

**Milton School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Library  
May 19, 2009**

**Committee Present:** Lynda Lee Sheridan, Chair, Glenn Pavlicek, Vice Chair, Beirne Lovely, Chris Huban, Mary Kelly, and Kristan Bagley-Jones

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Paul Hilton, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Approval of May 19, 2009 Agenda**

Ms. Sheridan stated that an update by Margaret Gibbons on the H1N1 virus will be added to the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Lovely asked that a discussion of the naming rights for certain facilities also be added to the Superintendent's Report. With the Committee's consent, Ms. Sheridan approved the agenda for May 19, 2009 with these additions.

3. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-Residents may speak for up to 3 minutes)**

No one came forward to speak.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

**\*Note:** Mr. Pavlicek was not present for the voting of School Committee minutes. Ms. Bagley-Jones was not present for the voting of the minutes from April 7, April 14, April 23, and April 27, 2009.

The minutes of the April 7, 2009 School Committee meeting were approved.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: C. Huban

Vote: 3-0-1 (M. Kelly abstain)

The minutes of the April 14, 2009 School Committee meeting were approved.

Move: C. Huban

Second: B. Lovely

Vote: 4-0-0

The minutes of the April 23, 2009 School Committee meeting were approved.

Move: C. Huban

Second: M. Kelly

Vote: 4-0-0

The minutes of the April 27, 2009 School Committee meeting were approved.

Move: M. Kelly

Second: B. Lovely

Vote: 4-0-0

The minutes of the April 30, 2009 School Committee reorganizational meeting were approved as amended.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: M. Kelly

Vote: 5-0-0

The minutes of the May 5, 2009 School Committee meeting were approved.

Move: M. Kelly

Second: K. Bagley-Jones

Vote: 3-0-2 (C. Huban and B. Lovely abstain)

The minutes of the May 7, 2009 School Committee meeting were approved.

Move: M. Kelly

Second: K. Bagley-Jones

Vote: 3-0-2 (C. Huban and B. Lovely abstain)

## 5. Superintendent's Report

### Swine Flu Fact Information

Margaret Gibbons, Head Nurse, updated the School Committee and the public on the status of the H1N1 flu. There has been one confirmed case at Milton High School, and Ms. Gibbons stated that the school system is working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Milton Board of Health on this matter. Ms. Gibbons provided School Committee members with a copy of a report from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Bureau dated May 18, 2009. A copy of this report will be posted on the Milton Public School website. As with any flu, Ms. Gibbons stated that students should stay home for seven days after symptoms start or 24 hours after being asymptomatic, whichever is longer. When asked if she could require that a student leave school if he or she was showing flu-like symptoms, Ms. Gibbons replied that she can and has required a student to leave school. With parental permission (if the student is within walking distance), a high school student is allowed to walk home and call Ms. Gibbons when he or she arrives home. Ms. Gibbons stated that it is difficult to notify students that they may have been in contact with the H1N1 flu since the flu is in the community at large, not just the schools. Ms. Gormley emphasized that students who are absent with the flu should not worry about make-up work. How and when school work will be made up can be discussed with teachers and the Guidance Department upon the student's return to school. The suggestion was made to add a statement to the website addressing how work will be made up. Ms. Sheridan commended the Administration and Ms. Gibbons for the way they handled this situation and for getting the necessary information out to families so quickly.

### **2009 Graduating Class-College Acceptances, Ken Aubert, Director of Guidance accompanied by Milton High School seniors Elaine Daiber, Ben Saint Gerard, Kassi Stein and Kendall Steward**

Mr. Aubert informed the Committee that approximately 1,800 college applications have been processed to date. As of today, 192 students are planning to attend a four-year college; 24 students plan to attend a two-year college, 7 students will attend a post-grad program; 2 students plan to join the Military; 6 students have full-time employment; 1 student has deferred Wheaton College and will spend the next year on a Rotary Exchange Program in Croatia; and 18 students are still undecided or not yet reported. Mr. Aubert explained that the college application process begins early in September. The number of applications per student ranges from one to as many as twenty applications. This year there was a

significant increase in the number of students who applied under an early decision or early action plan, and there has been a continual increase in the number of applications to state schools and community colleges. Mr. Aubert stated that more than in any previous year, students have indicated that financial concerns and uncertainties about the economy have determined where they will matriculate. To date, seniors have been accepted to over 200 colleges and universities, and Mr. Aubert provided the School Committee with a list of colleges that seniors have been accepted to.

