MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
Milford High School – Lecture Hall, Room #182
(Zoom Access)
August 17, 2026
7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present:

Ms. Karin Cevasco, Chair
Ms. Amy Clark Canty, Vice-Chair
Mr. Ryan Freed, Secretary
Mr. John Clary, Board Member

Participating via Zoom:

Ms. Tara Davoli, Board Member

Also Present:

Ms. Christi Michaud, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Jan Radowicz, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning and Federal Projects
Mr. Benjamin Kilar, Business Administrator

Ms. Cevasco noted that as Ms. Davoli was participating via Zoom, all votes would be taken by roll call.

Ms. Cevasco read aloud the Milford School District's vision statement as follows:

The Milford School District will be an inspiring community where deep learning, and strong relationships empower all students to become designers of their own story.

The primary goal of the Milford School Board is to provide a free and appropriate public education to Milford students and to realize the district's mission statement.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to conduct the business of the Milford School Board. We publish our agenda in advance of our meeting, including all exhibits, to give the public notice and ensure you know what to expect this evening.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION: Seeing there was no public comment, Ms. Cevasco made a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (*Exhibits attached to meeting agenda)

a. *Approval of Minutes: July 20, 2026
b. *Professional Nominations & Hiring Report Approved by the Superintendent
c. Approval of Manifests: PR25.1, PR1, AP26, & AP2

MOTION: Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS (*Exhibit attached to meeting agenda)

a. Board Member Comments and Committee Reports

Ms. Cevasco, on behalf of the School Board, welcomed Mr. John Clary as a member of the Board.

Mr. Freed stated that he attended the Policy Committee meeting earlier that day, where he shared that a few pressing changes were needed.

Ms. Cevasco stated that the public would hear the Bullying Prevention Policy, which needed to be updated based on new legislation that redefined bullying. Ms. Cevasco stated that in the past legislative session, the legislature considered 215 Bills related to education, with 38 of the Bills being signed into law by the Governor. She said that when a law was passed, the School District administration and the School Board had less than 30 days to update the policy before the start of the school year, such as with the new Bullying Law that went into effect on August 1, 2026. She said in some instances, the quality could be compromised when that happened. She said she did not think the policy and procedure process should be rushed, and she asked the legislature and the Governor to consider that when deciding what education issues to address, how many Bills were being forwarded all at once, because the quality of the policies was far more important than quantity.

Ms. Cevasco also shared that the School Board had its retreat that day, where they reflected on the 2025 – 2026 school year and set goals for the upcoming school year. She said the goals would be shared with the public at the next School Board meeting.

1. *Board Committee Assignments Reorganization

Committee	March 2026	August 2026
Capital Improvement Planning Committee	Karin Cevasco Susan Smith	Karin Cevasco John Clary
Community Engagement & Communication Committee	Ryan Freed Amy Clark Canty	Amy Clark Canty John Clary
Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Committee	Amy Clark Canty Tara Davoli	Amy Clark Canty Tara Davoli
Facilities Committee	Ryan Freed Karin Cevasco	Ryan Freed Karin Cevasco
Finance Committee	Karin Cevasco Amy Clark Canty	Karin Cevasco Amy Clark Canty
Policy Committee	Karin Cevasco Susan Smith	Karin Cevasco Ryan Freed
Wellness Committee	Susan Smith Tara Davoli	Amy Clark Canty Tara Davoli
MESSA Negotiations	TBD TBD	Amy Clark Canty Tara Davoli
NHSBA Assembly Delegate	Tara Davoli	N/A
Special Advisory Committee on Enrollment Projections & District Organization	Susan Smith Karin Cevasco	Karin Cevasco Tara Davoli
School Board Representative to the School Budget Advisory Committee	TBD	Ryan Freed Amy Clark Canty

2. *Seeking Community Volunteers for Board Committees

Ms. Cevasco commented that the School Board sent a letter to Milford School District families and community members asking whether they would like to serve on one of its subcommittees.

- **<u>Facilities – Policy 2137:</u>** Reviews district buildings, facilities, infrastructure, and proposed improvements, and makes recommendations to the School Board and Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Meets: Monthly at 6:00 p.m.

- **<u>Community Engagement & Communication – Policy 2138:</u>** Helps strengthen communication and engagement with staff, students, families, and the community. Helps identify opportunities to improve public understanding of School Board and District priorities, as well as to expand community voice and participation. Meets: Bi-monthly at 6:00 p.m.

- **<u>Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Policy 2139:</u>** Works with the Curriculum Coordinators and Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Federal Programs to monitor curriculum development and maintenance while supporting the development of assessments for competency-based reporting. Meets: Bi-monthly at 3:30 p.m.

Ms. Cevasco stated that interested individuals should email schoolboard@milfordk12.org.

3. *HB1300 Information

Ms. Cevasco explained that House Bill 1300 was signed into law by Governor Ayotte and would take effect in November 2026. She said HB1300 would require that every town and ward in a city must include a tax cap question on its general election ballot in November 2026 and November 2028. She said the question would require a three-fifths majority vote to pass.

