

Milford Board of Education  
April 15 Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

The regular April meeting took place at Boyd E. Smith Elementary. Principal, Dr. Jill Chin, welcomed the board and the audience in attendance.

Dr. Chin said the biggest strength of Smith is its caring staff. The school also has a tremendous support from parents with the PTO. The greatest challenge is space in the school. The staff currently uses every closet and small space for use in educating students.

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Farrell, made a special presentation of an Eagle Scout award to Ross Leonard for a landscaping project at Milford High School.

Dave Meranda, president of Milford Athletic Boosters, made a presentation of a donation to the district. This is the second annual payment of \$85,000 as part of the Boosters commitment to donate \$425,000 to the district to support improvements to the athletic facilities. All of the improvements are part of the Athletic Department's Long Range Strategic Plan to provide better facilities for Milford student-athletes. The Booster donation is paying for the tennis courts and the soccer stadium improvements and contributing to the new fields which were part of the plan for the high school including the concession stands, press box and dugouts.

Director of Human Resources Tim Ackermann along with Nancy House and Dr. Jill Chin presented information to the board about the intervention strategic choice for the district's Long Range Plan. The goal of intervention is to address the needs of all students through differentiated instruction and targeted intervention. Response to Intervention (RTI) is a systematic approach to providing intervention to students. There are three tiers of service depending on the needs of the student. One aspect of the program includes professional development for staff in all buildings so that teachers can communicate effectively about the same program to help students. Once the system implementation is complete, the district will begin reviewing student behavior to address the needs of students in that area as well.

Operations Manager Jeff Johnson presented information about ADA accessibility issues at the Milford HS football stadium. The district reviewed the concerns from a citizen that there was not enough accessibility for people in wheelchairs. The citizen shared pictures of the stadium for Goshen High School. It showed that there were ramps available at the stadium. The temporary solution, for Milford, is to provide a small set of bleachers for both home and visitors on the track that provides a clear view of the action on the football field. There would be enough space for people with disabilities and their families to have a clear view of the game. Athletic Director Mark Trout is working to create a committee to discuss a long term plan for better access at the football stadium for the future.

Jeff Johnson also provided an update to the bond issue construction and its budget. The Bond Issue fund is \$31.375 million. Committed costs are \$28.6 million. Uncommitted funds are \$2.7 million. The district has a budget of \$1.221 million for the four new classrooms at Milford Junior High. With additional costs in the budget, the balance is about \$712,000. The district is reviewing our schools to determine the highest priority for possibly spending the remainder of

the balance from the bond issue funds. The money must be used for capital improvements. The district reviewed the swimming pool area, and there is deterioration and rust in the ceiling, the diving boards and starting blocks. The pool pump also is leaking and malfunctioning. The pool filtration system is inefficient. The district is reviewing other systems for better efficiency. There is cracking on the deck surrounding the pool that is in need of repairs. The total approximate budget for all of the repairs to the pool area is \$300,000. The district also is looking to replace a number of windows at the high school. The new addition has new windows and the district is reviewing replacing about \$100,000 worth of windows that are in the greatest need for replacement. That leaves a balance of \$310,000 for contingencies for the entire high school construction project.

Milford High School Physical Education teacher Joe Cambron presented the physical education curriculum. The committee reviewed societal issues including increases in childhood obesity, childhood diabetes and a decrease in childhood activity. Students have five choices in a physical education program at Milford HS. This includes aquatics, individual sports, outdoor recreation, team sports and weightlifting/fitness. Ohio requires that students take two semesters of physical education in order to graduate. The district also offers summer physical education so students can earn the required credit, but free up space on their schedule during the school year.

#### **Athletic Report:**

Boys Track/Field is off to a fantastic start—winning the FAVC Relay Invitational, the Milford Relays and the Anderson “Run ‘Em All” Meet. Boys and Girls track will host the MHS Invitational on April 22-23

Varsity baseball continues to win and currently sits in first place in the Buckeye division. The home varsity games this year are located at the Blue Ash Sports Complex or Schuler Fields due to construction at the high school.

Varsity Girls Softball is on a five game winning streak after a win over Winton Woods on April 13. The next home game is April 20 against McAuley. Softball home games are at Tealtown Ballpark.

Boys tennis began divisional play by beating Harrison 5-0. They are tied for first place in the Buckeye Division at 2-0. Home varsity matches are at Lunken Courts.

Boys Volleyball won its last contest vs. Hamilton to up its record to 4-2. Next home match is April 20 vs. Loveland.

#### **Student Report:**

Teacher Appreciation is May 3-7. If you own a business and wish to donate, contact Susan Randall at Milford High School.

Ohio Association of Student Council will hold its state conference later this month. Milford HS will send 17 students to the conference.