Kendall Steward informed the Committee that she began her college selection process at the end of her junior year. She knew that she wanted to study creative writing and she will attend Emerson College in the fall with a major in Writing Literature and Publishing with a focus on fiction and a minor in photography. Kassi Stein stated that she knew she wanted a school with an engineering program and research opportunities since she is interested in scientific research. Ms. Stein plans to attend Northeastern University in the fall and will participate in the Co-op program. Elaine Daiber stated that her selection process also started late in her junior year. Ms. Daiber knew that she wanted a school with an excellent music program and she will attend Oberlin Conservatory in the fall to study Vocal Performance. Ben Saint Gerard stated that it is important for students to establish a good relationship with their guidance counselor and to be aware of the work involved in writing a college essay. Mr. Saint Gerard plans to attend Boston College and is also on the wait list for Williams College. Ms. Gormley expressed her pride in all of these students and feels that they represent the opportunities that are available to every student at Milton High School.

#### **Milton Public School Athletic Hall of Fame, Mike Goodless, Chair**

Mr. Goodless reported that this is the third year of the Athletic Hall of Fame which began through the efforts of Superintendent Gormley. The Athletic Hall of Fame has a Board of Directors and a Selection Committee and there are three categories for inductees. The categories include student athletes, teams, and coaches. This year's inductees include the 1974 Baseball Team; the 1988 Boys' Basketball Team; the 1990 Girls' Basketball Team; Matthew Bianculli (1995); Ray Blake (1993); Solomon Demeke (1990); Paul Dorsey, coach; Jackie Langley Driscoll (1973); Cathy Edlridge (1990); Dick Fitzhenry, coach; Dick Gallery (1951); Tom Giatrakos (1992); Michael Goodless, coach; Clinton Graham (2002); David Marad (1963); Paul McGonigle (1950); Lisa Bent Sterling (1989); Mark Sullivan (1982); Neil Wallace (1953); and Francis "Inga" Walsh (1944). This is the second year of the Chairman's Award category, and this year the Chairman's Award will be presented to Beirne Lovely for his years of dedication to Milton athletics. A banquet and induction ceremony will be held on October 24, 2009 to honor these inductees. Ms. Gormley thanked Mr. Goodless and his group of volunteers who work hard in this effort. Mr. Huban asked how Board members were nominated; what is the criteria for nominations; and how do you nominate an inductee. Mr. Goodless replied that on March 1<sup>st</sup> of next year there will be nomination forms in the offices at all the public schools, at Town Hall, and on-line. There are by-laws which describe the criteria for becoming a Board member and the criteria for nominating an inductee is based on what the person accomplished while at Milton High School.

#### **Updates**

Ms. Gormley announced that the Milton Foundation for Education will be honoring the Outstanding Teachers of the Year at a reception on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Milton High School Lobby with awards to be presented at 7:00 p.m. This year's "Outstanding Teachers" include Krista Sinton, Glover; Laura Horowitz, Tucker; Kathleen Caccamo, Collicot; Tanya Walsh, Cunningham; Elizabeth MacElhaney, Pierce Middle School; and Kristin Masciarelli, Milton High School. The Dr. Mary

Grassa-O'Neill Award will be presented to Martha Sherman.

The Summer Enrichment program will begin June 29, 2009 and will run to July 31, 2009 (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.). Walk-in registrations are being held May 19, 2009 and June 9, 2009 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Milton High School.

Kindergarten assignments will be mailed out next week. As of today 332 students have enrolled in full-day Kindergarten; 13 students have enrolled in half-day Kindergarten. Ms. Gormley reported that Ada Rosmarin has submitted a request for an additional grant (for another classroom) due to the large response to full-day Kindergarten. Ms. Kelly pointed out that if the 332 students attend full-day Kindergarten and we stay with the same number of classes we currently have, class size could go up to 23. She is concerned with that class size and wants to make sure this is clearly presented to parents in the event Milton does not receive the additional grant.

