

**Milton School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
October 30, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Present: Beirne Lovely, Chair, Lynda Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair, Chris Huban, Laurie Stillman, Mary Kelly and Glenn Pavlicek

Staff Present: Dr. Magdalene Giffune, Superintendent; Mary Gormley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Paul Hilton, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-Residents may speak for up to 3 minutes)

Robert Burke, Town Meeting Member Precinct 8, referred to a public records request he had previously made to Ms. Gormley over the phone. He was subsequently informed that such requests must be made in writing due to the Freedom of Information Act. After reading more on the Freedom of Information Act and the Massachusetts Public Records Law, Mr. Burke's stated his request had been made under the Massachusetts Public Records Law which does recommend any request be made either in person or in writing. He presented Ms. Gormley with a written request.

Earl Fay read a letter from a citizen of Milton, Natalie Belanga, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. In her letter Ms. Belanga voiced her concern on how the town is working with children on the Autism spectrum, particularly children with Asperger's Syndrome.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 10/2/07 were approved as amended.

Move: M. Kelly

Second: G. Pavlicek

Vote: 5-0-0 (Mr. Lovely was not present for the approval of these minutes)

3. Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) – Earl Fay, Chairman, and Kevin Lenane, PAC member, came to present the PAC's annual report to the School Committee. During his presentation, Mr. Fay stated many concerns which have been expressed by PAC members. Some of these concerns include unsigned IEP's remaining in limbo; the qualifications of team members to diagnose a student's disability; the use of communication notebooks; adding reading and math coaches who are special education certified; and the reduction of summer services. Mr. Lenane spoke of the need for a more encompassing inclusion program; the failure to address social issues of special education students; concern that the integrated model only goes to 3rd grade and limits the amount of interaction between disabled/non-disabled peers; and the need for a dedicated person at the Middle School who is responsible for making sure IEP's are adhered to and who can provide assistance to the regular education teachers. Questions were raised as to who supervises team leaders and therapists, and what happens when the team process breaks down. Mr. Rubin, Director of Pupil Services, addressed some of these questions. He stated he is always available to meet with parents and is in constant contact with Administration over special education issues. When asked if there were one or two positions that would make the special education department more successful, Mr. Rubin replied more physical therapists and an adaptive physical education teacher would be helpful.

4. School Site Council Reports

Tucker - Drew Echelson, Principal, read the names of Site Council members, many of whom were present. The Site Council includes: Patricia Kennan Byrne, Jenny Detterman, Lisa Fischer, Joan Gancarski, Karen Horan, Anne Marie Johnson, Elizabeth Shaw, Mary Scott, Mary Downing Tipping and Venita Toussaint. A Power Point presentation highlighted certain areas of the instructional improvement plan, the Site Council priorities, and the planned action steps for achieving these priorities. Mr. Echelson thanked Dr. Giffune, Ms. Gormley, School Committee members and the entire Tucker community for their continued support. His budget priorities would include reading and math coaches.

Glover – Mr. Rosado read the names of Site Council members, many of whom were present. The Site Council includes: Dr. Dore Korschun, Principal, Kristen Evans, Assistant Principal, Miguel Rosado, Kathy Huntington, Susan Coakley, Beth Labby, Becky Warner, Raju Pathak and Maureen Flannigan. Mr. Rosado spoke briefly of cuts already made, the extra work on teachers, increases in class size, the fear of an override, and the division of the French Immersion and English programs. The Site Council's priorities are: (1) to address an alternative manner to fund certain core programs that have been cut; (2) to form an ad hoc group with each school and present the findings back to the School Committee and other town officials who determine the budget and (3) establish a maximum class size per school and agree we will not exceed it. Dr. Korschun stated she has met with teachers and they recommend everything cut last year be restored and no more reductions or eliminations of programs be made. Their emphasis would be on math and literacy and would like to see an effort made to raise more funds.

Collicot – Gerald Schultz, Principal, reported that the Site Council's number one priority had been to increase the Literacy Program. Last year Cunningham/Collicot began the initiative to establish a Literacy leveled Book Room. They were able to do this through a grant from the Milton Foundation for Education and through parent donations. Other initiatives this year include expanding morning math clubs; using resources we have to target district sponsored math clubs toward students with special needs in math; and utilizing special education teachers to help regular education teachers. Mr. Schultz echoed Dr. Korschun that we need the improvement teacher-to-student. When asked if there was a French/English conflict at Collicot, Mr. Schultz replied it has not been a topic of discussion; however, the Site Council has not met yet this year.