Next week, the school will celebrate “Secretaries Day”

The students held a Talent Show to raise money for the Ray Bauer Memorial Fund. The show raised \$2,474. Thanks to staff members and seniors who participated.

The Senior class will sell bracelets that say, “Our Ray of Sunshine” with profits benefitting the Bauer Memorial Fund.

Prom is May 15 from 8-12am. The theme is “When in Rome”. Prom takes place at Oasis Conference Center

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

### **Public Participation:**

A parent presented information requesting that the board approve a plan to replace the flooring in the Smith Elementary gym. The parent provided quotes from flooring companies.

A different parent also asked the board if there is any discussion about allowing students who are involved with marching band or school athletics, to receive credit for physical education without taking the required physical education course. The district, as part of a credit flexibility plan, is reviewing the options to allow students to submit plans that allow them to earn credit by completing the work outside of the traditional classroom. This could include physical education credit.

### **Treasurer's Section:**

Board approved financial reports.

Board also approved the instructional fees for the 2010-2011 school year. The fees were established after several meetings with principals who discussed what the fees pay for and what materials are required in the classrooms that are covered by the fees.

The district's Finance Committee recommends the board begin the formal process of moving .5 mills from the district's General Fund to the Permanent Improvement Fund for use on capital improvements. This is the first introduction of the concept to the board. There will be further public hearings in the coming months to discuss this idea further. The plan is to move funds from one budget to another. This will not result in an increase in taxes from the community. This sets specific money aside for permanent improvement projects. The district is working on developing a long term maintenance plan for district facilities. These funds would be earmarked for these projects. This is a way that the district can invest in its facilities by reserving money for specific projects. This .5 mill equates to \$490,000 for permanent improvements.

### **Superintendent's Section**

Board approved numerous resolutions authorizing construction of four new classrooms at Milford Junior High. This work is possible due to the bidding process for the high school additions that turned out to be well under budget. There was money remaining in the bond issue to do different capital improvement projects not originally planned. The junior high is in need of additional space as an increase in enrollment is projected in a few years. This construction would result in four new classrooms to provide additional space for those students.

Board approved resolution to replace more windows at Milford High School.

Board approved resolutions to approve a project schedule, create detailed estimates for construction costs, and authorize commencement of bidding for repairs to the pool at Milford High School.

Board approved a revision to the policy about Hazing and Bullying to include aspects of harassment, intimidation and dating violence.

Board accepted a donation of volleyball equipment for the high school auxiliary gym.

Board approved administrative contracts for two principals:

Milford High School—Mark Lutz

Boyd E. Smith Elementary—Brad Lovell

## **Human Resources**

Board approved resignations/retirements/non-renewals/recalls/transfers/RIF's

Board approved certified recommendations for the 2010-2011 school year.

Board approved retire/rehire for 10-11 for Randy Vaughan

Board approved classified recommendations for 09-10

Board approved home instruction tutors

Board approved substitute custodian

Board approved lighting technicians

Board approved building supplemental contracts

Board approved athletic supplemental contracts

Board approved volunteers

Board approved medical leave

## **Curriculum & Instruction**

Board approved an out of state trip for DECA students to the International Career Development Conference in Louisville, KY from April 24-28. There is no cost to the district.

Board approved pay for teachers working on writing and revising the K-6 mathematics course of study.

Board had a first reading of textbooks for Family and Consumer Sciences at Milford HS

Information item: April testing for Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) for grades 3-8 begin on April 19. They continue until May 7. There are 4,000 tests awaiting students for that week.

Race to the Top. Ohio did not qualify in the first round of federal money for implementing new programs for curriculum. Milford did apply to the project and hope to apply again with Ohio in May to qualify for federal funds. Milford is only one of 268 districts in the state to participate in the program.

Extended Day—Summer Camps: There is a reduction in the number of field trips for this summer. The program instead is bringing fun activities to the site for student enjoyment rather than transport children to other locations. Another issue is without the pool at the high school during school construction and pool repair, swimming at the high school is not an option for summer campers.

The board approved a resolution to assign tasks to the Business Advisory Committee to review. They include:

- Work with the Clermont County Economic Development Corporation and other agencies to promote the development of 21st century job skills for our students.
- Evaluate and make recommendations as to replacing the grass turf with artificial surface for the high school football stadium.
- Evaluate recommendations made by various citizen groups as to their suitability for adoption by the district. Review the suggestions made by the state audit commission to the district as their suitability for adoption by the district.

The board encouraged members of the community to come forward if he/she has an interest in any or all of the tasks assigned for the BAC. The committee is looking for people who are interested in working on these assignments.

Next regular board meeting is May 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Milford Junior High, 5735 Wolfpen-Pleasant Hill Road, Milford, Ohio 45150