

**Milton School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
April 13, 2010**

Committee Present: Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair, Glenn Pavlicek, Vice Chair, Beirne Lovely, Chris Huban, Mary Kelly and Kristan Bagley-Jones

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent, John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel, Matthew Gillis, School Business Administrator

Prior to tonight's meeting, a special event was held in honor of Beirne Lovely. Tonight will be Mr. Lovely's last School Committee meeting since he is not seeking re-election. Past School Committee members, town representatives and friends were present along with Mr. Lovely's family to express their gratitude to him for the many years he has spent supporting the Milton Public Schools and the town of Milton.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of April 13, 2010 Agenda**
With the Committee's consent, Mrs. Sheridan approved the agenda for April 13, 2010.
3. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-Residents may speak for up to 3 minutes)**
No one came forward to speak.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of the March 30, 2010 School Committee meeting were approved.
Move: C. Huban
Second: G. Pavlicek
Vote: 5-0-0*
*Mr. Lovely was not present for the voting of minutes.
5. **Superintendent's Report**
Ms. Gormley acknowledged students from the Milton High School Girls Indoor Track Team who recently received All American Honors in the Nike Indoor National Competition. Students present for this recognition included Clare Luscinskis, Cheryl Tran and Olivia Beaulieu. Kate Madigan was not able to attend.

Stay in Place Lockdown at Milton High School - Police Chief Richard Wells, Sergeant Jack Richman and Dr. John Drott

In an effort to address today's Stay in Place Lockdown at Milton High School, Ms. Gormley began by thanking the students, teachers, and administrators for their response to this situation. Ms. Gormley also expressed her gratitude to the Milton Police Department for its close working relationship with the School Department and for ensuring the safety of all students and staff throughout this process

Chief Wells reported that the Milton Police Department was called to Milton High School after rounds of ammunition were found inside the school building by a student. The student brought this to the attention of a staff member and the school was put in a Stay in Place Lockdown to ensure the safety of everyone in the building. After a thorough search, Chief Wells reported that no weapon was found and that this continues to be an on-going investigation. Chief Wells commended the Milton Police Department and all other police personnel from surrounding cities and towns who were brought in to

assist in this situation. Anyone with information regarding today's incident was encouraged to call the Milton Police Department at 617-898-4804 or 617-698-3800. These numbers will be posted on the school website. Chief Wells reported that there will be police presence at Milton High School tomorrow. The School Resource Officer who had been out on leave will be returning to Milton High School the first week in May. Dr. Drottar added that teachers, guidance personnel, adjustment counselors and members of the administration will be available to talk with students if they want to discuss their fears or concerns.

Both the Administration and the School Committee thanked the Milton Police Department again for the way this incident was handled and for its ongoing support of the Milton Public Schools. Ms. Gormley stated that a parent forum will be scheduled to discuss this event and to address any concerns parents may have regarding safety.

Consolidated Facilities Exploratory Committee - Anthony Cichello, Chair

Mr. Cichello presented a report to the School Committee and the public as to what the mission of the Consolidated Facilities Exploratory Committee has been and its progress to date. Mr. Cichello discussed the upcoming articles for Town Meeting (Articles 28 and 29) that deal with the formation and funding of a new consolidated facilities department (Department of Public Facilities) and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which must be signed by both the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen in order to move this process forward. A copy of this presentation can be found at http://www.townofmilton.org/Public_Documents/MiltonMA_WebDocs/facilities1.pdf.

Questions and/or comments from School Committee members as a result of this presentation included:

- In terms of contract negotiations, this will have to be investigated further since the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee are prohibited from working together on negotiations.
- Ms. Kelly requested more detail regarding the individual positions shown on the organizational chart. Mr. Cichello replied that the committee has job descriptions for many of these positions and is working to finalize this information. Ms. Kelly also asked if it would be possible to "cost out" these positions to show associated health care costs.
- Ms. Kelly stated that she is not to the point that she would be willing to sign a MOA. She would also be hesitant to vote for the funding for this new department (Article 29). Ms. Kelly suggested that a special fall Town Meeting may be necessary.
- The Copeland Family Foundation envisioned being able to rent out our facilities. Where does that stand? Mr. Cichello replied that the committee is working on how rentals will be handled and is sorting through issues regarding the Field House. The current plan is to keep the existing revolving funds.
- Ms. Bagley-Jones voiced her concern regarding the chain of command for this new department since the person hired as the new Director of Public Facilities will report to both the Superintendent and the Town Administrator. Ms. Bagley-Jones asked who would make decisions in the event of a tie between the Superintendent and the Town Administrator. Mr. Cichello replied that they are still sorting through this process; however, that may depend on the specific situation.
- Mr. Lovely stated that the MOA must include specific details regarding conflict resolution strategies and an exit strategy in the event the School Committee wants to withdraw from this agreement.
- Mrs. Sheridan asked who would sign and oversee the contract for the Director of Public Facilities. Mr. Cichello stated that both the Superintendent and the Town Administrator have to agree as to who is hired for this position; however, he believes the contract for the director would be as an employee of the town.

- Mr. Lovely stated that that the MOA should contain specific language regarding termination. Termination should be a mutual agreement between the Town Administrator and the Superintendent. Mr. Cichello replied that the committee is consulting with other towns as to how these situations are handled.

As a member of the Consolidated Facilities Exploratory Committee, Mrs. Sheridan stated that this committee has been meeting frequently but still has a lot of work to do. Both the School Committee and the Administration thanked Mr. Cichello for this presentation.

