

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High Library  
May 15, 2013

**Committee Present:** Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair; Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Leroy Walker, Becky Padera, Mike Zullas. Student Rep: Acadia Ryder.

**Not Present:** Leroy Walker

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel;

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the May 15th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:09 pm

**Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda.

**Citizens Speak**

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

**Approval of Minutes**

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the April 3rd, 2013 minutes of the Milton School Committee without amendments.

**Move:** Ms. Padera

**Second:** Ms. Kelly

**Vote:** 3-0-1 (Mr. Zullas abstained)

\*\* Ms. Bagley Jones arrived at 7:10 pm.\*\*

**Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: Milton High School Life Smarts Team. Coaches Paul Arenburg and Nancy Mikel and Students came to speak to School Committee members. Mr. Arenburg outlined what the LifeSmarts program is comprised of. Students train before and after school and compete in on-line tests. This year, ten students qualified for State Tournament. and based on their performance, won an all-expense paid trip to Atlanta. At the National Tournament, they finished in 13th place. Three students got cited, including Jack Caljouw, who was named the nation's top student in category of Environmental Science.

Topic Two: Milton High School Debate Team. Coaches Nancy Warn and Nick Fitzgerald and students came to talk about the season. Isabelle Smith, one of the captains, spoke to the School Committee members. This year, the team attended tournaments at

Harvard and Yale and won several trophies and medals. The team also hosted their first tournament here at MHS this year. They also participated in the Candidates Forum during town election season. Members of the School Committee congratulated the team.

Topic Three: Globe Scholastic Art Winners. Karen Hughes, Milton High School Art Teacher, Kassandra Derby, Milton High School Art Teacher and Stephanie Sherman, Pierce Middle School Art Teacher, came to talk about Globe awards. The teachers read the list of this year's winners and also displayed some of the award-winning artwork. Principals Jette and Spaulding congratulated their students for this accomplishment. School Committee members asked the students a variety of questions about their inspiration and their art education program.

Topic Four: Milton Food Service Report (Attachment). Food Service Director Jacqueline Morgan came to present a report. She reported on the data from her program, including the numbers on free/reduced lunch and described the new on-line payment program. She also discussed a number of grants her department received this year, which enabled her to offer the breakfast cart and the "Wildcat Cafe." She also talked about the collaboration with Whole Foods, which enabled nutritionists and chefs from that company to work alongside MPS food service workers. Ms. Morgan reported that the USDA conducted an audit of her department, which got positive results. School Committee members praised Ms. Morgan for her report and for the hard work of her department this year. Ms. Padera asked about gluten-free and low-sugar options for students and Ms. Morgan said it is an issue they are looking into. She also described an upcoming "Iron-Chef" competition she is planning for the fall. Ms. Gormley noted how our Food Services department has done a good job with its budget and has been self-sustaining. She also commended Ms. Morgan for reaching out to families who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

#### **Health & Wellness Subcommittee:**

Ms. Bagley Jones reviewed the minutes for the April 26th meeting. She reminded the committee that by 2017, schools need to have policies in place for mental health. Also, she noted that May is Mental Health Month. She reported that the subcommittee is working on a collaboration with Milton High School and Pierce Middle School. Vice-Principal Michelle Kruezer applied for grant with Junior Women's Club for MHS kids to go to Pierce and work with students on a mentoring program. We have a health/education curriculum called Great Body Shop that has been successful and we have also have a Heart Association grant with Mr. Ducharme. Ms. Bagley Jones said she would like to add substance abuse and prevention to issues for the spring. She also reported that Mr. Jette sent out a letter to parents to remind them about the Social Host Law. She also said that Rich Guarino developed a "resources for families" guide and it is available on the website.

Topic Five: Revised 2013-2014 School Calendar (Attachment) (Vote). The Chair explained that there were a few revisions to the 2013-14 School Calendar and she entertained a motion to approve the calendar.

