

**Milton School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
April 7, 2009**

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

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Paul Hilton, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lovely requested that a moment of silence be given in honor of the Revelus family.

2. Approval of April 7, 2009 Agenda

Ms. Sheridan asked if any response had been received from the School Building Authority with regard to the potential closing of an elementary school. Mr. Lovely replied that no response has been received yet. Ms. Gormley has tried to reach the School Building Authority representative and will call again on Thursday. With the Committee's consent, Mr. Lovely approved the agenda for April 7, 2009.

Before moving on in the agenda, Ms. Sheridan commended the Administration, the principals, teachers, and all the staff at the Milton Public Schools for the attention given to students and families this week after the terrible tragedy in the Revelus family. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Lovely acknowledged and thanked the Milton Police Department for its response and handling of this difficult situation.

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 March 18, 2009 were approved as amended.

Move: L. Sheridan

Second: G. Pavlicek

Vote: 5-0-0

5. Superintendent's Report

Globe Scholastic Awards- Patricia Turner, Pierce Middle School Art Teacher, introduced the *Globe* Scholastic Art Winners and presented these students with certificates. These winners, all part of the ACE Program, included Ken Lee Mercury, Luke Pastore, Clayton Baker, Elizabeth Hiss, and Phillip Wikina. Ms. Turner invited the School Committee and members of the Administration to attend the ACE Art Show, Monday, June 1st at the Pierce Auditorium Lobby. She encouraged the public to come and see this art display also.

New MPS Website

Sean Walsh, Human Resources Specialist, explained that he has been working with Jackrabbit Design on the new website for the Milton Public Schools. The goal was to make the school website more user-friendly and have information available with "one click". Mr. Walsh stated that the new website is expected to be live on Monday and any comments or suggestions can be directed to his attention at swalsh@miltonps.org. Edline will remain available to parents and students; however, basic information regarding the Milton Public Schools will be available on www.miltonps.org. In his presentation, Mr. Walsh demonstrated for the School Committee how easily information can be accessed using the new website and showed the various links that have been added. Mr. Walsh thanked Superintendent Gormley and Assistant Superintendents Phelan and Hilton for the opportunity to work on this project. Questions and comments from the School Committee included:

- It would be helpful to add directions to out-of-town athletic fields.
- Is there a way to identify people shown in the photographs used on the website? Mr. Walsh replied that he will check with Jackrabbit Design on this matter.
- On the main page of the website, an explanation should be added that this is a new website and any suggestions/comments are welcome.
- It may be beneficial to advertise the new website on the Cable channel.

The School Committee and the Administration thanked Mr. Walsh for his work on this project.

School Business Administrator Position

The Screening Committee for this position includes Superintendent Gormley; Assistant Superintendent Phelan; Dr. John Drott, Principal; William Ritchie, Facilities Director; Jackie Morgan, Food Service Director; Jeffrey Rubin, Director of Pupil/Personnel Services; School Committee members Chris Huban and Mary Kelly; Margaret Gibbons, President-Milton Educators Association; Leroy Walker, Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee Chair; Annemarie Fagan, Assistant Town Manager; and parent representatives Joan Goltz, Macy Lee, Carol Rosner and Laura Woodward. Ms. Gormley reported that 25 applications have been received and there are eight semi-finalists. The Screening Committee interviewed semi-finalists on April 6, 2009 and will hold further semi-finalist interviews on April 15, 2009. After this process has been completed, Ms. Gormley will make her recommendation to the School Committee.

School Calendar

At the first reading of the school calendar, Mr. Huban had asked if the March professional day could be added to either the February or April vacation weeks. After surveying the principals, Ms. Gormley reported that they would like to keep this professional day in March.

Motion was made to approve the second reading of the Milton Public Schools Calendar for July, 2009-June, 2010.

Move: L. Sheridan

Second: K. Bagley-Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

As previously requested by Ms. Kelly, Mr. Huban inquired if Ms. Gormley had any feedback on the survey regarding the half day provided for parent/teacher conferences. Ms. Gormley replied that the survey and school choice are both running items being discussed by the Finance Subcommittee.

Ms. Gormley informed the Committee that at her monthly meeting with PTO presidents the override vote was discussed. Ms. Gormley highlighted for the PTO presidents what they can and cannot be involved with in the coming months, and Mr. Joseph McEttrick provided information outlining the rules and regulations from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance regarding this matter. This information was also provided to the principals. Ms. Gormley and the School Committee thanked Mr. McEttrick for his assistance in this matter. Before closing the Superintendent's report, Ms. Gormley recognized the achievement of the students who recently participated in SEMSBA and she congratulated Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett for receiving the Visionary Leadership Award by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association.

6. Finance Subcommittee Report

Unit C and Unit D Contracts

Motion was made to ratify the Unit C contract between the Milton School Committee and the Milton Educators Association for the period September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2011.

Move: G. Pavlicek

Second: C. Huban

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion was made to ratify the Unit D contract between the Milton School Committee and the Milton Educators Association for the period September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2011.

Move: G. Pavlicek

Second: C. Huban

Vote: 5-0-0

FY10 Budget

Mr. Pavlicek informed the Committee that the Warrant Committee has recommended a base non-contingent budget which will mean a \$450,000 reduction from the School Department's current allocation. The School Department had been looking for a minimum increase of \$1.3 million. The task of the Finance Subcommittee will be to determine what the school budget will look like if it is negative \$450,000 in the event of an unsuccessful override vote. With regard to the stimulus funds, Mr. Pavlicek explained that they fall into two categories. There is approximately \$750,000 for each of the next two years for IDEA (special education grants) and those funds can only be used for special education purposes and at least 50% has to be used for new programs. The \$1.1 million of state fiscal stimulus funds are far less certain; however, these funds will also have the same restrictions. Ms. Gormley stated that the Finance Subcommittee will be working on a revised cut list. She will send that revised list to the full School Committee prior to the next meeting. When asked if the Finance Subcommittee could meet with Town officials regarding stimulus funds, Mr. Lovely replied that the Town has been provided the same data from the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education which outlines how stimulus funds can be used. Ms. Gormley will confirm that Town Administrator Mearn has received that data. Mr. Lovely suggested posting the memorandum from the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education on the website.

Grants

A memorandum from Chris Masalsky, Grant Writer for the Milton Public Schools, was included in the School Committee's packet. This memorandum reviewed the various grant proposals that have been submitted in the first quarter of 2009 and proposals that will be submitted in the upcoming quarter. The Finance Subcommittee would like a quarterly report from the Grant Writer to be presented to the full School Committee. Ms. Bagley-Jones thanked Mr. Masalsky for his helpful suggestions after the recent tragedy in the Revelus family.

FY10 Open Budget Hearing Date

Town Elections will be held on April 28, 2009. It was agreed that the Open Budget Hearing can be posted for Thursday, April 30, 2009, immediately following the School Committee re-organizational meeting.

7. Old Business

Mr. Huban requested an update on School Choice before the end of the school year. Ms. Gormley replied that update will be given within the next month.

Mr. Lovely spoke of a recent symposium he attended at which the achievement gap was discussed. He encouraged community members to familiarize themselves with the implications of the budget and what it will mean to the Milton Public Schools.

Motion was made to adjourn.

Move: C. Huban

Second: L. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.