

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Cable Access Studio  
Date: July 6, 2016

**Committee Present:** Leroy Walker, Chair; Kevin Donahue, Vice Chair; Kristen Bagley Jones, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Elaine Craghead

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Human Resources; Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

### **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04pm. He then called for a moment of silence for Milton Public Schools employees Kevin Moore and Paula Lane

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda with no changes.

### **Citizens Speak**

There were no speakers

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Topic One: Final Approval for MHS 2017 European Trip (Attachment) (Vote)

MHS History Teacher Kathleen Kelly came to speak to School Committee members about the upcoming European trip. She spoke about the history of overseas trips, which she has organized. She has organized nine trips since 2005. The High School offers one trip every other year. The trip for 2017 was announced in February of 2016. The trip is limited to 40 students. She talked about the different fundraising options. Regarding behavior, she said they have not had any issues in many years. She has never had a student who had to be sent home. Ms. Craghead asked about the ratio for chaperones to students. Ms. Kelly said she has always had enough chaperones and she prefers to take teachers rather than parents. Mr. Walker asked who is responsible for staying current on State Department advisories? Ms. Kelly said it's up to her discretion and EF Tours. Ms. Bagley Jones said she wished the cost could be lower. Dr. Donahue moved approval of the trip.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley talked about success of Milton Summer Enrichment program and recognized Jonathan Redden and Bernadette Moonan. She also recognized Ms. Moonan for her new pilot program, "Invention Academy." Ms. Gormley reported that Glover Principal Karen McDavitt began this week and is planning a student meet and greet. Also, Dawn Sykes has been appointed to her new position, Director of Fine & Applied Arts. She is currently planning the fall

musical. Ms. Gormley reported that they are in the midst of the second round of interviews for Athletic Director and PE Director.

Dr. Pavlicek announced that all the equipment has been ordered for the new Cardio Center and will be delivered within six weeks. This project was completed with funds raised through the MFE.

It was also noted that as the result of a School Committee policy, which began last year, all parents of students entering 6, 9, and all who attend Blue Hills Regional, and SPED placements must re-register their children during the summer months. This is being accomplished with the help of the Residency Coordinator.

Ms. Varela asked if the Wellness Center (Cardio Center) would be available to the community and Ms. Gormley said it would be open during night hours, but obviously, the priority is MPS and MHS children. Right now, the indoor track in the Copeland Field House is opened at 5:30 a.m. for senior citizens.

Ms. Bagley Jones asked, regarding Dawn Sykes, will she be responsible for both visual arts and the music department, as well as Family and Consumer Studies? Ms. Gormley said yes, since that was also the job title for Dr. Diamond Burdett.

Ms. Bagley Jones noted that on October 4th, the Health & Wellness Subcommittee is co-sponsoring a panel for Substance Abuse Prevention.

## **Chair's Report**

Topic One: Preliminary Questions and Issues regarding Milton School Committee Approval of Wilson-Kindelan School Application (Attachment)

Mr. Walker said there have been two developments: As of today, he learned the school founders are now planning for a September 2017 opening, not 2016. Also, Mr. Walker said he would like to narrow this evening's questions to focus on curriculum.

Ms. Veronica Guerrero-Macia introduced her "Board." Ms. Gormley asked how the Wilson Kindelan school's vision and process works. The group talked about how the school plans to use Open Court. Ms. Sheehan asked about revisions to the proposed curriculum. She said, regarding the English/Language Arts curriculum, she noticed bits and pieces of a variety of programs. Ms. Guerrero-Macia said they will use the 2016 program. Ms. Varela asked what grades the school will offer and was told that the school would be opening as a K-2 and adding a grade each year, ultimately including a K-5. Ideal class size would be 11-20, maxing out at 20 per classroom. Ms. Gale asked two questions. First -- in thinking about your methodology -- how do you plan to incorporate authentic literature into a non-literature based program like Open Court? Ms. Guerrero-Macia said that authentic texts will be used through read alouds and prescribed lessons.

Ms. Gales's second question was, when planning units of study, did the team consult any research-based programs for curriculum mapping? If not, she thinks it would be helpful. Ms.

