

Milton School Committee Meeting

Milton High School Library

25 Gile Road

Tuesday, September 6, 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, Vice-Chairperson Christopher Huban, Paul Hogan, Mary Kelly, Beirne Lovely, Laurie Stillman, Superintendent Dr. Magdalene Giffune, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel Mary Gormley and Interim Superintendent for Business Affairs John Souza.

I. Citizens Speak

Hilary Black, a parent of a fifth grader at the Collicot School, spoke about her frustrations relating to the proposed construction changes at the Collicot School. She thought that all four of the elementary schools were supposed to be equal and she feels that these changes jeopardize that equality.

Trisha Carroll, a parent of a second grader at the Glover School, spoke about the concern with the inequity at the Collicot/Cunningham Schools. She expressed concern that this was not being treated as a community issue.

Kristin Bagley-Jones spoke about the changes to the Collicot/Cunningham project as an ethical issue and felt concern with the lack of communication.

Elaine Driscoll, a parent of a fourth grader at Collicot School, spoke of her concern with the future plans for the Collicot/Cunningham Schools. She expressed concern with the lack of information being made public and expressed a request that the schematic plans and renderings be made available to all citizens.

John Michael Shields spoke about the Selectmen's Meeting that he attended to discuss this issue and a citizens' petition that has been circulated for an article to be submitted to the Town Meeting for the Collicot/Cunningham School project to be restored to its original concept. He wanted the issue of the reduced interest to be payable by the Town as a result of the State's early reimbursement to be looked into to see if this may assist in funding changes to the design for these two schools.

Bridgette Mastandrea expressed concern with the Collicot/Cunningham proposal as well as the fact that she feels the plans have now been changed to one school instead of two.

Mary Shapiro expressed her concern with the lack of a formalized plan and felt that the Collicot/Cunningham parents were not being treated properly. She thanked Mr. Lovely for his efforts.

II. Administrative Report

Milton Foundation for Education

Carol Rosner, President of the Milton Foundation for Education, along with Jim May, a Foundation Board Member, John Phelan, the Pierce Middle School Principal, and Humanities Department Head Stephanie Nephew, were on hand for the announcement that the first “Decade Grant” in the amount of \$10,000 has been awarded by the Foundation. Eleven proposals were submitted in June 2005 and the Pierce Middle School was selected for this generous grant award by the Foundation. This grant will go toward the funding of a new Investigations/Math/Lab Program. This program is designed to improve student achievement in Math and to assist students in understanding math through the application of “hands-on” concepts. This will give sixth grade students an additional one-half year of math with 40% of the seventh and eighth graders benefiting from this program as an elective. This grant is designed to reinforce and enrich our current math curriculum. A motion was made and duly seconded for the acceptance of this First Decade Grant. A unanimous vote was taken and the grant was accepted with sincere thanks being extended to the Milton Foundation for Education.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Position

Mr. Paul Hilton was introduced as the individual who has been recommended by the Administration and the School Committee to fill the full time position of Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs. Dr. Giffune reviewed the screening process and indicated that Mr. Hilton was the unanimous recommended choice. The School Committee had a question and answer period with Mr. Hilton and a motion was made for his approval as the new Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs. The motion was duly seconded and a unanimous vote was taken for his approval. It was stated that Mr. Hilton would assume his position in early December.

Milton Public School Website

Mike Goodless and Bob Pattison were on hand to review the new web page that will encompass the entire school system. After October 12, 2005, parents may begin accessing their children’s individual class information. A system-wide mailing will be sent out explaining how to use this web page. Samples were shown of how this page may be used by teachers and how parents may have access to such information. Technology mentors will be available at each school to assist the teachers with their web pages. Open houses will be held at each school to assist parents in accessing this information. It was also noted that the combined school calendar which will appear on the web site should help eliminate conflicts in scheduling

Interim Superintendent for Business

John Souza was introduced as the current Interim Superintendent for Business Affairs. He discussed the current collaborative purchasing of oil and how this has been set up at a fixed rate for the upcoming year.

Annual Operating Plan

Two hand outs were distributed to the members of the School Committee showing the operating plan goals and the status of their achievement – i.e. completed, deferred, and projects that are on-going. The goals are all aimed at raising student achievement. These issues were all discussed in detail and it was noted that all professional development has been developed to address differentiating instruction. Higher expectations were reviewed and it was noted that the PSAT's will be administered at Milton High School this year to all tenth and eleventh grade students during the school day. Focus will be on professional development, engagement of all students, communication with all parents, diversity and disaggregating data to show how gaps in achievement issues are changing. In addition, a new budget format will be developed to match up with the strategic plan. A new refocused philosophy on Special Education is also in process with a view to keeping as many students as possible in the classroom. The structure of Special Education has been revamped so that \$1 million of a \$1.4 – 1.6 million deficit has been recovered.

Hurricane Efforts

The Administration reported its development of a proposal to purchase \$3,750 in textbooks for a set of reading, math, and language arts to be made available to the students in Houston, Texas who were displaced by the hurricane in Louisiana and Mississippi. There was a motion made and duly seconded for a \$2,500 cap on the cost of these textbooks that would be purchased. The motion was unanimously approved. Each school was encouraged to engage in fundraising efforts for the hurricane victims.

III. School Committee Report*School Building Committee Report*

Mr. Hogan presented the plans that have been bid upon by potential general contractors in respect of the Collicot/Cunningham Schools. A request was made for a set of plans to reflect the add on of the gym that had previously been taken off from the Collicot School. It was noted that this could be easy to include if and when these funds become available. There were six bidders and October 16th is the bid opening date.

Mr. Lovely reported that the middle field has officially been rejected by the School Building Committee. This now falls on the Suffolk Construction Company to straighten out.

Mr. Shields was asked to speak and he discussed the logistics and details of how money could be appropriated to save the integrity of the Collicot/Cunningham project. He stated that with the early reimbursement payment by the state, Milton is potentially

saving \$90,000 in interest. There was discussion about a financial agreement with the School Building Assistance Program and there was also a consensus among the School Committee members to assure that the Collicot/Cunningham project be an equal school as was initially promised. There was discussion regarding add-alternates and how they can be done and there was a request for the School Building Committee to come up with a comprehensive plan for these add-alternates.

Finance Sub-Committee

It was explained that there is an unpaid bills article in the amount of \$136,000 in the upcoming warrant to be considered at Town Meeting. It was noted that there is also a new article relating to the use of Medicaid Funds in the amount of \$183,000 that needs to be appropriated to the Schools by Town Meeting to offset our appropriation deficit.

Policy Sub-Committee

Sections F, G, and L were presented for their second reading. Thanks were given to the Policy Sub-Committee members for all of their hard work and timeliness on this project. A motion was made and duly seconded for the Facilities Sub-Committee to review the policy relating to facilities. A unanimous vote was taken for the purpose of this review by the Facilities Sub-Committee. The fiscal management Section D will be reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee. A request was made for an updated version of the policies and a question was raised whether or not the vendor can put the policies on line.

A motion was made and duly seconded for adjournment and the School Committee Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

