

Milford Board of Education
May 20 Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

The regular May meeting took place at Milford Junior High. Principal, Kelli Ellison, welcomed the board and the audience in attendance. She presented information about the school's intervention program called "Response to Intervention" for this year and goals for next year. She said they are committed to the success for all students. There are three tiers of intervention. Each tier serves students from the least need for intervention to the greatest need. The junior high also incorporated an anti-bullying program within the first tier of intervention to address behavior in addition to academics. The school implemented a reading lab to ensure students are reading at grade level. The school also created a math panel of teachers, counselors, psychologists and administrators to plan for math intervention for next school year. Professional development is a key component of the plan in order to make sure staff is appropriately trained and knowledgeable in working with the new Response to Intervention program.

Special Presentation--The Air Force Association President Robert Brewer presented its Teacher of the Year honor to Milford Junior High teacher Steve Heck. Mr. Heck said, "It is a tremendous honor and I hope to live up to the expectations."

Dr. Kathy Frye presented information from the gender data study. A committee made up of teachers, parents, a board member and administrators reviewed the differences between male and female learning and behavior. The committee worked an entire calendar year to discuss gender data. This is an update on the work done this year. The committee looked at research studies and articles, district data, state test scores, discipline, number of male/female teachers and survey information. By December 2010, the committee intends to present recommendations, but not at this time. The results of the data show that there is an alarming gap across the country between the progress in reading and writing for boys and girls. It does not mean one gender is inferior to the other, but rather should the district explore different ways of instruction to narrow that gap. In researching discipline in Milford Schools, it shows that 85% of discipline issues, at the elementary level, involve boys. At the HS, more than 75% of disciplinary issues, involving an administrator, involve a male. The committee also provided a survey to community members, students and teachers. The committee is reviewing the results from the surveys and the narrative responses provided by survey takers. The updated report will be available on the website.

Director of Human Resources Tim Ackermann presented information related to the Long Range Plan. For May, the strategic choice for discussion is Staff Structure and Ratios. The goal of this strategic choice is "We will maintain staffing structures and teacher/student ratios that improve the performance of all students." This year, the district has a few larger class sizes in 1st and 2nd grade. The district used stimulus money to hire part-time title teachers to reduce reading class sizes in those buildings with larger class sizes. Each year, the district re-evaluates its staffing. If enrollment does not justify a position, the district does not fill that spot. If a new position is warranted, the district will add a position.

Athletic Report:

Milford vs. Fairfield tonight in the playoffs for boys baseball...Milford lost 11-10.

Boys track had 4- 1st place finishes. The team won the FAVC Relays and other meets
Girls track was in the top 3 of the FAVC Championships
Varsity Baseball had its first outright Buckeye Divisional title. This is the second league title in three years.
Girls Softball had a record of 18-9. Pitcher set the MHS record for most career strikeouts.
Boys Tennis finished with 8-6 record.
Boys Volleyball had a 10-5 record.
Good luck to the student athletes still competing in the state tournament.

BAC Report:

BAC Chairperson Jeff Lykins presented the list of BAC members for this year. Mr. Lykins worked with Dr. Farrell and the Clermont County Department of Economic Development and the Milford-Miami Township Chamber of Commerce to brainstorm a list of names of potential members or companies from which to recruit members for the BAC. They wanted representatives from government, business and education. Members include:

Bill George	Climax Packaging Machinery
Karen Huff	Milford Miami Township Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
Brett Bumgarner	Xpedex
Denny Begue	Brower Insurance
Jeff Wright	Miami Township
Mike Fritz	Great Oaks
Barbara Wallace	Clermont College
Representative from International Techne Group	

The group will meet in June for the first meeting.

Student Report:

AP Exams were two weeks ago.

Student Council held inductions including identifying 8th graders with an interest in joining student council during their freshman year.

Prom was May 15. The theme is "When in Rome". Thanks to Kathy Teski for a wonderful event. After Prom also was very successful and thanks to all of the parents and staff who made it possible.

Tonight is junior and senior awards night

Graduation is May 22 at the Cintas Center.

Relay for Life teams are organizing at the high school. The event is June 5-6 at the high school stadium.

Public Participation:

Board member Gary Knepp read statements from soldiers who received care packages put together by the students and community members. There were so many packages, that the organization sending them was able to save some of the packages and send at a later date after the holidays. The soldiers appreciate the thoughts and packages sent.