Varela asked if children with disabilities would be included. Ms. Guerrero-Macia said this would not be part of their mandate. Ms. Concannon said what is being presented at this meeting seems like a different curriculum than what was in the binder. Ms. Guerrero-Macia said the binders were sent in April and there have been some changes. Ms. Gormley agreed that the current information seems different and Ms. Guerrero-Macia said it's mostly the same. Mr. Walker said he would like an updated binder provided to the School Committee that is as accurate and up to date.

Ms. Sheehan wondered if they would be using both Common Core and Massachusetts Frameworks. Ms. Guerrero-Macia said yes, in the younger grades. Ms. Eberhardt asked if they planned on pursuing any affiliations. Ms. Guerrero-Macia said we do not have to be a member of any organization. Ms. Eberhardt asked, who will oversee the school, going forward, if there is no accrediting organization? Mr. Walker noted that the Milton School Committee can continue to periodically review the “thoroughness and efficiency of the curriculum.”

Ms. Guerrero-Macia said they are applying to AISNE (American Independent Schools, New England branch.) Dr. Donahue asked, are you the first of your kind, and was told yes. Dr. Donahue said he would like to see if there's a way to relate the school's curriculum to Mass Frameworks and Common Core. Ms. Guerrero-Macia said, to be clear, as an independent school, we do not have to follow the Mass Frameworks. We have flexibility, as long as we meet the DESE standards. Dr. Donahue said he'd like to see which of the Common Core elements they are choosing to dispense with.

Ms. Bagley Jones said she finds the idea of this school is appealing but expressed concern that the School Committee has oversight, but no authority. Dr. Donahue clarified that in addition to Common Core, he would like to see which of the Mass Frameworks this school plans to use. Mr. Walker noted that his is a collaborative process and emphasized that the School Committee is taking their approval responsibility very seriously.

Topic Two: MASC Delegate Appointment for Conference. Nov 2-5 (Attachment) Mr. Walker moved to appoint Dr. Craghead as the delegate.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Dr. Craghead said she would like feedback on what conference offerings are most crucial for the district so that she can prioritize which sessions she attends. Members Walker, and Varela will also attend.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

### **Finance Subcommittee**

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Dr. Pavlicek read the pending warrants. The first was Warrant #53, dated June 30th in the amount of \$204,535.01. The second was Warrant #54 dated July 5th in the amount of \$406,532.74

Mr. Walker moved to approve Warrant #53 and defer the vote on Warrant #54.

**Move:** Mr. Walker  
**Second:** Dr. Donahue  
**Vote:** 6-0-0

### **Long Range Planning Advisory Subcommittee:**

Mr. Walker noted this concept of a long range planning subcommittee started back in 2013. Since then, Ms. Gormley has found two parents who have been incredibly helpful in forming a strategic roadmap. Mr. Walker said the subcommittee would like to engage a facilitator for a cost not to exceed \$30,000. Ms. Varela inquired how this would be funded, and Mr. Walker said it would be "subject to the availability of funds." Ms. Gormley noted that Principals James Jette, Elaine McNeil-Girmai and Dr. Karen Spaulding are on the subcommittee, along with Ms. Gormley. Ms. Bagley Jones asked, do other districts do this, and what did they focus on? Ms. Gormley said that some of our sister districts have done this. As a result, some of those districts implemented elementary language program or SEM programs, for example.

Mr. Waker made a motion to authorize the Chair, Vice Chair and Superintendent to engage a facilitator to assist with the district's long range plan at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

**Move:** Mr. Walker  
**Second:** Dr. Donahue  
Discussion: Ms. Eberhardt asked if the funding could be used both for the facilitator and to engage experts and Mr. Walker confirmed that was the case.  
**Vote:** 6-0-0

### **Approval of Minutes**

Topic One: School Committee Meeting of May 25, 2016 (Attachment) (Vote)

**Move:** Mr. Walker  
**Second:** Ms. Varela  
**Vote:** 6-0-0

School Committee Meeting of June 8, 2016 (Attachment) (Vote)

Move: Mr. Walker  
Second: Ms. Varela  
Vote: 6-0-0

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Ms. Varela asked for an update on Facilities, specifically, where we are with space for PreK and K. Dr. Donahue said there will be a few policy items at the next meeting.

The Chair entertained a motion to move to Executive Session, not to return to public session, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations for Non Union Personnel, the discussion of which in open session would be detrimental to bargaining position.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.