Ms. Gormley reported that the Tucker Principal position has been posted and advertised. Ms. Sheridan has volunteered to represent the School Committee on the screening committee for this position. Ms. Gormley will provide School Committee members with information on the pool of candidates.

Mr. Lovely stated that as a condition to the contributions of the Copeland Family Foundation, there were certain naming requirements within the contract. They are as follows:

- The Milton High School Auditorium is to be named after Charles Winchester.
- The Milton High School Library is to be named after Dr. Mary Grassa-O'Neill.
- The Pierce Auditorium is to be named after Senator Brian Joyce.
- The Milton High School Weight Room is to be named after Coach John Reardon.

Mr. Lovely requested that these individuals be recognized at the Milton High School graduation ceremony and stated that Dr. John Drott is aware of this request.

Motion was made for the School Committee to authorize that these individuals (Charles Winchester, Dr. Mary Grassa-O'Neill, Senator Brian Joyce and Coach John Reardon) be recognized at the Milton High School graduation ceremony, Sunday, May 31, 2009.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: K. Bagley-Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Gormley congratulated Soondari Barker, a Kindergarten teacher at Tucker School, who was recently nominated by Principal Echelson to be the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Ms. Barker was a runner-up in the final round of this contest and will be attending various State House events.

The second annual Walk-A-Thon to help support clubs and activities will be held September 26, 2009. Celebrate Milton will be held on the first weekend in October, 2009. Also, the open houses for the public to view the new schools will be re-scheduled to a Saturday or Sunday in September.

## 6. **Chairman's Report**

Motion was made to change the date of the June 2, 2009 School Committee meeting to June 9, 2009.

Move: K. Bagley-Jones

Second: M. Kelly

Vote: 5-0-0

The volunteer recognition reception will be held in the Milton High School Library at 6:30 p.m. on June 9, 2009 followed by the School Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m. Retirees will be honored at a reception to be held in the Milton High School Library on June 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a School Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Gormley will put a list of retirees on the website. Ms. Sheridan stated that there are several upcoming events within the schools and suggested having Bev Quinn send a list of events to School Committee members so they can determine what events they can attend. Ms. Sheridan would like to plan the School Committee Retreat for Monday, June 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. to review the past year and to set goals for next year. She asked that School Committee members email her with any topics they would like addressed at the Retreat.

### **Appointments for Subcommittees**

A list of School Committee subcommittees was provided to School Committee members. Ms. Sheridan asked if any other School Committee member would like to join the Facilities Subcommittee. Mr. Huban stated that he is not the MPEG Representative as shown on the list; the MPEG representative is Bob Pattison. Ms. Sheridan requested that the Wellness Committee and its members be added to this list. The subcommittees are as follows:

- Finance Subcommittee – Mary Kelly, Chris Huban, and Glenn Pavlicek
- Policy Subcommittee – Chris Huban, Beirne Lovely, and Kristan Bagley-Jones
- Legislative Subcommittee – Mary Kelly
- School Building Subcommittee – Glenn Pavlicek and Lynda-Lee Sheridan
- Consolidated Facilities Exploratory Committee – Chris Huban and Lynda-Lee Sheridan
- Capital Planning Subcommittee – Chris Huban
- Milton Foundation for Education Representative – Lynda-Lee Sheridan
- Facilities Subcommittee – Lynda-Lee Sheridan
- Payroll – Beirne Lovely

## 7. **Finance Subcommittee**

Mr. Hilton discussed the additional 9C cuts made by the Governor and the reductions already made to Chapter 70 monies coming to the Town of Milton in the current fiscal year (\$503,408). He informed the School Committee that the state is seeking to back fill those funds with stimulus funds from the federal government. This requires that the Town apply for a grant to receive those funds and grant applications must be submitted by May 22, 2009. Mr. Hilton has worked with various Town officials, and they are seeking to apply for a grant to help offset health insurance costs for the final quarter of fiscal year 2009.

