

Milton School Committee Meeting

Milton High School Library

25 Gile Road

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Chairperson Pavlicek called the meeting of the Milton School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Milton High School.

Present: Chairperson Glenn Pavlicek, Paul Hogan, Mary Kelly, Beirne Lovely, Laurie Stillman, Superintendent Dr. Magdalene Giffune, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel Mary Gormley

I. Citizens Speak

John Michael Shields spoke about the establishment of a Neighborhood Watch Committee specifically arising out of concerns with behavior at Kelly Field. He had a meeting with Pierce Principal John Phelan last week and there was discussion regarding the improvement in the area of positive activity at the Kelly Field. Mr. Shields also spoke about his concern for the plan modifications at the Collicot and Cunningham Schools building project. He felt that these modifications are unacceptable and he has obtained signatures for a Special Meeting Warrant Article to seek authority for an override to restore this project to the original plan.

II. Administrative Report

Strategic Planning Sessions –

Two strategic planning sessions were held on July 6th and 7th where progress over the past year was looked at and discussed. The achievement gap was discussed and changes were proposed for the upcoming school year.

Treasurer Cahill came to Milton High School on August 1st and a check in the amount of approximately \$63 million was presented to Town Treasurer Kevin Sorgi representing our first reimbursement from the State School Building Assistance Program.

A request was presented from Food Service Director Jackie Morgan to increase school lunches by \$0.25 per lunch. A motion was made and duly seconded for the proposed increase with a unanimous vote being taken to approve this increase.

Member Stillman proposed a recommendation in the Strategic Planning Report in the form of a request for a grant writer. Dr. Giffune noted that this is currently being worked on.

III. School Committee Report

School Building Committee Report

Mr. Hogan discussed the preparation for the bids for the Collicot/Cunningham Schools project. It was noted that the plans should be ready by August 29, 2005, with bids going out at the end of September or early October. Meetings have been held and the proposed deletions were reviewed in detail, with the most significant change being the deletion to the Collicot Gym. He noted that the Facilities Sub-Committee is currently working on reviewing the punch lists for all of the new schools. Mr. Hogan also stated that the possibility of additional bidders could hopefully help the cost of the project coming in closer to the budgeted amount.

Questions were raised regarding the changes in the plans for the Collicot/Cunningham Schools and what these would implicate for the goal of the entire project. He stated that the most important concern was that we remain on the 90% reimbursement list. The School Building Committee felt that if it could come up with \$1 to \$1.5 million in cuts, it could create a satisfactory bottom line project cost. A request was made for a confirmation in writing so that people are aware and can understand the project scope. A request was made for a bullet list to be posted on the School Website as soon as possible outlining all proposed changes to the project. There was concern expressed with the loss of a gym affecting the education specifications and Dr. Giffune stated that the State has approved the current educational specifications with the elimination of a gym at the Collicot School.

A motion was made and duly seconded to request that the School Building Committee publicly present the list of initial recommendations for value engineering and explain what was accepted and what was rejected on this list. A request was also made for a confirmation by the State that there are no problems with our educational specifications and that no problems will arise in the future with our remaining portion of the 90% reimbursement. A unanimous vote was taken to request the School Building Committee to respond to us with the above three requests.

Discussion then took place regarding sharing maintenance costs within the Town. The issue of security costs (specifically at Milton High School) will be discussed in the future. There was considerable discussion regarding the option of an override in order to keep the gym intact at the new Collicot School. A motion was made and duly seconded for the School Committee to make an all out effort to seek the gym being added back into the Collicot/Cunningham project. There was considerable discussion with a request for more information from the School Building Committee as to whether DRA could put the gym back on as an add-alternate possibility. The initial motion was withdrawn with a motion made and duly seconded to request the School Building Committee to request DRA to make a new design or some type of an add-alternate plan so that the design is available for the gym to be restored to the Collicot School project.

A unanimous vote was taken to request the School Building committee to direct DRA to do this type of drawing. There was discussion as to when we can use the Owner's Controlled Insurance Program (OSIP) money that will be left over on this project if no insurance costs are incurred. A request was made for the School Committee to make clear to the School Building committee how the School Committee would like this money to be spent with the gym at Collicot restoration being listed as the top priority. It was noted that it takes approximately two years for this money to be returned to the School Building Committee.

Mr. Lovely stated that the middle field at Milton High School is still a disgrace and is still completely unacceptable.

Mr. Lovely noted that the painting of the gym in the field house over the summer has to be completely redone. Estimated cost is approximately \$29,000 job, but there is hope that it can be done for much less. He stated that once this is authorized, the Boosters have volunteered to help fund this repainting.

Concern was expressed regarding the first grade issue as a solution to the reducing of the population at the 1909 Wing. Mr. Lovely discussed the possibility of moving the fifth grade to the Pierce Middle School in September. He made a motion that was duly seconded to direct Dr. Giffune to have this issue looked into in detail by the Administration with all data both pro and con revealed. An amendment was made for parents to be engaged in a future discussion regarding this issue. Two members voted yes. Ms. Stillman, Mr. Hogan and Mr. Pavlicek voted no and the motion was not carried.

Finance Sub-Committee

Dr. Giffune reported on a serious deficit at the end of the current fiscal year resulting in an excess of \$600,000 - \$650,000. There were apparently discrepancies in contractual issues and the revolving accounts were needed to offset the shortfalls that had occurred. \$150,000 was applied from the Revolving Accounts. The Administration worked with the Town Accountant and certain items would be carried forward to the next fiscal year to help alleviate the costs that this deficit has created.

Questions were raised regarding the Town Financial Software and it was noted that by January 1, 2006 the School payroll should be on the system, thereby creating better reporting.

There was discussion regarding the hiring of a new Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs and it was noted that an Interim Assistant Superintendent will be put into place immediately. The permanent position has been advertised and Dr. Giffune would like to see the position filled as soon as possible.

A motion was made and duly seconded for the regular portion of the School Committee to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and to return

to regular session for the purpose of adjournment only. A unanimous roll call vote was taken and the regular portion of the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