Treasurer's Section:

Board approved financial reports.

Appropriations report is on budget.

In revenue, reimbursement money from Ohio for highly specialized special education students took a big cut by about \$300,000. The district is working to gain revenue from Medicaid for work done for students with the greatest needs.

Superintendent's Section:

Board approved design phase review for the addition at the junior high.

Board approved bid package awards for the work at the junior high. This is a 4-classroom addition at the junior high. The district also will move the four classroom Ninth Grade Community modular unit that the district owns from the high school to the junior high for use there.

Board approved bid package awards for the renovation of the swimming pool. Repairs are needed for the pool. A good bid allowed the district to add an ultra-violet filter system to make the water even cleaner without the use of more chlorine. Chlorine is still needed, but it will be reduced dramatically.

Board approved membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for 10-11.

Board approved agreement with Miami Township to provide school bus service to the township for its summer Dare camps and safety camps. Miami Township pays for the service, but at a reduced rate because the district is sponsoring it.

Board approved foreign exchange students.

Board approved handbooks for 10-11.

Dr. Farrell presented informational items regarding policies and regulations.

One of the changes relates to the random drug testing. The plan now is to conduct random drug tests about 5 students per week rather than a quarterly basis. The tests are conducted only on students involved in extra-curricular activities. There is a new process of conducting the test also that will reduce the cost involved for the program.

Human Resources

Board approved resignations/retirements.

Board approved certified recommendations for Summer School in 2010.

Board approved certified recommendations for 2010-2011.

Board approved retire/rehire for one teacher.

Board approved classified recommendations for 09-10.

Board approved classified recommendations for 10-11.

Board approved a non-renewal.

Board approved substitutes.

Board approved building supplemental contracts.

Board approved extended service counseling for 10-11 school year.

Board approved athletic supplemental contracts.

Curriculum & Instruction

Board approved textbooks for Family and Consumer Sciences at Milford HS.

Informational items:

State Standards Adoption—the Curriculum and Instruction committee has discussed the new standards for social studies and science. This new curriculum will not go into effect until 2014,

but there is a question if certain aspects of the standards will be approved or not. There is concern by some groups about some of the strands. There is concern from a number of groups including veterans that there is a lack of emphasis in the new standards of American History. Some groups are calling for a delay, by one year, of the standards to allow for more discussion and a revision of the standards. The Ohio Department of Education is asking for approval now and revisions can be made after approval. Board member Gary Knepp asked for the board to approve a resolution supporting House Bill 494 or other like bills that requests a delay in adopting the standards. The board approved the resolution.

Spring testing update—all spring tests are complete. The district received preliminary results for the Ohio Graduation Tests. The results, so far, are very good, but the district will wait until the results are finalized before presenting to the board.

The district will receive results from Ohio Achievement Assessments for grades 3-8 in June.

Credit Flexibility—Dr. Frye and Nancy House presented a report on the Ohio Core/Physical Education and credit flexibility. Ohio allows districts to exempt students from the Physical Education requirement if they participate in athletics, marching band, cheerleading or JROTC. Milford does not allow this. Current options for PE credit include participating during the regular school day or Summer PE which allows students to earn the PE credit during the summer and schedule other classes during the school year. For Ohio Core, the state requires students to participate for two full seasons to receive PE credit. There is a senate bill that calls to rescind this option for schools to determine on an individual basis.

With credit flex, students could earn credit for a class by means other than the traditional classroom. A credit flex committee is creating the guidelines on how students can submit a plan to be approved to receive credit. PE credit is one to be considered that students could submit a plan that meets the PE standards and document activities for proof of completing the plan. The board wants to make sure that the PE curriculum focuses on teaching students about the importance of lifetime health and good physical fitness now and in the long term. If the current curriculum does not emphasize lifetime fitness, it will need to be improved.

Board approved the extension of Dr. Farrell's contract to 2011-2014. There are no changes in the terms of his contract, but it will keep him here through 2014.

Public participation—A community member asked a question about the status of moving .5 mills to a permanent improvement fund. The district is exploring this option and plans to finalize a decision in December. Moving this inside millage will not affect an individual's tax burden but will comply with the Ohio School Facilities' requirement to have monies set aside for preventative maintenance. A public hearing will take place probably in September or October during a regular board meeting.

Next regular board meeting is June 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Mulberry Elementary, 5950 Buckwheat Road, Milford, Ohio 45150.