Motion was made that the School Committee approves the submittal of the grant application recommended by Mr. Hilton.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: Kristan Bagley-Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

## **FY10 Budget**

Ms. Kelly reported that the Finance Subcommittee met this week and discussed the School Business Administrator salary and the French Immersion reconfiguration options previously presented. Due to the time involved by the Administration with having to re-assign students, Ms. Sheridan proposed that the School Committee wait to vote on a reconfiguration option until the June 9, 2009 School Committee meeting (after the override vote). Mr. Lovely voiced his concern that this timeline may not give parents sufficient notice before the end of the school year. In the event of an unsuccessful override, Ms. Gormley stated that it would take approximately two weeks to make assignment plans for students.

Ms. Kelly also stated that Ms. Gormley had provided her with the present enrollment sheet. She feels that the class size disparity between French Immersion and English is something that will have to be addressed even if there is a successful override. Ms. Gormley stated that the leadership team can bring recommendations regarding this matter to the Finance Subcommittee and then discuss it at the next full School Committee meeting. Ms. Kelly discussed fees for next year and asked that the proposed fee schedule previously discussed by the School Committee be posted on the website. The School Committee discussed the cost of the athletic program and the amount of fundraising that was required this year. Mr. Lovely stated that he is interested in knowing how much money is allocated in the budget for sports next year and if it will be sufficient to fund sports for a full year. He does not want it to be only spring sports that are at risk again next year.

Ms. Sheridan announced that the PTOs have organized a joint Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Forum for Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pierce Middle School Auditorium. Ms. Denise Queally of the Cunningham PTO informed the Committee and the public that this forum is meant to further educate the community of the impact of not passing an override. There will be representation from several Town departments and committees as well as representation from the School Committee, Administration, and the Invest in Milton group. This forum is being advertised in local papers and will be recorded and re-aired on Cable during the week.

## **8. Health and Safety Subcommittee**

Ms. Bagley-Jones stated that the parent forum held May 18, 2009 to address the problem of underage drinking was a step in the right direction. According to a youth risk survey of Middle and High School students from Milton which had been conducted two years ago, 60% of the students surveyed indicated that they have engaged in underage drinking; 16% responded that they were between the ages of 11 and 12 when they first tried alcohol; 23% were between the ages of 13 and 14; and 15% were between the ages of 15 and 16. The Health and Safety Subcommittee plans to continue to address such issues in the upcoming year. Ms. Bagley-Jones thanked Police Chief Wells and Dr. Perry Hearn of Milton Hospital for speaking at this forum. The School Committee thanked Ms. Bagley-Jones for her work on this committee. This forum was taped by Cable and the re-play times will be posted on the website.

## **9. Facilities Subcommittee**

Ms. Sheridan reported that an energy grant for \$23,000 was given to the Milton Public Schools from NStar. Funds from this grant will be used to replace 129 gym lights at the Copeland Field House, the Pierce Middle School gym, and Glover gym with more energy efficient lighting. Funds were also received from the Copeland Family Foundation to refinish the gym floor in the Copeland Field House. A more environmentally friendly water-based product will be used.

Motion was made to accept the Energy Grant from NStar.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: M. Kelly

Vote: 6-0-0

On behalf of the Milton Public Schools, Ms. Sheridan expressed gratitude to local landscaper, John Driscoll, for the many hours he volunteers to landscape the grounds at the Collicot/Cunningham building. Ms. Sheridan stated that if any other local landscaper would like to “adopt” one of the other school buildings, they should contact Bill Richie at brichie@miltonps.org. Ms. Sheridan also stated that Milton High School recently received a community service grant through the efforts of Assistant Principal Yolanda Beech and teacher Brian Mackinaw. With the funds from this grant, student volunteers did some wonderful landscaping around the grounds of Milton High School. Thanks were given to everyone involved in this project.

**10. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- Kindergarten Update
- Athletic Program Update
- Grant Writer Update
- School Choice

Ms. Sheridan took a moment to recognize that this could be the last School Committee meeting for Assistant Superintendent, Paul Hilton. All School Committee members expressed their sincere gratitude to Mr. Hilton for the tireless energy he has devoted to the Milton Public Schools and to the Town of Milton. Ms. Gormley expressed her personal and professional thanks to Mr. Hilton for all the help he has provided to her. Mr. Hilton stated that it has been a pleasure working for the Milton Public Schools.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and not to return to Open Session and to adjourn directly from Executive Session.

Move: C. Huban

Second: B. Lovely

By a roll call voice vote the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and not to return to Open Session and to adjourn directly from Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.