**Move:** Ms. Bagley Jones

**Second:** Ms. Kelly

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley reported that our Full Day Kindergarten grant, provided by the DESE, is at risk. She said she recently met with Glover parent on the board of education, Dr. Calderon-Rosado to advocate for us at the state level on the importance of this grant. The Milton Public Schools invited the commissioner to come and see the program in person, and this past week, Commissioner Mitchell Chester visited both Glover school and Milton High School. Ms. Gormley reported that the visit was highly successful and thanked everyone who helped to organize this event.

Ms. Gormley noted the Glover Principal Screening Committee has not identified a candidate yet and will re-post the job for a second round of applicants. This will also be done with the Assistant Superintendent for Business screening committee.

Ms. Gormley noted that the annual MFE Outstanding Teacher of the Year announcements have been made and the ceremony will be held on May 22nd.

Mr. Redden will be heading up the Milton Summer Enrichment program this summer and noted that it has been reduced to a four-day program. Nearly 1,000 students will be attending some type of summer program in the Milton Public Schools this summer.

Registration for "Welcome to Middle School Camp" is now open. Ms. Gormley also mentioned several upcoming events on the school calendar, including Music Awards, Tucker School Fair, Internet Safety Night, Kindergarten Screening, Senior Awards Night, Booster Banquet, Prom and Graduation. She said Pierce students will be performing "Hello Dolly, " and also noted the success of the Pierce Track Team.

## **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman began by recognizing that this was Student Representative Acadia Ryder's last night. She will be attending American University in Washington, D.C. and will major in International Relations and Foreign Policy. Ms. Sheridan thanked her and gave her a small gift from the committee.

Topic One: Milton School Committee Subcommittees (Attachment) All School Committee members should have received emails about openings in the subcommittees. Ms. Bagley Jones asked to remain on Health & Wellness. Ms. Kelly asked if Mr. Walker planned to remain on the Policy subcommittee and said she would like to join this subcommittee if the meetings can accommodate her work schedule. She also noted that the Legislative Subcommittee is rarely used and maybe should be removed.

The Chair suggested, as a way to handle the large volume of emails members receive, that those which need a timely response, should have "reply ASAP" in the subject line. Ms. Kelly requested that if there is an urgent matter, she gets a call.

Topic Two: Electronic School Committee Packets. The Chairman said she would like to try to go "electronic" with many of the School Committee documents with the goal of going paperless. She suggested using Google Docs to share our School Committee data packets, and put documents online.

Ms. Sheridan reminded the committee there is a School Committee Retreat scheduled for June 19th. She also noted that "We are Milton" will be hosting a fireworks display and concert on June 9th at Hutchinson Field, hosted by the Copeland Family Foundation.

**Finance Subcommittee:** Ms. Kelly gave a thank you to the warrant committee and to town meeting for approving the school budget. In terms of the budget, she said, once new hires are completed at the beginning of fall, we realign to each category. The School Committee will vote at that time for the remainder of the year. Also, regarding the Strategic Plan, the committee needs to make a time commitment to getting this done. Ms. Gormley said she worked today with statewide organizations and has ideas where RFPs should be posted. She agreed that the School Committee should begin to get proposals for its Strategic Plan.

**New Business:** The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for June 5th, with the Retiree Reception at 6:30 pm.

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** None. Ms. Kelly asked if there were any subjects under review this year we might be getting reports on? Ms. Gormley said there are three system-wide committees who are planning to report out. They are: Proficiency Gap, Science Committee and Technology Committee. All three will report out before the end of the year, as well as a report on ELL.

Ms. Gormley also noted that with the upcoming prom and graduation season, safety must be paramount. She asked parents to closely monitor activities of their children. Mr. Jette will be speaking to all the students about making good decisions.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with MEA and AFSCME and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

**Move:** Ms. Padera

**Second:** Ms. Kelly

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones left)

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm