

**Milton School Committee
Regular Meeting Prior to Town Meeting
Milton High School Library
May 4, 2010**

Committee Present: Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair, Glenn Pavlicek, Vice Chair, Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones and Denis Keohane

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Sheridan stated that the agenda item for this meeting was to discuss Article 29 in the Town Meeting warrant. The vote for Article 29 is voting for or against the funds which will be transferred (\$138,402) for a new Consolidated Facilities Department (hiring a new director, administrative assistant and a study of facilities). These funds would be put in a set-aside until the School Committee and Board of Selectmen sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Mr. Pavlicek stated the funding would go into an appropriation line item. Mrs. Kelly stated that typically a department is not created that does not have salary and expense line items.

Motion was made to approve the motion of the Warrant Committee for Article 29.

Move: G. Pavlicek

Second: M. Kelly

The School Committee and the Administration discussed the following matters with regard to Article 29:

- Where is money coming from? What would the School Department be giving up?
- The start-up cost for this department is \$138,402 for only a portion of the year. What about next year? Will the School Department lose money next year in order to fund this department? More information is needed regarding what the expectation is for the first year; more detail in the organizational chart with regard to salaries, etc.
- There are many issues with the MOA that may take until next Town Meeting to have worked out.
- If Article 29 does not pass at Town Meeting, it would have to wait until the next Town Meeting before it could be presented again.
- The Consolidated Facilities Committee would like to have the new director take part in negotiations. It is projected that the unions would be overseen by the new department by January 1, 2011.
- Is this the year to add a \$120,000+ position when the department will not create any savings?
- When asked for their opinion regarding this article, School Committee members responded as follows: Ms. Kelly would be voting against Article 29; Ms. Bagley-Jones expressed a great deal of concern with regard to the funding and the language in the MOA; Mr. Pavlicek would like to see the process go forward and believes the School Committee has control within the MOA and would have protection in writing if problems arise; Mr. Keohane believes in investment and feels this could save the town money down the road with regard to maintenance. After taking part in the Consolidated Facilities Committee, Mrs. Sheridan believes in the concept of this department but is torn on Article 29. Mrs. Sheridan reported that Mr. Huban also participated in the Consolidated Facilities Committee and would vote in favor of Article 29. When asked for her opinion on Article 29, Ms. Gormley stated that there could be significant labor issues with Article 29. Mr. Pavlicek agreed with Ms. Gormley that union issues could be significant.

No vote was taken by the School Committee prior to Town Meeting regarding Article 29. The School Committee recessed at 7:45 p.m. to attend Town Meeting.