



Milford Board of Education

Meeting Summary

The Milford Board of Education held its regular Board meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2011 at Milford Junior High School.

Special Presentation

Kelli Ellison, Principal of Milford Junior High School, welcomed the Board and shared the bring your own technology device 8th grade pilot program and showcased the schools technology program through an animoto (animated slide show) put together by JHS teachers and students. The animoto presentation and other details of the program can be found on the Junior High School's Edline page.

Dr. Farrell and Board President, Mr. George Lucas presented a plaque from the Ohio School Board Association in recognition of Mr. Knepp's four years of service to the Milford School Board. Mr. Lucas said, "Mr. Knepp has been invaluable to this district and a great supporter of our schools. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his service."

Mr. Knepp shared his reflections on the past four years. He praised Dr. Farrell for his leadership and said the district is on the right course fiscally and academically. One of his goals before coming on the Board was to apply the business model to education in order to improve operational efficiency and performance. Mr. Knepp cited several examples of how this model has lead to improvements such as the high school construction project coming in on time and under budget. He commented that schools will continue to face fiscal challenges and must look at non-traditional methods to supplement declining revenue. He thanked his fellow Board members for their service, dedication, and healthy debate. "Milford is a very special place. When we pull together we can accomplish great things," he said.

Athletic Update

Debbie Marques gave an update on winter sports. The bowling, wrestling, swim/dive, and girls and boys basketball teams are all off to great start. The annual Milford Swim/Dive Invite is Saturday, January 7th beginning at 9 a.m. There is one home competition over break: Boys' Basketball vs. Mason on December 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Student Representatives

Michael George introduced the new student Board representative Megan Markham. They reported that the Student Council held a wreath sale and the money raised went to the Free Store Food Bank. DECA raised \$2,000 for the annual Mary Miller holiday fundraiser. The high school held a blood drive sponsored by Student Council and collected 27 units of blood.

Public Participation

Mr. Russ Ruehrwein came to address the Board about comments made by the district about the youth football program. His perception was the youth program was being blamed for the problems with the junior high and high school football program. Mr. Lucas addressed Mr. Ruehrwein's concerns and stated that it was not the district's intent to attribute problems to youth football, but said that greater interaction and cooperation between the youth program and the district program is essential for future success. He directed Mr. Ruehrwein to work with Mr. Trout and Mr. Elkin to assist in the transition from the youth to junior high school football program.

Mr. John Baker spoke to the Board to share that he is running for state representative to replaced Mr. Joe Uecker.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Deborah Caudle reported that the district exceeded its monthly goal of 2% savings with a 2.42 % savings

on the projected budget for the month. She also reported that a central office secretary will be retiring and the district will save \$30,000 by re-distributing central office administrative duties.

The Board:

- Approved all of the Financial Reports for the month ended November 30, 2011.
- Passed a resolution to adopt ING as the Common Remitter for 403(b).
- Authorized the Issuance of School Improvement General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2012 in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,635,000.
- Approved a donation of \$13,100 from the Milford Junior High School PTA: \$2,800 for Teacher Mini-Grant, \$4,800 for school programs, and \$5,500 for school purchases.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Farrell spoke about the College Board/Hanban sponsored trip he took to China with 450 other educators from throughout the United States. He shared that it was a great experience to learn about education in China. He visited over a dozen schools and said the average classroom had 60 students to every one teacher. He said that only 10% of Chinese students go on to university, so there is pressure and competitiveness to do well on examinations. He noted there is a strong appreciation of the arts in the schools. Dr. Farrell signed a partnership agreement with a Chinese middle school to begin communicating and sharing with Milford students and teachers in the upcoming months. Dr. Farrell also noted that the Chinese are looking to emulate the American education system to foster more diversity in their schools and evolve to a more facilitative and active teaching model.

The feasibility of teaching Chinese at Milford High School was also discussed. Currently, a few high school students are taking Chinese online which is a very difficult language to learn in this way. Dr. Farrell has been communicating with local districts about potentially sharing a Chinese teacher.

Items for Business Operations

The Board approved a shared service contract between Wyoming School District and Milford Food and Nutrition Services. This district will be sharing its Food Nutrition Supervisor with Wyoming. The contract runs the rest of this school year. The district will be monitoring this arrangement closely to ensure the cost savings are realized and that it does not negatively impact the quality of service.

Informational Item:

Mr. Jeff Johnson, Operations Manager spoke to the Board about the savings at Milford Main. Last year, the Clermont County Service Center began renting a portion of the building and this year they have expanded. St. Andrew's School, Miami Glen, and Fit 4 Kids are also renting space at Main. Through reductions in energy usage and the rent collected, the district is no longer losing money on maintaining the building. Mr. Johnson is projecting the district will be in the black this year on Milford Main for the first time. He hopes to bring in more renters in the unoccupied space and find continued uses to protect this historic building.

Items for Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Farrell reported on the Race to the Top grant. A team of teachers and administrators have been working together to address the improvement areas that are part of the grant. Teachers have been trained to use data to monitor and plan effective instruction. Through the grant, two math coaches have been hired to work with elementary and secondary teachers to ensure the curriculum is meeting the new common core standards. A team has also been studying Value Added measures and has developed a training plan for K-8. The Race to the Top initiatives are spearheaded by the District Leadership Team which is composed evenly of teachers and administrators.

Human Resources

The Board approved:

- Certified retirements/resignations for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Certified substitute teachers and athletic supplemental contract employment recommendations for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Classified employee resignations/retirements for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Classified employee contract recommendations for 2011-2012 school year.
- Approval of classified substitute recommendations including Media Aides, Teacher Aide, and a Drama Technician on an as needed basis.

Board of Education

Set the Organizational Meeting for January 5, 2012, 4:00 p.m., Milford Board of Education, 777 Garfield Avenue, Milford, Ohio 45150. The meeting schedule for 2012 will be decided at the organizational meeting.

Executive Session

The Board met in Executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of public employees or regulated individuals or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee or regulated individuals unless such person requests a public hearing and conference concerning disputes involving pending or imminent court action. No action was taken.