

Milton School Committee

August 29, 2006

Minutes

Call to order: 7:02 PM

	Present	Arrival/Departure
Committee Present: Paul Hogan , Chair	<u> X </u>	_____
Chris Huban	<u> X </u>	_____
Bierne Lovely	_____	_____
Mary Kelly	<u> X </u>	<u>arr. 7:06 PM</u>
Lynda Lee Sheridan	<u> X </u>	_____
Laurie Stillman	<u> X </u>	_____

Staff Present: Dr. Giffune, Ms. Gormley, Mr. Hilton,

1. Citizens Speak (Policy BEDH --Residents may speak for up to 3 Minutes)

Bus Service for St. Agatha's School – the Superintendent assured parents of St. Agatha students that although the starting time for their school had changed bus service would be unaffected.

2. Supt Update -- The Superintendent reported that there have been 52 new teachers hired. There were approximately 30 teachers who left the system, 7 who retired and 6 on leave. In addition, two new classrooms, grade 3 and 4, were added at the 1909 to lower classes from 24 and 25 to 17-21.

Ms. Sheridan asked the Superintendent to report the efforts taken to safeguard students at pre-season practices from exposure to mosquitoes by limiting practices to morning and afternoon ending at 4PM.

3. Retirement Incentive -- The School Committee decided to offer a retirement incentive for non union employees.

- To be eligible an employee must be vested (10 years) in their respective retirement system.
- The terms are:
 - An effective retirement date of January 31, 2007
 - A notice of retirement on or before September 30, 2006
 - One payment of \$10,000 made in July 2007 or two payments of \$5,000 in July 2007 and 2008 respectively at the discretion of the School Committee
 - Offer limited to 2 employees
 - Participants are determined by seniority

Motion: Move to approve the retirement incentive for non Union employees as presented.

Moved: Chris Huban

Second: Lynda-Lee Sheridan

Vote: 4 – 1 - 0 (Mary Kelly)

4. Budget Format -- The Committee approved a budget format that includes Outside resources and notes explaining their use.

Motion: Move to accept a budget format as presented.

Moved: Mary Kelly

Second: Laurie Stillman

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0

Ms. Stillman reiterated that the full Committee would be updated using this format periodically throughout the year.

5. FY07 Revenue -- The Committee discussed the additional Chapter 70 money as well as the need to have the Medicaid funds appropriated at a Special Town Meeting. The Superintendent reported that she had met with Mr. Colton, Town Administrator, to discuss this issue. Superintendent Giffune recommended the Committee seek the Medicaid funds, with the intention of seeking the additional Chapter 70 funds for FY08.

The Chair will discuss this issue with the Warrant Committee and other officials.

The Committee will be provided with a list of the outstanding bills to be paid with the \$393K.

Motion: Move to authorize the Superintendent to submit an Article for Special Town Meeting for \$393K to pay outstanding special education bills.

Moved: Chris Huban

Second: Laurie Stillman

Vote: 5 -0 - 0

6. Dates and format for SC Retreat -- The Chair asked for input regarding the School Committee Retreat. He stated his intent to have the retreat focus on the roles and Relationships of the School Committee and administration using a facilitated discussion. September 19th was put forth as a possible date. Ms. Kelly suggested the Committee set goals for itself. She also requested the calendar be addressed. Ms. Stillman suggested topics for presentations also be included in the discussion. The Chair will schedule the retreat after consulting with members regarding their availability.

7. Chair Update -- The Chair updated the Committee on the opening of school events he recently attended – Orientation for New Teachers, Opening Staff Meeting. Mr. Hogan stated he felt an air of optimism among the Staff. He also attended a negotiation session regarding the Supervision and Evaluation System.

In addition, the Committee will hold hearing on policies related to homework and the use of alcohol in school buildings at non school events.

8. School Committee Subcommittee Reports --

School Building Committee – Mr. Hogan reported that the bid documents for the Collicot gym are out. They are expected back in 6 weeks.

9. New Business (Policy BE – submissions by noon) -- Laurie Stillman complimented the facilities staff on the condition of the buildings for the opening of school.

Laurie Stillman complimented the High School administration on the parent orientation program.

Mary Kelly voiced her concern about the placement of students in the Integrated classrooms at the Glover School citing a lack of communication and opportunity for parents to choose their student's classrooms. She asked that parents wishing to remove their students be accommodated. Mr. Huban responded that both the Superintendent and School Committee championed these classes, and that accommodating such requests would negatively affect class sizes in other classrooms. Mr. Huban suggested that the classes would be monitored and needed changes could happen at mid year. In response to the discussion, the Superintendent reiterated the need and benefits for all students in these classes. She also explained that assignment procedures mirrored those of all other classes in the system.

Mr. Huban requested the Superintendent reiterate the bus service for St. Agatha's students.

Mrs. Kelly introduced information in a recent newspaper article citing the Department Education position that bus drivers not employed by the school system be CORId by the system, and requested an administrative report. Mr. Huban accepted on behalf of the Policy Subcommittee to investigate the issue with the administration.

10. Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations.

The Chair indicated that the Committee would not be coming back into open session. The meeting would be adjourned from Executive Session.

Moved: Mary Kelly

Second: Chris Huban

Vote: (Voice Vote) Hogan - aye, Huban - aye,
Kelly - aye, Sheridan - aye, Stillman - aye

The Committee adjourned to Executive Session at 8:12 PM