



Milford Board of Education Meeting Summary

The Milford Board of Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at Meadowview Elementary.

Special Presentations

Meadowview Principal Rob Dunn welcomed the Board and thanked his PTA and the community for their incredible support. Through their fundraising efforts, all of Meadowview's classrooms will now have projection systems. In addition to purchasing technology for every classroom, the PTA donated \$18,000 for a leveled book room which included materials for guided reading. They also donated money to purchase three SMART Boards. All of these donations totaled \$42,000.

Mr. Dunn introduced Jared Dettmer, who is Meadowview's first Student Council President, and Mrs. Pangallo, sixth grade teacher. Mrs. Pangallo shared the purpose of establishing a student council to develop a sense of pride and community throughout all the grade levels. Each grade has multiple student representatives and the sixth graders have a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Along with the teacher advisors, the student council will lead upcoming community service projects and other activities throughout the year that promote Meadowview's five points of character.

Milford High School Principal Mark Lutz introduced the seniors who received Certificates of Merit from the National Merit Corporation as Commended Students. These students achieved in the top five percent of the 1.5 million students who took the test. Commended students are: Julia Evanoff, Alexander Frank, Karen Kuhn, Eliza Marchant, and Nicholas Troehler.

Dr. Farrell and the Board recognized Mr. Tim Rhea, owner of Milford Commercial Cleaning Services, LLC for service to the district. Mr. Rhea, a Milford High School graduate, volunteered his services to clean Milford Main, a building still used by other schools and programs in the community. He offered to continue to clean the building every 90 days at no charge to the district.

Athletic Update

Mrs. Debbie Marques spoke about the highlights of a great fall season for Milford High School. There were successful girls and boys soccer and water polo seasons as well as a cross country runner AnneE Dalziel who just missed qualifying for the state meet. She said the athletes are hard at work preparing for winter sports including the dance teams as well as the academic team which begins its season next week. She invited everyone to come out and enjoy the action.

Mr. Gary Knepp addressed the poor football season and expressed the need to focus on the systemic problems in the district's football program. He felt discussions are needed to evaluate the program and discover where the problems lie. Milford's Athletic Director Mark Trout spoke to the Board and gave a comprehensive presentation about the numerous efforts in place to turn the football program into a winning one. He said that historically there have been a variety of contributing factors to the lack of success in Milford including: a lack of consistency in staffing in the past, the lack of a winning culture, and the connection of the youth and junior high football program.

He praised the tireless efforts of Shane Elkin and his staff over the past two years and stressed it takes an average of 4-6 years to build a winning football program. Mr. Trout stressed that he and the coaches are actively listening and making changes based on constructive feedback. The program has reached out to the youth football leagues and is looking to restructure the junior high school program. One positive change is the merging next season of the two Milford youth programs. One of the keys to Colerain's success is they run the same offensive program from K-12. Instituting continuity and pride with youth football will be a key determiner in the success of the program in the future. Mr. Trout stressed that the football program is a community-wide program from top to bottom.

Mr. Trout also spoke about how the coaches conduct one-on-one meetings and exit interviews for all teams as well as conduct surveys to continue to improve all of our sports teams and the experiences of our student athletes.

Mrs. Brady suggested that the district look to put systems in place to also receive feedback from our students who participate in extracurricular programs.

Public Participation

Todd Munro reported on the outstanding turnout and success of the Milford School Foundation's fall fundraiser. A total of \$45,000 was raised for the Foundation. He said connecting the distinguished alumni to the current high school students was a positive experience. Mr. Munro also shared that the applicants for the mini-grants from teachers have increased dramatically with the Foundation receiving 31 mini-grant applications this fall.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Caudle said the estimated savings of 2% is still on target for the year. She reported that the district continues to make additional cuts where possible. Through changes in the administration of the HSA account the district was able to save \$8000 this year.

The Board approved:

- Financial reports for the month ended 10/21/11.
- Donations:
 - Meadowview Elementary PTA – Ten Projection Systems in the amount of \$12,000.00, Leveled Book Room - \$18,000.00, and Three Smart Boards valued at \$12,000.00
 - Nordic Track EXP 1000 X1 Treadmill valued at \$800.00 to MHS Special Education Department by Diane Snow
 - Napoleon McCallum memorabilia framed print to MHS Athletic Department, valued at \$350.00 by Kate and Tim Ackermann

Superintendent's Report

- Approved agreement between Milford Board of Education and MEA-Milford Education Association adding new supplemental position for Partners in Education Coordinator to rekindle this program in Milford.
- Approved of Second Reading of the Data and Records Retention File

Information Items:

Dr. Farrell shared with the Board two information items on Cellular Phone Texting Agreement and Parent/Guardian Consent to Receive Text Messages. He explained that in certain cases teachers, especially coaches, have the need to text students regarding last minutes changes or reminders. He is proposing this procedure, which requires parents/guardians to grant permission for their child to receive text messages. The procedure also limits what type of information/messages that can be texted to students.

Items for Business Operations

Jeff Johnson, Operations Manager, shared with the Board the cost savings accomplished through cooperative purchasing agreements and shared services. The district has saved significant revenue in the areas of technology, health insurance, food service, and custodial supplies by joining forces with other schools districts and government entities. For example, the district was able to purchase bulk salt from Miami Township at a greatly reduced rate.

Items for Curriculum and Instruction

- Approved trips out of the district for the Wrestling team, Boys Basketball team and Varsity Cheerleaders. All at no cost to the district.

Human Resources Section

Certified Items

- Approved supplemental contract employment recommendations for the 2011-2012 school year for athletics, gifted education, volunteers, and substitute teachers.
- Approved FCLA without pay for three certified staff members.

Classified Items

Approved classified employee resignations, contract recommendations, and substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year.

Board of Education

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting December 15, 2011, Milford Junior High School, 5735 Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road, Milford, Ohio 45150 at 7 p.m.

Executive Session

The Board held an Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 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.
- Conference concerning disputes involving pending or imminent court action.
- No action was taken.