

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 26, 2023

Board Members in Attendance	
Mr. Jason Miller, President	Mr. David Vezmar
Mr. Scott Fitzgerald, Vice President	Mrs. Jean Wylie
Dr. Adam Brownstein	Dr. Bridget Amory, Executive Secretary
Mr. Matt Bucher	

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education was called to order by President Mr. Miller at 6:02 PM on Monday evening, June 26, 2023.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE BY MR. FITZGERALD/SECONDED BY DR. BROWNSTEIN to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2023.

Roll Call: Dr. Brownstein - yes Mr. Miller - yes
 Mr. Bucher – yes Mr. Vezmar – abstain
 Mr. Fitzgerald – yes Mrs. Wylie – yes
(Motion passed - 5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain)

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE BY MR. BUCHER/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:04 PM. **Motion passed unanimously.**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MR. FITZGERALD to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:05 PM. **Motion passed unanimously.**

CHANGES TO AGENDA - None

PERSONNEL – Ms. Manges

Personnel Report

MOTION MADE BY MR. BUCHER/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to accept the Personnel Report as presented during Executive Session. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Memorandum of Understanding between the Milford School District Board of Education and the Milford Education Association

MOTION MADE BY MR. FITZGERALD/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Milford School District Board of Education and the Milford Education Association. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Strategic Planning Committee Recognition

The Board of Education and Dr. Amory thanked the students, staff, caregivers and community members who helped to develop the Strategic Plan.

Employee Recognitions

Milford School District Teachers of the Year were recognized by Sussex County Council Member Cynthia Green and Kent County Council Member Robert Scott:

- Ms. Carly Phillips, Ross Elementary School
- Ms. Emily Schrock, Mispillion Elementary School
- Ms. Emily Coverdale, Milford Central Academy
- Ms. Shae Parks, Milford High School
- Ms. Taylor Ohrwashel, Morris Early Childhood Center
- Ms. Vicki Hudson, Banneker Elementary School and Milford School District Teacher of the Year

Milford School District Employees of the Year were recognized by the Board of Education:

- Ms. Chris Oplinger, Administrative Professional of the Year
- Ms. Yashmen Hood, Child Nutrition Employee of the Year
- Ms. Jordan Deeney, School Counselor of the Year
- Ms. Ann-Marie Nash, School Nurse of the Year
- Mr. Matt Bowman, Maintenance Employee of the Year
- Mr. Brian Reynolds, Custodian of the Year
- Ms. Amber Lovenguth, Related Services Employee of the Year
- Mr. Josh Mal, Technology Employee of the Year

Board Member Recognition

Plaques were presented to outgoing Board members, Mr. Jason Miller and Mr. David Vezmar, for their distinguished service and dedication to the Milford School District.

Reorganization Meeting July 10, 2023

The Milford School Board Reorganization Meeting will be held on July 10, 2023.

BUSINESS – Dr. Sara Hale

Revenue and Expenditure Report

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MRS. WYLIE to approve the Revenue and Expenditure Reports as of May 31, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

FY 2024 Preliminary Budget

MOTION MADE BY MR. BUCHER/SECONDED BY DR. BROWNSTEIN to approve the FY 2024 Preliminary Budget. **Motion passed unanimously.**

FY 2023-2024 Preliminary Tax Rates

Dr. Hale explained the preliminary tax rate proposal. According to the proposal there were a couple of variables impacting the school tax rates in FY 2024 including growth in property assessments (not reassessment), a second bond sale for the Milford Middle School Project, and debt service planning. The four major components of the school tax rate were explained. The Current Expense Tax rate provides revenue to cover operating costs. The Match Tax is set by the local board of education and does not require referendum approval. Milford is currently only assessing the Minor Capital Improvement Match Tax in order to receive the state funding for building and grounds repairs and maintenance. The Tuition Tax rate provides revenue to pay the tuition costs of Milford School District students with special needs who require specialized services with the district or who must attend special schools within and outside the State. The Debt Service Tax rate provides revenue to pay principal and interest payment associated with bonds sold for major capital improvements. Through Debt Service planning and property assessment growth, the District is proposing to decrease the tax rate for the 7th year while selling a new bond for the Milford Middle School project. It is important to note that although there was a successful referendum

for the new school, this proposal does not raise school taxes. The overall proposal lowers the entire school tax rate by 0.6 percent.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Dr. Hale

District Projects

Summer work has begun in all of the schools. The HVAC project at the High School is progressing.

MMS Project Update

The environmental abatement project is nearing the end. The Destruction bid opening will be taking place soon. A survey will be sent out by the District to see if there is an interest in the community for bricks from the building.

INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT PROGRAMS – Dr. Amory

Field Trip Approvals

MOTION MADE BY MR. FITZGERALD/SECONDED BY MR. BUCHER to approve the field trips as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

BOARD DISCUSSION

DSBA Updates

Dr. Brownstein reported that there will be an election for the President of the Board of Directors soon. Mr. Bucher was elected to be the Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Mr. Bucher reported that the Legislative Committee met and gave the status of the following legislative bills that are education related and their support status by DSBA:

HB 66 – School Performance Data Reports – Support

HB138 – Delaware Educator Apprenticeship Program – Support

HB163 – Junior Reserve Officer Training Core Instructor Licensure – Support

HB167 – Fund School Resources Officers in all DE public schools – Support

HB169 – Requests for Certificates of Necessity not included in proposed capital budget – Support

HB203 – Financial Literacy Class for HS Graduates - Oppose

DSBA Membership Dues

MOTION MADE BY MR. BUCHER/SECONDED BY MR. FITZGERALD to approve the DSBA membership for 2023-2024. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Recommended New Draft Board Policy for Action

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMAR/SECONDED BY MR. BUCHER to approve Board Policy 4305 Constable Market Analysis. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Recommended Revised Draft Board Policies for Action

MOTION MADE BY MR. FITZGERALD/SECONDED BY MR. VEZMAR to approve Revised Board Policy 4302(c) Local Salary Supplement: Technology Specialists; Revised Board Policy 4304 Local Salary Supplement: Food Service Manager; Revised Board Policy 4323(a) Local Salary Supplement: Cafeteria Workers; Revised Board Policy 4303(b) Local Salary Supplement: Chief Custodian. **Motion passed unanimously.**

CLOSING REMARKS FROM OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Vezmar and Mr. Miller gave closing remarks and thanked the employees of Milford School District for their service and thanked the Board Members for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY MR. VEZMER/SECONDED BY MR. MILLER that the Regular Meeting of the Milford Board of Education held on Monday, June 26, 2023, adjourned 7:58 PM. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Bridget Amory, Executive Secretary

Peggy Short, Recording Secretary