

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: November 16, 2016

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair, Dr. Kevin Donahue, Vice Chair, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead.

Not Present: Ms. Bagley Jones

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources

Call to Order

The Chair called the November 16th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02pm

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing the approval of minutes and reversing the order of the two Executive Session items.

Citizens Speak: None.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: PCG Report Follow Up (Attachment) -- A presentation on the Public Consultant Group's report on the MPS Special Education program was delivered by Tracy Grandeau, the Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services. Mr. Walker asked if the data collection software is antiquated. He asked what Ms. Grandeau may need as far as a budget item to improve this. She said there is a system called Easy IEP and she is researching the cost of adding the data feature. This data is very confidential and she wants a secure system. Mr. Walker would like to see a system upgrade in the FY18 budget request. He urged the leadership team to quickly advance a recommendation on this issue. Ms. Grandeau also spoke about the Coordinated Program Review (CPR.) Representatives from DESE will be onsite next Monday and Tuesday to review documents. On Dec 5th, they will visit the schools, tour the classrooms and interview parents, teachers, etc. This is conducted every six years. Mr. Walker asked if there is an ability to alter the schedule for a required response once the report is received. For example, if the state is late, would the timetable change? Mr. Walker asked what will be shared with the School Committee. He was told both the draft report and the final report.

Topic Two: Web-Based Communication Follow Up. Assistant Superintendent Janet Sheehan presented information on how teachers communicate with parents/guardians. The language in the teacher's contract has been updated. Prior to this year, Edline was the communication tool the MEA Unit A members were expected to use. Now, it says a "web-based communication tool," which promotes the idea that they can consider other technological options. There is also language in the teacher contract which notes there is a program being piloted and they are now

using one component of it. Ms. Sheehan said she met with administrators to check on the level of compliance in using web-based tools. She said right now, 98% of teachers are meeting expectations. *(note: Mr. Walker would like school-by-school performance numbers inserted here.)* For those schools with less than 100% compliance, mentors will be working with teachers to post more info and using web-based tools. Mr. Walker thanked Ms. Sheehan for the report and said this is exactly the information he wanted. He said he is looking for a strategy that gets us to 100% quickly. He is still troubled that posting homework is not part of the contract, and therefore, not required, which is an untenable position. Ms. Varela said that we should move away from Edline and towards Google Classroom. The student reps supported the move towards Google Classroom. Ms. Sheehan said that some teachers are enjoying other web based tools. Dojo, for example. Mr. Walker is interested in the timeline and wanted to know who is responsible for making this decision. Ms. Eberhardt asked if the principals receive feedback from families who complain about homework not being available on Edline. Ms. Varela said, as a parent, she noticed there is a huge disparity in how some teachers use Edline and some don't. Discussion ensued. Dr. Donahue said it is important to him to be able to access homework on Edline. Dr. Craghead asked, what does it mean for the teacher to meet expectations? Ms. Sheehan said at the high school and middle school levels, teachers must post a syllabus, course description, grading policy, assignment (tests) and a monthly description or actual assignments. At the elementary, there are fewer requirements. Mr. Walker indicated that collective bargaining strategy options to address the issues and concerns raised by School Committee members would be discussed at an upcoming executive session.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley announced the upcoming half-day, as well as parent/teacher conferences. There will be the Best Buddies 5K Gobbler at the end of the month and the Student of the Quarter ceremony. Ms. Varela asked if the students in the play could come to School Committee in the future.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: School Committee Goals (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker moved approval of the goals and thanked Mr. Koocher from MASC for his assistance. Mr. Walker read the goals here. To view the district goals, visit this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MiltonSchoolCommittee2016-2017DistrictGoals.pdf>

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Ms. Varela made a friendly amendment to add “by June of 2018” to the goal regarding differentiated instruction practices. She would not expect this entire goal to be achieved in one year. Mr. Walker accepted this as a friendly amendment. Ms. Eberhardt would like to change the athletic participation by African American students by 5%, but wondered if we need more time to implement this goal. Mr. Walker said that the parties involved have been “on notice” about this goal and the timeline is acceptable.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Superintendent's Evaluation (Vote) Mr. Walker introduced the evaluation. Ms. Gormley began a presentation on her evaluation, which included the Superintendent's Performance Goals, Student Learning Goals, the Superintendent's Rubric-At-A-Glance, which includes Instructional Leadership, Management and Operations, Family and Community Engagement, and Professional Culture. Ms. Gormley said she spent a tremendous amount of time working on the rubric at-a-glance. To view the document, visit this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/DESEducatorEvaluationSystem-SuptProcessNovember162016pptx.pdf>

Mr. Walker encouraged School Committee members to submit their input on this document by the deadline.

Topic Three: FY18 Contingent and Non-Contingent Budget Categories and Priorities (Attachment) (Vote)

Mr. Walker said there would be two budget votes. He suggested doing the Non-Contingent vote first. Dr. Pavlicek prepared a document on this topic.

Mr. Walker moved approval of the FY18 non-contingent budget. The amount is \$46,428,200.

Move: Mr. Walker

Discussion: Ms. Varela asked why this figure is less than last year. Mr. Walker explained that it is not.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-0

Next, Mr. Walker discussed the priorities for a contingent budget. If there is an override placed on the ballot, we may receive \$2 million of that. There are priorities in three categories: Improving Student Achievement, Expanding Program Opportunities, Reducing Costs to Parents & Guardians. Ms. Gormley outlined each line of the contingent budget.

Mr. Walker moved for these priorities to be included and to approve the additional amount of \$1,895,800 for the contingent budget.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Ms. Varela commended the work on the contingent budget. Dr. Donahue asked if the items were prioritized. Mr. Walker indicated that they are not.

Vote: 5-0-0

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote) Dr. Craghead read the warrant info. She moved approval of Warrant #19 dated November 10th for \$291,129.26

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second : Dr. Donahue

Vote: 4-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

Dr. Craghead postponed Warrant #20 to the next meeting.

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee

Ms. Varela reported that the subcommittee met in October after the kickoff walk to school day. Along with their Mass DOT colleague, they put together pedestrian safety training, which was held earlier this month at Glover and Tucker and will occur at Cu/Co next month. At the Pierce Middle School, the health teacher will be scheduling bike safety training. Also, at the next meeting, they will analyze aerial mapping of routes to school.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Walker asked for items on Superintendent Evaluation and further budget discussions. Ms. Varela asked, in late January, if the committee could have an "all hands on deck" meeting with Warrant Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing deployment of security devices and security personnel; as well as MEA negotiating strategy and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for December 7th

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm .