

**Milton School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Library  
February 7, 2006  
Minutes**

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

**Committee Present:** Glen Pavlicek, Chairman, Paul Hogan, Beirne Lovely, Chris Huban, Mary Kelly and Laurie Stillman

**Staff Present:** Dr. Magdalene Giffune, Superintendent; Mary Gormley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Paul Hilton, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Ken Aubert, Director of Guidance

1. **Citizens Speak (Policy BEDH-Residents may speak for up to 3 minutes)**  
No one came forward to speak.
2. **Administration Report**

Ken Aubert, Director of Guidance, discussed the scheduling timeline for the 2006/2007 school year and gave a presentation regarding the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program of Studies Assembly which will be held February 8, 2006 at Pierce Middle School. In addition to this assembly, 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents were invited to a Program of Studies night on December 1, 2005. This evening's presentation covered the mission of the Milton Public Schools, the expectations for student learning, expected behaviors in and out of school, extracurricular activities and clubs, sports offerings, graduation and MCAS requirements, leveling guidelines, course credits, a sample of the course selection sheet along with electives, guidance services and all other information necessary for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to transition to the High School.

Mr. Aubert also mentioned the Higher Education Night to be held March 29, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Milton High School Auditorium. Various representatives from 2 and 4 year public and private colleges and universities will talk about college admissions. He then spoke of the SAT initiative at the High School (thanks to Mary Gormley). In October the High School administered PSAT's to every sophomore and junior. All students, grades 10-12, have received SAT preparation books free of charge. English and Math teachers have been provided professional development by the College Board and have been offered SAT course training. English and Math teachers have also been given the opportunity to teach one or more of the SAT prep courses starting next month. All juniors are encouraged to attend the free 8 week English and Math SAT prep courses. There has been an overwhelming response to this offer (well over 100 registered for these prep courses).

Committee members then had a general discussion regarding Mr. Aubert's presentation. When asked how our engagement with Blue Hills Regional is conveyed to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Mr. Aubert replied this is usually discussed at the Middle School level. Mr. Lovely reported there is a meeting being held tonight at Blue Hills Regional. This includes a tour of the school and a review of their course offerings. Mr. Lovely then asked if there was adequate Guidance staff at the High School for college bound, college oriented students. Mr. Aubert replied there are currently 4 full time counselors with less than 300 students per counselor. If it ever got over 300 per counselor, he would be concerned. The one area he feels does need additional staffing is the clerical area. Currently the High School counselors are responsible for a great deal of the clerical work, and they could use some additional support. The Committee thanked Mr. Aubert for his informative presentation.

### **1909 Wing-Final Recommendation by the Space Needs Committee**

Dr. Giffune reported on the findings of the Space Needs Committee. As mentioned previously, this group consisted of various members from each school including 1 Principal, 1 Teacher, 1 PTO representative, 1 Site Council representative, and student representatives from the Middle School and High School. This meeting broke into sub-groups and each group was responsible for making a recommendation regarding space/moving students, etc. After much discussion and additional meetings on this subject, the final sentiment of this group was to stay put. The Space Needs Committee made the following recommendation to the School Committee which Dr. Giffune read: "After considering financial, educational, emotional and logistical issues (issues listed on the letter but not read), we recommend that the current grade level configuration remain in place at the 1909 building. We also recommend that reasonable expenditures be made to enhance the maintenance in the building through the hiring of a full time custodian for one year. While we recognize there are costs for staying as well as costs for moving, we conclude that the students can continue to have their educational needs met by the current arrangement." No motion or vote needed to be taken on this matter.

### **3. School Committee Report**

**School Building Committee** – Mr. Pavlicek reported that Cunningham asbestos abatements are finished for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors, the Boiler Room asbestos abatements is finished, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor walls are coming down and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor interior work is being done. At Collicot, things are also going at a good pace. Roof plans are drawn; sewer and storm drain work is underway. The Special Town Meeting will include supplemental appropriation for various pieces necessary to finish up Collicot and Cunningham, most notably the Collicot Gymnasium.

**Motion was made for the School Committee to support this warrant article at Special Town Meeting.**

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

**Facilities Committee Report** – Mr. Hogan reported that the Facilities Committee did not meet last week so there is nothing new to report.

**Policy Subcommittee** – Mr. Huban discussed the Fiscal Management Policy, Section D. Due to substantial re-writes on Section D, Mr. Huban would like a motion from the Chair to accept a second reading.

