

**Milton School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Library  
April 6, 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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of April 6, 2010 Agenda**  
Mrs. Sheridan stated that the reason for Executive Session should read Negotiation Strategy rather than Labor Relations. With the Committee's consent, Mrs. Sheridan approved the agenda for April 6, 2010 with this change.
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 16, 2010 School Committee meeting (Open Budget Hearing) were approved.  
Move: C. Huban  
Second: M. Kelly  
Vote: 5-0-0\*  
\*Ms. Kelly was not present for the voting of minutes.
5. **Superintendent's Report**  
**Safe Routes to School Program, Dr. Erick Ask**  
Dr. Erick Ask, a Glover parent, gave a presentation to the School Committee and the public regarding the Safe Routes to School program. Dr. Ask stated that this is a federally funded, state administered program meant to promote walking or biking to school. Dr. Ask explained that Glover and Pierce had been pilots for this program several years ago and the program was re-started at Glover in 2006. Over the last few years 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students have received safety training and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have received bicycle safety training. An engineering audit was done of the Glover area and a report was submitted to the Department of Transportation. From this report it may be possible that crosswalks will be incorporated into the revitalization project on Central Avenue. Dr. Ask stated that Cunningham became involved in this program in 2008 and students have received the same training. Also, the Milton Public Schools have since adopted pedestrian and bike safety training as part of the elementary physical education program. In the future Dr. Ask would like to see all the elementary schools and the middle school become registered users of this program. Dr. Ask informed the Committee and the public that information regarding this program can be found at [www.saferoutes.org](http://www.saferoutes.org). The School Committee and the Administration thanked Dr. Ask for this presentation. When his schedule allows, Ms. Gormley invited Dr. Ask to attend a future PTO Presidents meeting to discuss this program.

## **World Language Curriculum Review Committee**

**Represented by Assistant Superintendent John Phelan, Gracie Burke, Director of World Languages, Martha Sherman, Elementary Language Arts Coordinator, Margaret Eberhardt, parent representative and Maryanne Rull, parent representative**

Ms. Gormley explained that after last year's successful override some elementary school parents contacted her to request that the Administration continue to explore some of the restructuring options presented for the World Language programs. As a result of this request, Ms. Gormley sent out an Email Blast asking for volunteers to serve on such a committee and had a phenomenal response to this request. On behalf of the Milton Public Schools, Ms. Gormley thanked everyone who participated in the World Language Curriculum Review Committee for their tireless efforts throughout this process. Mr. Phelan read the names of the individuals involved in this committee and personally thanked all of them for their dedication. This committee included teachers, parents, administrators, and a representative of the School Committee. Ms. Burke explained that the Superintendent had given this committee the charge to investigate the World Language program not only to see if savings could be found by restructuring the program but also to look at elementary language offerings to help determine the long term sustainability of both language programs. The committee took into consideration the quality of educational programming; possible budgetary savings; inequities in class size; and personnel needs. Ms. Sherman reviewed the goals of this committee and reported that the committee held several meetings from November, 2009-March, 2010 in order to research and analyze data and survey results and develop the options to be presented. The following four options were presented by the World Language Committee and for each option the committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses as well as any potential savings. The French Integration in Grade 5 option was withdrawn for the purpose of this presentation.

- **French Partner Schools:** In this option two schools will be partnered together to consolidate the French Immersion classes. Between the two schools in the partnership French Immersion will be housed in only one school.
- **French Continuum Strands** – In this option the French Immersion classes will be consolidated across the district into one school. Among the four schools the French Immersion will be housed in only one school per grade.
- **Lottery/Capping of French Immersion** – In this option the Superintendent would fix the number of classes of French Immersion per school and the number of seats per class. Families would select to enter the French Immersion Lottery. If more students select the French Immersion program than seats are available, a lottery would be held to determine who was enrolled into French Immersion.
- **Alternate Assignment:** Designate a fixed amount of classes of French Immersion in each school that is consistent year to year. Designate the class size limit up front that is fixed. If more students apply than seats are available, the district would assign those students based on either (1) a lottery or (2) the Elementary Student Assignment Plan. Any student not picked for their home school French Immersion seat would be given the choice to attend French Immersion at an auxiliary class at a school location determined by the Superintendent's office each year. The auxiliary class and students would remain in the assigned school for the entire five years of their elementary experience.

