



Milford Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

January 2012

The Milford Board of Education held its regular business meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at Milford High School.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Mark Lutz, MHS Principal, welcomed the Board and shared that data received from recent PLAN and PSAT testing shows more than 500 students with potential to take on Advanced Placement courses. As scheduling for the high school begins in February, these students will be encouraged to take AP classes. He anticipates that approximately 500 students will be taking close to 1,000 AP tests in May, which is positive trend. Mr. Lutz thanked the support of all their parent groups and the hundreds of hours they volunteer. He also summarized the monetary donations from parent groups: PTSA \$23,000 for After Prom, teacher mini-grants, and top scholars recognition; Athletic Boosters-\$103,000 going towards athletic programs and facilities; and Band Boosters-more than \$10,000 to support the music program.

In honor of **Board of Education Recognition Month** in January, Dr. Farrell thanked the Board for the service they give to the community and the countless hours spent at meetings, listening to constituents, and reviewing information to help guide the district. "We want to say thanks, and throughout the month I encourage our community and staff to thank our Board members for their dedicated service," Dr. Farrell said.

Mary Will of the **Milford Schools Foundation** presented \$23,773 in mini-grants to Milford teachers and staff for equipment and programs to benefit Milford students.

MAST (Milford Area Swim Team) donated \$5,000 to the district for improvements of Milford High School's swimming complex. The donation went to new doors which enhance the look and energy efficiency of the pool. David Striet of MAST said he looks forward to a continued partnership between MAST and the district.

ATHLETIC UPDATE:

Mrs. Brady reported on the Eagles' winter teams and the many successes of our athletes. Four Milford alumni will be inducted into the 2011 Hall of Fame at the Friday, February 3, boys' basketball game at Milford High School. She reminded everyone they can follow Milford Athletics on Facebook and Twitter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Caudle reported that the district was again able to exceed the target of 2% savings in the budget last month. She reported a 3.13% percent savings for the month ending December 31, 2011. The Board also approved all financial reports and donations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Farrell recommended to the Board the approval of **revised TIF (Tax Increment Financing) agreements** with Union Township. The Board approved the TIFs which will go before Union Township Officials next week.

In 2003, the district agreed on TIFs for Polo Fields and Terrace Ridge subdivisions in exchange for property near these Union Township subdivisions to build a new elementary school. Since 2003, the demographics have changed and the anticipated growth in population has not happened. The most recent studies show that enrollment in the district has stabilized and there is no longer a need for an additional elementary school.

According to the terms of the new Terrace Ridge and Polo Fields TIFs, the district will now receive 25% of the property tax revenue collected by Union Township on these two areas from 2012 through 2018. Beginning with taxes collected in 2019, the district will receive 100% of the property taxes. The district will also receive 100% of any new millage voted on beginning January 1, 2012.

Revised TIFs were also agreed upon for the Sedacca and 450 areas near the I-275 interchange originally approved back in 2005. At that time, Union Township planned to use the tax dollars collected on this property to build offices for the district. This area has not been developed as planned. Further, the district no longer has plans to build office space as all central office, nutrition, and transportation personnel have been moved to the former Milford South Elementary school building on Garfield Avenue. From this point on, 100% of any tax dollars collected on these properties will go to the school district.

“We are pleased that Union Township agreed to these new terms. In these tough economic times, we are always looking for ways to both reduce our expenditures and find available revenue streams,” said Dr. Farrell.

Mrs. Brady commented that it is a great example of how the district goes through every contract to make sure everything is appropriate and cost effective. Mr. Lucas thanked former Board Member Gary Knepp for his efforts in leading the negotiations with the Board and Union Township and “the extraordinary effort he put to capture the funds we need desperately as a district. “

The Board also discussed the **structure of its committee work**. In March and April, they will pilot holding public work sessions (one per month) to discuss topics normally reserved for the Board committees such as facilities, athletics, finance, and communications.

The Board held the first reading of the **Data and Retention Policy** and the addition of emails as public records. The district will be directing staff on what emails need to be archived as public records.

Mrs. Marques reported on a collaboration with area communities and the **city of Milford to pursue grants to bring a performing arts center to the community in the future**. The city will be expanding its Bikes and Blooms event in 2013 and asked the district’s assistance in providing Milford students to perform and share their talents at the weekend event designed to increase interest in the local arts programs and support for this much-needed performing arts center.

CURRICULUM:

Selected 6th grade students will have the opportunity to complete 7th grade math concurrently with 6th grade math in preparation to take Integrated Math I for high school credit in grade 7. This puts students in position to take the second year of Advanced Placement Calculus their senior year.

Dr. Farrell reviewed the **selection guide for High School courses for 2012-2013** and highlighted new courses. The high school will be adding contemporary photography, which is a class for advanced students, Honors World History at 9th grade, AP World History, and Introduction to Mandarin Chinese I, which will be offered in the fall if there is enough interest.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

In addition to the approval of certified and classified contract recommendations, the Board approved a supplemental contract for **Patrick Murphy to work on the MHS Partners in Education program** which will be funded through grant money. Mr. Ackermann shared the value of focusing on this important partnership with our business community.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting February 16, 2012, Pattison Elementary, 5330 South Milford, Milford, Ohio 45150 at 7:00 p.m.