

Milford Board of Education

January 21, 2010

The January Board of Education meeting took place at Milford High School.

Interim Principal Nancy House welcomed the board and the audience.

She highlighted two accomplishments for the school:

In December, five teams from the high school competed in the Clermont County Science Challenge. Out of 9 schools with a total of 51 individual teams, Milford teams finished 1st, 2nd, 12th, 23rd, and 31st overall. Science teachers should be commended for the work that went into preparation for the students. Congratulations to the students for excelling under pressure!

Mrs. House also recognized junior Sarah Pellington. She is one of the finalists for the Overture Awards. She is in the vocal performance category. She will perform Feb. 27 between 1-4 p.m. along with other finalists at the Jarson-Kaplan Theater at the Aronoff Center for the Arts.

Students compete for scholarships.

The high school is making great progress towards effective intervention with students using a new data program. The system will allow teachers to track progress for students. The data will help teachers to provide differentiated instruction.

Dr. Robert Farrell presented school board recognition. Across the state, school districts take time to express thanks to the citizens who commit their time and energy to be a board member. The Ohio School Boards provided certificates of appreciation to each board member.

Dr. Farrell began a presentation about the district's Long Term Plan. This month, the district is reviewing the district's progress in Communication. Board members Debbie Marques and Andrea Brady are working on a Communications Plan for the district for the long term. One element of the communications strategy is to promote 2-way communication. DECA marketing students Megan Raabe and Hannah Neverman along with other community members and staff developed a survey. The results of the survey are now posted on the district website.

The students launched the survey on November 11 and closed it on December 16. There were 1,336 visits to the Zoomerang site. 4% were partial completions. 72% were full completion. The surveys were available on paper, but more than 90% completed the survey online.

Jeff Johnson, Operations Director, took bids on technology, roof work and furnishings for the expansions and renovations at Milford HS. The budget was \$1.182 million. The bids came in about \$92,000 under budget. Part of technology includes cameras for security purposes. All of the high school will be covered now with the new cameras. The roofing bids include replacement panels for the roof. The bids came in almost \$25,000 under budget.

The third bid package was for furniture. The bids came in significantly over budget. The low bid was just under \$740,000. The district rejected all bids and will re-work the packages to get a bid that is closer to our budget. Mr. Johnson recommended that the board accept the first two bid packages now. The board will review the furniture bids on the second round.

Some of the highlights for the technology bid include:

Technology Coordinator Lynn Ochs recognized Edward Keyes who started the work on the bidding project and is retiring at the end of the month. Marc Hopkins is the new Network Systems Director replacing Mr. Keyes.

Mr. Hopkins explained some aspects of the infrastructure for technology. The plan is for the maximum long term benefit for the best cost. This includes internet connections, servers and telephones. Manufacturers are very aggressive with bidding to get the work. The plan will save capital and maintenance costs now and in the future. They will merge six servers into one server area. This is more efficient and saves money. The speed will increase 10x. There will be a wireless network for staff and students.

There will be amplified classrooms in the new wing—speakers that will ensure that students get the material shared by teachers. A streaming video system will allow for multi-media for students to capture video inside and out of the classroom and share with classmates and the outside world. The new technology also is designed for ease of use to make sure teachers can utilize the systems.

BAC Update:

Dave Yockey discussed the options to change the direction of the Business Advisory Committee. The state vision in Ohio is that it is student oriented. The goal is to ensure that academic subjects best prepare students for college or the workforce. Mr. Yockey sees this committee as student focused and will encourage more involvement from business partners. He suggested the board search for a chairperson to lead this group and volunteers to be members of the group.

Gary Knepp agreed that the BAC should focus also on student learning, but should also maintain a voice in working on projects to help save the district money. The BAC has been very successful in reviewing district operations and finding ways to operate more efficiently and save costs.

Dr. Farrell suggested some changes in the BAC regulations to allow for more flexibility for involvement from numerous businesses large and small.

There was a motion for Dr. Farrell to seek out applicants over the next 30 days for chairperson and committee members.

There was another motion to revisit the policy and regulations for BAC to give it new purpose and mission and more flexibility for operations.

Athletic Update:

The Milford Athletic Boosters inducted four people into the Milford Athletic Hall of Fame.