Ms. Cevasco said the new law did not mandate a tax cap, but it does require the question to go before voters in November. She added that the Bill had two main parts, with the first stating that the local tax levy may not grow beyond the prior year's amount adjusted for inflation using the CPIU Northeast region and the percentage increase in the municipality's taxable property value attributable to new construction. She said that was directly from the RSA.

Ms. Cevasco stated that the second part of the question asked whether voters wanted to limit SAU central office spending to no more than 6% of the total school district appropriation. She said it was two parts in one combined question, and they had to be voted on as a package. She said an individual could not say they would like to cap SAU central office expenditures but not cap district expenses that affect student programs. She noted that it was all or nothing.

Ms. Cevasco explained that the law included two exceptions.

- Bonded capital costs are excluded from both limits.

- Caps may be overridden, as provided in RSA 325-I, and adoption of the override requires a three-fifths majority vote.

Ms. Cevasco said they all had many questions about the new law, and they anticipated guidance from both legal counsel and from the state.

Ms. Clark Canty asked whether, if it passed, it would be in place for two years. How long does that last?

Mr. Freed asked how they would arrive at that cap if one were instituted. Ms. Cevasco replied that they could request an easier-to-understand explanation.

Ms. Clark Canty asked if the school district was allowed to put out information regarding it. Ms. Cevasco replied that the legislation stated that nothing prevented the school district from holding a public hearing on it before the election so the public could have a hearing about it.

5. <u>REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS/ACTION ITEMS</u> (*Exhibits attached to meeting agenda)

a. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Michaud stated that the School Board was asked to review two documents annually: the annual review of the Sports Injury Emergency Action Plan and related procedures and protocols. She said it had been updated for the start of the new school year and was in their mailboxes for review. She said the other document for the Board's annual review was the Code of Conduct for each student.

Superintendent Michaud congratulated the coaches and athletes after they received notification that the spring sportsmanship ratings for the Division II schools had been shared, and Milford High School came in second place in the state for sportsmanship.

Superintendent Michaud also said they were making final preparations for the start of the school year. She noted that the schools looked great and she thanked the maintenance and custodial teams. She added that almost all vacancies had been filled; a few interviews were still scheduled for the next couple of weeks. She welcomed everyone back for the new school year!

b. *****Teaching & Learning Report

Ms. Jan Radowicz, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning & Federal Programs, addressed the Board and provided the following presentation, as summarized below:

- Ms. Radowicz provided an overview of the summer programs.

- Jacques Memorial Elementary School had two playdates, one in July and one in August, to help new students coming in meet other new students, meet some of the staff, and families prior to the first day of school.

- Ms. Radowicz said they also did Kindergarten Blast-Off the first week of August, and this was for all the incoming kindergartners to give them an overview of what it was like to be a student at the Jacques Memorial Elementary School. She said they reviewed their three priorities, "Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible."

- Heron Pond Elementary School had a 3-week program, July 7th through July 23rd, which was for the rising 1st through 5th graders. They had 73 enrolled students, and they worked on literacy, reading, writing, and also some math skills.

- Ms. Radowicz commented that the Milford Middle School Program was also a 3-week program. She said the students who participated had very consistent attendance and were strongly engaged throughout the program. She said all the students worked on the book The Strange Case of Origami Yoda, and they worked on reading, writing, math practice, and they did some science and STEM work.

- Ms. Radowicz said the summer program at Milford High School was a 5-week program where they had 18 students who attended. She said 15 of those students were able to recapture course credit, and one successfully passed an actualization exam, which is a high school graduation requirement.

- Ms. Radowicz said the extended school year had approximately 93 students from pre-k through 12th grade.

- She said the program was for students who were eligible for special education services and supports during the summer months.

- She said they worked on reading, writing, math, arts and crafts, music, and some STEM work.

- Ms. Radowicz stated that administrators also had some summer work. She said six administrators participated, and she was one of them. She said they went to the Principal Academy at the beginning of the month, which was sponsored by the Drummond Woodson New Hampshire School Law team. She added that they reviewed this year's new school laws, noting that 63 were education-related.

c. *Business Administrator's Finance Report

Mr. Benjamin Kilar, Business Administrator, stated that they were still waiting on the final June 30 MS9, which was the report on the status of trust funds. He said the revenue portion of the report will rejoin starting in September.

Mr. Kilar said he would update the grant report format to reflect various commitments that may or may not have been made on the grants.

Ms. Cevasco asked whether the balance spend would decrease after that commitment.

Mr. Kilar replied that the invoices were in and the next report would reflect the balance.

1. Budget Transfer

Mr. Kilar stated that the requested transfer was intended to do a couple of things:

- To largely shut down the 2800 group, which they had discovered was being counted as part of district administration for all of its uses when they used it for a variety of things. This transfer attempts to move those funds to the functions the state says more accurately describe what they were doing with them.

- Mr. Kilar said, to the extent possible, they would like to close out the 2900s as well. He said the 2900s were not permitted for end-of-year expense reporting, and were, in most districts, discontinued years ago. He added that the transfer would distribute the dollars budgeted to that function to the various functions in the 2900s, which are used primarily for staff benefits, health insurance, dental insurance, and other staff benefits tied to it. He said it attempted to move those budget amounts to the functions that match the locations of the employees that were actually using/receiving the benefits.

