Dickerson responded there have been state discussions concerning a request for a waiver. Mr. Baltazar-Lopez asked if it was safe for therapists to make home visits for behavior needs. Ms. Manges stated therapists have been in homes and continuing services to families. Additional mental health staff have been added to provide services.

Mrs. Purcell said hybrid gives a choice, while the remote does not. Teachers need to be considered regarding the return to school decision.

Mr. Thompson thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and concerns. The district will do everything possible to make students, families, and staff feel safe.

Mr. Vezmar remarked how the district has been preparing for the reopening of schools. He encourages everyone to continue being involved with the board meetings. Additionally, he has been contacted by

community members and district employees who want to start at least six weeks remote and slowly build to the hybrid scenario.

Mrs. J. Wylie stated teachers and community members are afraid and anxious. She would like to see six weeks of remote learning and then slowly move to the hybrid.

Mrs. R. Wiley commended everyone for all the time and effort put into the plans. There are no answers to control COVID at this time. She feels the 2020-2021 school year should start remote with the facts she has seen.

MOTION MADE BY MR. THOMPSON to move forward and open the 2020-2021 school year in the Hybrid Scenario. No second. **Motion failed.**

MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MRS. WILEY to start the 2020-2021 School Year in remote learning for the first six weeks.

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

5 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain. Motion passed.

Dr. Dickerson stated the district will move forward and a phase-in plan will need to be developed for after the six weeks.

INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT PROGRAMS

Student Learning

2020-2021 Calendar Revision Discussion

MOTION MADE BY MRS. WILEY/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR to adjust the first student day to September 9, 2020 for remote learning for the 2020-2021 School Calendar. Motion rescinded.

MOTION MADE BY MRS. WILEY/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented with the exception of the student start day to be September 9, 2020. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There will be more clarity for the remote plans at the August 17, 2020 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE BY MRS. PURCELL/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to adjourn into Executive Session at 10:00PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MR. THOMPSON to adjourn Executive Session at 10:26PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PERSONNEL

Personnel Report

RECOMMEND FOR EMPLOYMENT – PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT*

BENTON, Gabrielle

Mispillion – Elementary Teacher

Effective: School Year 2020-2021

FUHRMAN, Lurys

Banneker – Spanish Immersion Teacher

Effective: School Year 2020-2021

RESIGNATION

DELGADO, Glenda
Banneker – Spanish Immersion Teacher
Effective: August 3, 2020

BRANNER, Marina
Banneker – Librarian
Effective: August 21, 2020
Service to MSD: 7 years

RESCIND RETIREMENT

COLE, Shirley
Banneker – Chief Custodian
Effective: September 30, 2020

*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 MR. THOMPSON/SECONDED BY MRS. WILEY that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY MR. BALTAZAR-LOPEZ/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE that the Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 adjourn at 10:30PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Dickerson, Executive Secretary

Edna Rust, Recording Secretary