Before moving on in the Superintendent's report, Mr. Lovely took a moment to thank Ms. Gormley and her staff for the wonderful surprise party prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Lovely thanked the community for allowing him to serve on the Milton School Committee for 9 years and his wife Joan for being so supportive. Mr. Lovely stated that the School Committee has come a long way and he leaves with great reluctance. Ms. Gormley replied that it was her honor to acknowledge Mr. Lovely tonight. Mr. Lovely has been a strong advocate for children for many years and has worked hard to improve education in the Milton Public Schools. Personally and professionally, Ms. Gormley thanked him for his many contributions.

Grade 1 Information Night Presentation

Ms. Gormley reported that after the presentation by the World Language Committee at the last School Committee meeting she met with the leadership team and the Finance Subcommittee to discuss the various options presented. The following matters were discussed and will require a vote or motion by the School Committee:

Attendance Area Revision

Ms. Gormley explained that there are several streets in the Glover and Tucker districts that are a "gray" enrollment area. A proposal is being made to revise the Student Assignment Plan to create a mixed Glover/Tucker district similar to the one found in the Collicot/Cunningham area. Ms. Gormley reported that currently there is a list of streets for Collicot, a list of streets for Cunningham, and a third list of shared streets. The same would be done for the Glover and Tucker districts.

Motion was made to send the information regarding a shared enrollment area for the Glover and Tucker districts to the Policy Subcommittee for review.

Move: G. Pavlicek

Second: K. Bagley-Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

English with Spanish FLES

Ms. Gormley reported that the team also discussed the English/FLES program. Using information obtained from the surveys of the World Language Committee and hearing the concern of parents, one 30-minute weekly period of FLES will be reinstated to Grade 1 in the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Gormley explained that the Warrant Committee was able to restore the 7.1 teaching positions that were scheduled to be cut. This .2 position for FLES will be included as part of the Warrant Committee's restoration. The cost for this .2 FTE is approximately \$10,000-\$11,000.

Motion was made to approve the reinstatement of FLES in Grade 1 for one 30-minute class per week.
Move: C. Huban
Second: G. Pavlicek

Ms. Kelly stated that she will have to vote against this since she feels next year's budget will be worse and this would be a one-year solution.
Vote: 5-1-0 (M. Kelly)

Grade 1 Alternate Assignment

Mr. Phelan stated that after much scrutiny of the various options presented by the World Language Committee, the Alternate Assignment option was chosen. This information will be presented to incoming Grade 1 parents tomorrow evening. Under the Alternate Assignment option, Mr. Phelan explained that:

- If there are more students than seats available in a given home school, the district would assign those students based on the revised Elementary Student Assignment Plan.
- Any student not picked for their home school for the French Immersion program will be given the choice to attend an auxiliary class at a school location determined by the Superintendent's office each year or attend the English program.
- In cases where there is insufficient room for students in English, students will be assigned to an auxiliary class at a school location determined by the Superintendent's office each year.
- No "grandfathering" – children who choose to attend the auxiliary French Immersion class will not have their siblings "grandfathered" into their new school.

In order to determine what students will be moved in the event of insufficient space in their home school, Mr. Phelan explained that the Student Assignment Plan will be revised to reflect the following order of placement:

1. Siblings
2. Current Milton Public School Kindergarten students
3. Students new to the district

If there is an excess enrollment of students in any one of these categories, a "tiered" lottery will determine placement. Students who are not seated through this process will be assigned to a school with any open seats or to the school hosting the auxiliary class. Mr. Phelan stated that the projected class size for French Immersion is 26/27 and 23 for English. There are no budgeted class size aides for any classes next year. Mr. Phelan also reported that the normal transportation policy for the district will continue and this will be discussed with parents at the Grade 1 Information Night.

Motion was made to include slides 5 and 6 of this presentation (Grade 1 Alternate Assignment and Revised Student Assignment Plan) into the current Student Assignment Policy.

Move: C. Huban
Second: M. Kelly

Ms. Kelly asked if Committee members would be in agreement to have the Policy Subcommittee review these slides. Mr. Lovely suggested re-wording the motion to read as follows:

Motion was made to include slides 5 and 6 of this presentation (Grade 1 Alternate Assignment and Revised Student Assignment Plan) into the current Student Assignment Policy as long as they are reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: C. Huban

Vote: 6-0-0

*A copy of the Grade 1 Information Night presentation can be found at

http://www.miltonps.org/documents/Grade_1_Presentation.pdf.

6. Finance Subcommittee Report

Ms. Kelly stated that the Finance Subcommittee has been reviewing the proposed fee increases for FY11 and recommends that the full School Committee approve the increase in fees. For the public's benefit, Ms. Kelly read the fees that will increase. The fee schedule presented can be found on the website at http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FY11_User_Fee_Summary.pdf.

Mr. Lovely voiced his concern with the increase for the SAT Preparation course. He wants to make sure that no students are denied this course because they cannot afford the fee. Ms. Gormley replied that the Guidance Department and Milton High School administration makes every attempt to work with students. Guidance also encourages students to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch Program form if assistance is needed.

Motion was made that the School Committee approve the Finance Subcommittee's recommendation for proposed fee increases for FY11.

Move: C. Huban

Second: B. Lovely

Vote: 6-0-0

Before ending the Finance Subcommittee Report, Ms. Kelly requested that the School Committee Reorganizational Meeting on April 28, 2010 be extended in order to discuss the cut list and where positions would be added back.

7. Old Business/Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Athletic Fund Raising Update

Motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of approving Executive Session minutes and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not to return to Open Session.

Move: C. Huban

Second: M. Kelly

By a roll call voice vote, the School Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of approving Executive Session minutes and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not to return to Open Session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.