In summary, Ms. Eberhardt stated that the ultimate goal of whatever option is chosen is that it provides long term predictability and organizational stability for both programs. Ms. Rull reviewed matters the committee feels the School Department and the School Committee should continue to consider in order to maintain both language programs. The next step of this process is for Ms. Gormley to meet next week with the leadership team to review the World Language Committee report. Ms. Gormley will

present the option chosen to the School Committee at its meeting on April 13, 2010 and it will be presented to parents on April 14, 2010 at the Grade 1 Information Night. The details of this presentation and the report of the World Language Curriculum Review Committee can be found at <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/WLCSchoolCommittePresentation.pdf>.  
<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/WorldLanguageProgramReport.pdf>.

Some questions and/or comments from School Committee members or members of the Administration included:

- With the French Partner option, are you assuming FLES is an offering from grade 1? Mr. Phelan replied that FLES would remain the same at this point in time. Currently FLES begins in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is offered once a week for 30 minutes. In grades 3, 4, and 5, FLES is offered 3 times per week for 40 minutes.
- With the French Partner option, what happens if a student leaves the French Immersion program after grade 1? Mr. Phelan replied that once students choose French Immersion it is strongly encouraged that they make the commitment for grades 1-5. Although the committee did not address this specific scenario, Mr. Phelan assumes they would revert back to the student assignment plan and place the student accordingly.
- With the Alternate Assignment option, the class size goal will be made clear to parents. However, it will also be made clear that class size will be determined based upon the number of enrollees.
- Did the committee discuss the cost of both language programs? Mr. Phelan replied that the committee looked at resources and staffing for both programs and felt they have been balanced in cost.
- As requested by Mr. Lovely, Mr. Phelan will determine the number of students on IEPs in each language program. Mr. Phelan stated that a member of the PAC was involved in the World Language Committee.
- After taking part in this committee, Ms. Bagley-Jones feels that families choosing the English program need to know that they will be kept in their home school whenever possible. Also, families choosing French Immersion need to understand that they are choosing a program not a school.

The School Committee and the Administration thanked the World Language Curriculum Review Committee for this presentation.

Before ending the Superintendent's Report, Ms. Gormley stated that the deadline for the Kindergarten Information Packet is April 30, 2010.

## **6. Chairman's Report**

Mrs. Sheridan informed Committee members that an updated School Committee calendar was included in the packets for this meeting. The calendar reflects that the April 27, 2010 School Committee meeting has been deleted.

## **7. Finance Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Kelly stated that the Finance Subcommittee has been reviewing fee changes for next year and a proposal will be brought to the full School Committee at its next meeting. Ms. Kelly thanked Matt Gillis for the format he has used to present the budget break-out. A copy of this will be forwarded to all School Committee members. At the next Finance Subcommittee meeting Ms. Gormley stated that she will report on class size and class size aides as requested by Ms. Kelly. Ms. Gormley also reported that she, Mr. Phelan, Mr. Gillis and Mrs. Sheridan presented the budget information to an audience at Tucker

last night. Budget presentations are scheduled for Collicot/Cunningham on April 12, 2010 and at Glover on April 15, 2010. Budget presentations are being planned for Pierce Middle School and Milton High School. Ms. Kelly requested that any questions raised at these presentations be added to the Q&A from the Open Budget Hearing.

**8. Consolidated Facilities Subcommittee**

Mr. Huban reported that this committee has been meeting frequently in preparation of Town Meeting. The committee has circulated the Memorandum of Agreement to both the Board of Selectmen and the Administration. A public forum regarding consolidating facilities is scheduled for April 28, 2010 and a slide show is being prepared for this forum.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.