Cunningham- Christine Gerber, Principal, Site Council members Jeanne Conley and Marietta Surette Ms. Gerber read the names of the newly elected Site Council members. In addition to Ms. Conley and Ms. Surette, they include Kathleen Mulligan, Roberta Williams and Drew Flanagan. The Site Council's first meeting was held today; therefore, they have not had the chance to review the School Improvement Plan. The goals of the 2007-2008 Site Council will be to review the 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan; review the 2006-2007 MCAS results; determine if the goals and activities in the previous plan align with the ultimate goal of increasing student achievement; monitor the implementation of the School Improvement Plan; and make revisions when necessary. The Site Council has not had the opportunity to discuss the budget.

Pierce Middle School- John Phelan, Principal, James Jette, Assistant Principal, and Site Council members Kathy Huntington and Karen DeLuca
Despite the budget crisis, Mr. Jette stated the schools are responsible for providing high quality classroom instruction and an enriching experience to students. One goal of the Site Council will be to look at programs to see how we can enhance and improve. The Site Council is looking at a student mentoring program and has been in contact with the High School and Curry College to help with this.

Mr. Phelan said for the next school year they would like to get back the positions that were lost. If a little bit is added each year, they can create a plan to progress slowly and look at the teaming structure to make sure all students are moving forward with their academic achievement. Mr. Phelan feels it is necessary to eliminate fees for clubs at the Middle School. The Committee discussed the mentoring program and the availability of Title 1 funds for Pierce.

Milton High School – John Drottar, Principal, Site Council members Kristen Masciarelli, Michelle Kreuzer and Jessica Parsons

Site Council members discussed the seniors mentoring freshmen program which started last year. This year 80 seniors applied for this program, 48 were accepted. The group has worked hard on the freshmen orientation; they met during the summer for training and have planned a curriculum for this year.

Parents are having meetings at their homes with students to talk about how to be successful. Dr. Drottar explained the High School focuses on respect, achievement and citizenship. In order to accomplish this, he feels we must make programs available to all students; therefore, we cannot have fees for sports and activities.

- 5. Budget Parameters** – The Finance Subcommittee met last week to discuss priorities for the FY09 budget. They recommend that the School Committee adopt these priorities. They are prioritized as follows: (1) student achievement/adequate yearly progress (AYP); (2) class size (primacy of classroom); (3) English/Language Arts curriculum renewal; (4) Science curriculum renewal; (5) full day Kindergarten; (6) adequate supplies for classrooms; (7) planning for ongoing maintenance of facilities; (8) ancillary services to be reduced before teachers.

A motion was made to include the elimination of all extracurricular fees to the FY09 Budget Priorities.

Move: C. Huban

Second: L. Stillman

Vote: 6-0-0

The Finance Subcommittee would also like a final recapitulation of the FY08 budget with back up so the School Committee can approve this and move on to FY09. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the necessity of a strategic planning session Dr. Giffune had planned for next week. It seemed to be the general consensus of the Committee to do this at a later date.

A motion was made to approve the FY09 Budget Priorities listed above with the elimination of all extracurricular fees added to this list.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: G. Pavlicek

Vote: 6-0-0

A motion was made to add equity in Elementary recess scheduling to the list of Budget Priorities.

Move: M. Kelly

Second: L. Stillman

Vote: 2-4-0 (B. Lovely, G. Pavlicek, C. Huban, L. Stillman)

6. MASC Resolutions - Mr. Pavlicek will represent the School Committee at the annual MASC meeting.

Motion was made to authorize Glenn Pavlicek to vote favorably on Resolution 1, Sharing of Information on Students Attending Charter Schools with the Sending School Districts.

Move: B. Lovely
Second: L. Stillman
Vote: 6-0-0

Motion was made to authorize Glenn Pavlicek to vote favorably on Resolution 2 regarding the inclusion of special education transportation costs in the circuit breaker.

Move: B. Lovely
Second: M. Kelly
Vote: 6-0-0

Motion was made to authorize Glenn Pavlicek to vote favorably on parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Resolution 3, Public Policy Agenda, and to use his discretion for the remaining parts 5, 6, and 7 of Resolution 3.

Move: B. Lovely
Second: L. Stillman
Vote: 5-1-0 (C. Huban)

Motion was made to authorize Glenn Pavlicek to vote favorably on Resolution 4, Foundation Budget.

Move: B. Lovely
Second: M. Kelly
Vote: 6-0-0

Motion was made to adjourn.

Move: C. Huban
Second: B. Lovely
Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.