

Milton School Committee Meeting  
Milton High School Library  
25 Gile Road  
Tuesday October 18, 2005

Chairperson Pavlicek called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. in the library at Milton High School.

Present: Chairperson Glenn Pavlicek, Vice-Chairperson Christopher Huban, Paul Hogan, Mary Kelly, Beirne Lovely, Laurie Stillman, Superintendent Dr. Magdalene Giffune, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel Mary Gormley, and Interim Superintendent for Business Affairs John Souza.

**I. Citizens Speak**

Cynthia Winston spoke about the success of the drama program at Milton High School. She thanked Judy Campbell for her talent and work with the drama program and welcomed Christopher Landis from the Pierce Middle School who would be taking over as director for the upcoming production of *The Sound of Music*.

**II. Administrative Report**

*Diversity Report*

Dr. Giffune reviewed the statistics of diversity and reported that 8.6% of our staff is non-white and then reviewed the numbers at each school, noting that the total non-white students district-wide is 27%.

*MCAS Data*

Dr. Giffune reviewed the MCAS data from the results of the testing that was done last year. It was reported at each grade with specific breakdowns by gender, ethnicity, special education, and low income. It was noted that work is already being done to assess and analyze each student and the questions that weren't answered correctly.

Discussion regarding the MCAS results included concern about the disparity of the scores with respect to different ethnic groups. Concern was specifically expressed for the distribution of scores in the eighth grade. The School Committee requested the administration to develop capabilities to track performance of all students, particularly kindergarten.

Questions were raised about students of color transitioning from fifth to sixth grade and then from eighth into ninth grade. Enrichment was discussed at each level and it was noted that there are additional learning opportunities for all students, particularly in Math. It was noted that the disparity for different ethnic groups at the state level in MCAS testing is even higher than that of the Town of Milton.

There was discussion regarding activities at Milton High School and how many children of color participate in sports, clubs, The Honor Society, etc. Concern was expressed as to how it is possible to reach out to all students.

*Financial Report*

The FY06 Budget Summary was presented with actual figures line by line of what has been expended. It was noted that Special Education expenses seem to be more stable than they were at this same time last year. The Superintendent was commended by Mr. Huban for her knowledge of the numbers and how apparent that was demonstrated at Town Meeting.

Mr. Lovely requested information on the status of the transition to the new financial reporting system and asked that a timeline be available at our next meeting for the completion of a system-wide financial reporting system.

*Collicot/Cunningham Assessment*

Gerald Schultz, Principal of the Collicot and Cunningham Schools was asked to look at the entire staffing model currently in effect at these two schools. Two parents have been recruited to help with the assessment of one principal and two assistant principals. They were asked to review (i) the student achievement by assessment and day-to-day work, (ii) interaction of faculty and parents, (iii) effective deployment of the faculty, (iv) whether the assistant principals are effective when they are both involved in instruction of students, (v) the quality of communication, and (vi) the safety and comfort of the students and staff. Mr. Schultz noted that is difficult to assess academic achievement in such a short period of time. A well-rounded committee will be formed in order to obtain objectivity. A question was also raised about the role of the Site Council with respect to this issue.

**III. School Committee Report***School Building Committee Report*

Chairperson Pavlicek reported that the three million dollars designated for the School Building Project at Town Meeting will enable the Collicot/Cunningham project to go forward. Mr. Pavlicek explained that the lowest bid for this project came in at 25.7 million dollars and the budget for this was 24 million. Town Meeting passed an article supporting the additional three million dollars so that the add-ons will be put back on the project and we will be able to go forward with the lowest bid. The combined efforts of Town Meeting, the School Committee, and the School Building Committee were all noted and the issue of putting back the gymnasium on the table will be put in place with an article being submitted to Town Meeting. Thanks were given to Mr. Winchester, Chairperson for the School Building Committee.

*Finance Sub-Committee*

The Finance Sub-Committee has begun to review policies and identify financial issues that are of concern.

*Policy Sub-Committee*

Mr. Huban thanked Town Counsel John Flynn for his work on Section D and noted that Section J will require a public hearing. Additional

sections are currently being updated and approved sections are being posted on the edline website.

*Health and Safety Sub-Committee*

The first meeting of this committee was held last week and Bill Ritchie, Director of Buildings and Facilities, noted that all toxic chemicals have been removed from our schools. A wellness sub-committee has been formed and Jackie Morgan, Director of Food Services will be invited to attend a School Committee Meeting. The issues that will be addressed are nutrition, physical fitness, and personal responsibility.

*MASS/MASC Joint Conference*

*MASC Resolutions*

It was noted that there are twelve resolutions that will be voted upon at the upcoming MASS/MASC Joint Conference. All twelve resolutions will be voted on by the School Committee in order to give our representative indication of how to vote. It was decided that if the representative does not agree with the School Committee after discussion heard at the Conference then the representative should abstain from voting on the resolution.

*Resolution 1*

Opposes raising the passing score of MCAS from a score of 220 to 240

After discussion there was consensus to vote yes on this resolution with four members voting yes and Mr. Huban and Mrs. Kelly voting no.

*Resolution 2*

Opposes the addition of Science and Technology testing as an MCAS requirement

Consensus was to vote to support this addition with five members voting yes and Mrs. Kelly voting no.

*Resolution 3*

Urging Governor to complete appointments to the Board of Education

There was unanimous consensus among the School Committee to approve these appointments to the Board of Education.

*Resolution 4*

Use of race in desegregation plans

A motion was made and duly seconded that we abstain from voting on this resolution. A unanimous vote was taken and it was determined that our representative will be abstaining on this resolution.

*Resolution 5*

Costing out Study for Education Reform

A motion was made and duly seconded to vote yes on this resolution. A vote was taken with five members voting yes and Mrs. Kelly voting no.

*Resolution 6*

State Accountability and Assessment Systems

A motion was made and duly seconded to vote to approve these fourteen different accountability and assessment systems. A unanimous vote was taken for the approval of this resolution.

*Resolution 7*

Value Added Assessment

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve this resolution. A unanimous vote was taken to vote yes on this resolution.

*Resolution 8*

Metco Funding

After discussion a motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Metco Funding and level of reimbursement. A vote was taken with four members voting yes and Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Huban voting no on this resolution.

*Resolution 9*

Advocacy

A motion was made and duly seconded to vote yes on this resolution to reaffirm advocacy positions on certain matters of public policy. A vote was taken with four members voting to approve this resolution and Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Huban voting no.

*Resolution 10*

Social Security

A motion was made and duly seconded to abstain from voting on this resolution. Five members voted yes to abstain with Mrs. Kelly abstaining from this vote.

*Resolution 11*

Social Security Safety Net

A motion was made and duly seconded to vote yes on this resolution. Four members voted yes with Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Huban abstaining from the vote.

*Resolution 12*

School Improvement Plans

A motion was made and duly seconded to vote in favor of this resolution. A unanimous vote was taken for voting yes on this resolution.

**IV. Minutes of April 25, 2005**

The minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2005 were tabled at this time.

**V. New Business**

The issue of the cost to move students out of the 1909 wing was estimated at \$50,000. It was noted that the annual Monster Dash will be held on October 30th at 1 P.M. with a 5K run or walk from Cunningham Park.

A motion was made and duly seconded for the meeting to adjourn. A unanimous vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.