- Mr. Kilar reviewed the Budget Transfer form with the School Board.

- Mr. Kilar said that they had to submit an end-of-year report to the state, which had specific requirements about what had to go in certain spots. He explained that if something was in the wrong place, they would have to move it to the correct place.

- He further explained that many items under the SAU needed to be spread out to the actual schools or departments, or wherever they needed to go, but not the SAU.

MOTION: Mr. Freed made a motion to approve the budget line item transfers on the Budget Change Form, as presented by Mr. Kilar. Ms. Clark Canty seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

6. <u>OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS</u> (*Exhibits attached to meeting agenda)

a. *Blue Light Safe Brand Project

Mr. Kilar stated that in May, Mr. Cooper had presented the School Board with a proposal to install blue lights at a few locations around the fields in the district as part of the SAFE grant. He said the project had two components: installing the call stations themselves, and the electrical connections, trench work, etc.

Mr. Kilar said at the May 5th meeting, the School Board accepted a bid for $30,951. He added that the vendor informed them that, due to a quoting error, they could not proceed at that price, and the error was almost $20,000, which took the price to north of $50,000.

Mr. Kilar presented the Board with a revised proposal from three different vendors that were previously presented:

Mr. Kilar said they checked with and confirmed that the second-lowest bidder's quote was still valid. He asked the Board if they wished to proceed.

Mr. Kilar pointed out that, as the Board considered this, the total dollars allocated in the grant.

for this project are $80,000; with that, they could choose ENE or BNS, and the cost impact to the Milford taxpayer would be none.

Mr. Kilar recommended awarding the project to the lowest bidder, B&S Integrated Security, in the amount of $49,908.69. He added that the grant would reimburse the project.

MOTION: Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to rescind awarding the bid to ENE Security for the… blue light call stations. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

<u>MOTION:</u> Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to award the bid for the blue light call stations to B&S Integrated Security in the amount of $49,908.69. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

7. <u>NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS</u>

a. *Policy Proposals

1. Policy 5005 (JICD) Student Discipline and Due Process (2nd Reading)

<u>MOTION:</u> Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to move policy5005 (JICD) Student Discipline and Due Process to policy. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

2. Policy 2420 (GBGD) Temporary Alternative Work Program (2nd Reading)

<u>MOTION:</u> Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to move policy 2420 (GBGD) Temporary Alternative Work Program to policy. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

3. Policy 5100 (JJBB) National Competition Donations Guidelines (2nd Reading)

MOTION: Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to move policy 5100 (JJBB) National Competition Donations Guidelines to policy. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

4. Policy 5009 (JICK) Bullying Prevention-Pupil Safety & Violence Prevention (1st Reading)

Superintendent Michaud explained that a law was passed and took effect on August 1st, and needed to be in place for the beginning of the new school year. She said the New Hampshire School Board Association recommended bringing the policy to the Policy Committee as soon as possible, which they did. She said the School Board should review the policy and consider waiving the second reading so they could put the policy in place for the new school year.

Superintendent Michaud said that the law requires that, to the extent practicable, we involve all of these stakeholders in developing the policy: pupils, parents, administrators, school staff, school volunteers, community representatives, and local law enforcement.

Superintendent Michaud said the new law made substantial changes to the bullying prevention policy. She said it removed elements from the definition they had become accustomed to, such as imbalance of power, actual and perceived personal characteristics, behaviors, and beliefs.

Superintendent Michaud also pointed out that the new law included very specific definitions of cyberbullying that were not previously in our policy, false accusations, new language on anonymous reporting, retaliation, and other changes.

MOTION: Mr. Freed made a motion to waive the requirement for a second reading and move policy 5009 (JICK) Bullying Prevention-Pupil Safety & Violence Prevention to policy. Ms. Clark Canty seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

Ms. Cevasco stated that it was important to remember that the policy would be revisited and could be further revised, but it was important to have it in place for the new school year.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Thornton, North River Road, addressed the Board and stated that if HB1300 did not get support, you could have more than 6% to the SAU. He said, fortunately, the law did not prohibit private donors. He said the town's CIP had done two things; they found out that they only represented 28% of the property tax collection and expenditure, and both the CIP Committee in the town and the Economic Development Advisory Council had invited the school to have at least a liaison, as I used to do for the Budget Committee.

MOTION: Seeing that there was no further public comment, Ms. Cevasco made a motion to end the public comment period. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

Ms. Cevasco stated, as a friendly reminder, that parents and members of the Milford public may contact the School Board via email at any time between meetings with questions or concerns. She said the full Board could be reached at schoolboard@milfordk12.org.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:16 p.m., Ms. Clark Canty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Freed seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Ms. Clark Canty, Mr. Freed, Mr. Clary, Ms. Davoli, and Ms. Cevasco 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0 – 0.

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Karin Cevasco, School Board Chair   Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish Gedziun
Recording Secretary