- Zach Strief, Class of 2001 (Football, Basketball and Track)--He is currently an offensive lineman for the New Orleans Saints who will play in the Super Bowl
- Jennifer (Churchill) Bruce, Class of 1995 (Volleyball and Basketball)—teacher at Milford Junior High
- Mike Farley, Class of 1969 (Football, Basketball, Baseball and Golf)
- Jim Prather, Football Coach (1984 – 1996) & AD (1984 – 1999)

The inductions took place before the boys basketball game on January 22.

Team update:

Mens bowling 9-6 records

Girls bowling 9-6 records

Wrestling—January 29-30—Milford Invitational

Academic Team is having great success. The team remains undefeated in FAVC Buckeye division

Swim teams are—Beau Robinson is among FAVC leaders in several events. Ladies—Lauren McClure and Julie Brown lead in several events

Lady Eagles basketball is 5-7 for the first half of the season

Boys basketball has a 7-4 record. Victories over Loveland and Glen Este

Student Representatives:

In January, Student Council held a dodge ball tournament earlier in the month

Winter Assembly January 29—will include final match for dodge ball

March 4—there will be a blood drive

Footloose will be the spring musical for drama

March 6 is the spring dance “Blockbuster Spring Ball”

Teacher Appreciation week—Student Council is asking for business support to provide gift cards for teachers.

Treasurer’s Report:

Approval of financial reports

\$172,000 interest for the month—due to the expiration of an investment that paid at a higher percent

Superintendent’s section:

Approval of a donation for a coffee maker

Approval of Interim Director for Extended Day Feb 1-July 30. This is necessary because Janie Thompson is retiring. Melody May will replace her as Interim Director.

Memorandum of Understanding between MCEA and the board—it concerns calamity days

Approval to reduce employees for Extended Day due to reduction in enrollment in the program.

Approval of resolution to award contracts for bid packages for technology and roofing materials—it is stucco material. It has deteriorated and requires replacing. The district will get a 28% reimbursement on materials because it will now meet code for OSFC.

Gary Knepp made a pledge in September that he would donate his salary for the quarter to the Dr. Ray Bauer Scholarship fund. He presented the check to Treasurer Randy Seymour

Human Resources:

Approval of resignations and retirements—

The board approved contract recommendations, substitutes, home instruction tutors, Long Term substitute teachers, district supplemental contracts, OTELA—Ohio Test of English Language Acquisition in-service for staff member, athletic supplemental recommendations, volunteers and site supervisors and Family Care Leave--without pay.

Curriculum & Instruction:

Credit flexibility—The board will get a policy for a first reading in February for credit flexibility. It is part of the Ohio CORE legislation, so school boards are required to adopt a policy and create a plan for the 2010-2011 school year. It shifts the focus away from seat time and attending a class more to performance. Students can earn credits based on an individual plan. Students can earn credit by completing coursework, testing out of classes or seeking out

alternative ways of getting access to the course material.

Plan to form a committee for credit flexibility. It will include parents, teachers, students and administrators. Anyone interested in this committee should contact Dr. Kathy Frye at frye_k@milfordschools.org

Summer programs—It is not too early to begin planning for summer sessions. At the elementary level we will host Camp Invention—June 7-11 with a resident and non-resident fee. We will provide a grade 3 reading intervention for students who did not pass the 3rd grade reading OAT. Jr. High will offer intervention and remediation. Those sessions will include June 14-25 and June 28-July 12

HS—Summer P.E held at Meadowview Elementary from June 7-24 and July 6-23. The HS also will offer American Government during the same dates. This will take place at the Success Academy. Online courses will be available through the Success Academy.

Public Participation:

A community member asked the board to review athletic facilities for handicap accessibility. The board directed Dr. Farrell to review it and seek out options.

Andrea Brady discussed the plan to replace Dr. Kathy Frye who will be retiring in June. The Personnel committee is contemplating replacing her assistant superintendent position and the gifted supervisor with two director positions—one to focus on the elementary level and one for grades 7-12. Mrs. Brady suggested offering a public discussion and board work session to allow the community to ask questions about the position and curriculum in general. The board will include this discussion at its special meeting scheduled for February 4th.

Next Board meeting:

Special Board Meeting--February 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Milford Junior High—5735 Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road, Milford Ohio 45150—the Board will review recommendations to add on classrooms to the junior high and invites the community for discussion about curriculum and Dr. Frye's position.

Regular Meeting—February 18, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Pattison Elementary—5330 South Milford Road, Milford Ohio 45150