



### 3. Superintendent's Update

#### Topics:

**Special Education Update:** Dr. LaGrasta gave a detailed update of the various new programs added to the Milton school system. These programs are intended to bring children back from out of district placements if possible by offering a new program in town and to prevent future out of district placement unless deemed necessary. He reviewed the cost savings in tuition and transportation derived from these programs. The question was also raised about the possibility of bringing children in from other towns once these programs become more established (MK). An update was also given on the new positions hired and/or funded through grants and Dr. LaGrasta explained how these positions will impact our contracted services budget in the future since we will rely less on outside vendors to provide services. Per request, a brief update was also given by Dr. LaGrasta on the status of inclusion within the schools (MK).

The Department of Education's Compliance Review Audit was discussed. A response has been compiled with the assistance of the newly hired Compliance Monitor. The response has been distributed to staff and principals. A copy can also be found at the Milton Library. A meeting is scheduled with the Parent Advisory Council to discuss this report.

**Wellness Program:** A Wellness Committee is being established as a subcommittee of the Health and Safety Committee. The Child Nutrition Re-Authorization Bill includes that a Wellness Policy be instituted in every school system across America. Jackie Morgan, Food Service Director, gave a brief description of what this committee hopes to achieve and introduced other members. Members from the school committee, school staff, students, parents and town officials will take part in this committee. Information regarding the Wellness Policy will be discussed at upcoming PTO meetings and distributed through Newsletters and Edline. This Wellness Policy needs to be established by the first day of the next school year.

Dr. Giffune went on to report on other successful activities such as the Monster Dash and Parent Information Nights for technology (Edline) which 350 parents attended. Dr. Giffune also reported the High School Library is open 2 hours each day after school with teacher supervision.

Class size was also questioned and Dr. Giffune explained some ways larger classes have been alleviated. This would include the additional of staff.

#### **4. School Committee Subcommittee Report**

##### **Topics:**

**1909 Building** – Now that the timeline has been established as 9/07 for children to be moved from the 1909 wing, lengthy discussion was given as to what should be done with the Cunningham/Collicot students in the interim. Careful analytical scrutiny must be given to all possibilities. Do we have the capability of moving the entire population to another location or moving one grade intact to another facility? The subject of portable classrooms was mentioned as an option.

It was suggested that the committee explore the option of using an outside space management consultant to help solve this issue (LS). It was also suggested that a survey be sent to all families to gather their input in regard to moving from the 1909 wing. The general consensus was that all space options be explored thoroughly before a survey is released.

It was proposed by a School Committee member that a policy subcommittee be formed to investigate any and all possibilities for decreasing the student population or limiting the need for housing any students in the 1909 wing (MK). It was determined that this subcommittee should be formed and be under the direction of the Superintendent and not the School Committee due to open meeting laws. Due to the above determination, the proposal was then withdrawn by the School Committee member. Everyone was in agreement that this subcommittee should consist of administrative staff, School Committee personnel and parents. At the next meeting Dr. Giffune will present a proposal for this subcommittee. She will also report on the cost of the above-mentioned space management consultant.

It was also stated that we be prepared for any emergency, especially during the winter months, on where to house Collicot/Cunningham students in the event of heating problems, etc. (LS)

**Budgets** – Citizens Speak will be open at the next meeting for people to request items for the 2007 budget. Information will be given to families through newsletters and websites inviting them to Citizens Speak.

Under the Finance Subcommittee, one School Committee member stated that back up for salaries in the 2006 budget had been previously requested but not yet received (MK). The Superintendent replied that she had sent those but would resubmit them to the Chair.

**5. New Business**

The bricks in front of the High School Gym were mentioned and thanks were extended to Gary Kelly, Chris Berry of Chisholm Masonry who has donated labor to this project, and again to the Copeland Family Foundation. Bricks have been sold and that will continue. A reminder was given for the Milton Celebration for Education being held on November 19, 2005.

A report was requested for administration to provide information on the use of the Pledge of Allegiance in the schools. (MK)

The possibility of using microphones at these meetings was also suggested so that all attendees can hear. (BL)

**Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

**Moved: Chris Huban**

**Second: Laurie Stillman**

**Vote: 6-0-0**