Moved: B. Lovely  
Second: L. Stillman

Mr. Huban pointed out #8 should be #7 on Section DA, and there were other typographical errors within Section D. When Mr. Huban asked the Committee if they had any other comments regarding Section D, Mr. Lovely stated there was one section (DD) within this policy that he would like to see reworded. The section reads “when we are introducing a new program that requires on-going assistance, it is our intent that the Superintendent would use her best efforts to bring it to the Committee.” Mr. Lovely would recommend this section be reworded to read as follows: “When we are introducing a new substantive curriculum item that will require year to year support thereafter, the Superintendent will bring it to the School Committee for discussion and approval.”

Ms. Kelly recommended that Section DD be tabled for further discussion. Ms. Stillman brought up the fact that sometimes grant opportunities come up quickly and it may be difficult for the Superintendent to formally notify the Committee in time for discussion and approval. She suggests that if this section is reworded, the grant situation be taken into consideration.

Mr. Huban then mentioned Section DDE. This section refers to the distribution of the annual operating budget for the schools. The Town Administrator and Town Accountant had been omitted and should be included in this list. With regard to the list of bonded employees which had been requested, Mr. Huban stated that Proposal DH is governed by the Superintendent and she has an extensive list of people who are bonded.

**Motion was made to approve the second reading of these policies, as amended, with the exception of Section DD which will be tabled until a subsequent time.**

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

**Motion was made to adopt Section D with the exception of Section DD.**

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

Mr. Huban mentioned there are three or four more sections (mainly tobacco and alcohol use) to be discussed, and he will have a list of them for the next meeting. He will check with the Chair to determine the best time to have open hearings regarding these additional items. It was then requested that all adopted policies be posted on the website.

#### **Budget Discussion**

**FY06** – Dr. Giffune discussed changes approved last spring and in October. Other adjustments were explained in detail by Dr. Giffune and she requested the Committee's approval. General discussion then followed regarding the FY06 budget. Ms. Kelly brought up some differences in the bottom line for salaries, and Dr. Giffune gave a detailed answer regarding the differences and explained how the structural deficit had to be corrected. Ms. Stillman inquired about the spending freeze, which Dr. Giffune stated is still in effect.

**Motion was made to adopt the FY06 budget as amended 11/21/05.**

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

**FY07-** Dr. Giffune went through the slide show that will be presented to the Warrant Committee tomorrow night. This presentation gives a detailed explanation of the requested budget increase of \$3,165,087. The Committee suggested a slide be added to this presentation to explain special education costs in more detail and to inform the Warrant Committee what we are currently doing with regard to Special Education. It was suggested this presentation along with the slides be posted on the website along with the budget request.

#### 4. New Business

Mr. Lovely reported on a recent meeting with the Boosters to discuss the progress of the Field Committee. He and Terry Driscoll met with the landscape architect last week to discuss the middle fields. The architect gave an estimated budget of \$750,000 which was quickly brought down under \$400,000. The problem has been our ability to obtain an as built plan of the middle field which shows exactly where drains are so we can tie in and not have to create a new drainage system. Mr. Lovely also discussed the jumping pit and the High School floor with the Boosters. The current set up of the jumping pits prevents us from having two jumping events at the same time. The Boosters would like to put in another one and last night at the meeting they authorized the money to build a new jumping pit. This would be approximately \$15,000-\$20,000. They will work with Tom Hergert and others to make sure everything is done properly. On the field side, the Field Committee absorbed the cost (approximately \$8,000-\$10,000) to put in the discus and shot-put facilities. The Building Committee had authorized this and put them in place, but they were later taken out due to safety concerns. Understandably, the Building Committee did not want to pay again. Therefore, the Boosters will fund the jumping pit, and the Field Committee will fund the discus and shot-put facilities. Mr. Lovely stated that nets will be used for safety purposes. There will be a major state meet in the spring and the Boosters feel that funds received in concessions will substantially reimburse the cost of the pit.

**Motion made to authorize and accept the gift from the Boosters to allow them to go forward with the building of the jumping pit.**

Moved: L. Stillman

Second: B. Lovely

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Lovely mentioned some other matters he would like to have discussed.

- Student Assignment – we should talk about student assignment this year and he requested this be put on the agenda.
- In anticipation of the two Principal system at new school, some concerns have been expressed regarding the overflow of Cunningham classes on to the Collicot side.
- Re-visitation of the Nurses' Stations-concerns have been brought to his attention regarding the location and size of the nurses' stations (are they sufficient in size to handle approximately 1,000 students with combined schools).
- Request for some type of microphones for the School Committee table.

Ms. Kelly brought up that the last few meetings have not been broadcast live and requested that Administration check with Cable. Our next meeting is March 7, 2006, and that is an open hearing on the proposed budget for FY07. Perhaps we can meet in the Auditorium if the system is better there.

Notice of this open hearing will be published on the Web, Milton papers, Cable, etc.

**Motion was made to adjourn.**

**Moved: C. Huban**

**Second: B. Lovely**

**Vote 6-0-0**