

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: January 29, 2014

Committee Present: Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair; Leroy Walker, Vice Chair; Kristan Bagley-Jones, Becky Padera (arrived late), Mike Zullas. Student Reps: Audrey Erickson, Matt McCarthy.

Not Present: Mary Kelly

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Call to Order

The Chair called the January 29th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05pm

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing Item 6a (Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review) and moving Item 5b (Technology Report) to after Item 5e (Happenings)

Citizens Speak

Rachel Shewe and Sheila Leddy came forward to discuss the work of the Milton Foundation for Education and the upcoming Celebration for Education. Next, Matt McCarthy talked about the Milton Mini-Relay for Life to be held in May. Mr. Walker congratulated five students named Patriot Ledger All Scholastic for fall sports. This is the highest level possible for South Shore.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the December 4th, 2013 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 4-0-0

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Pierce Middle School Site Council Presentation. (Attachment) Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding, came to speak, along with Parent Representatives Marc Check, Gillian Najarian, Lisa Viola, Teacher Representatives Jeff Stoodt, Sara Pullia and Jimmy Moonan. First, they showed a brief video, then reviewed some of the MCAS data. Dr. Spaulding talked about the Innovation grant. She said the team is doing work in our own district and sharing it with other districts. She said there are two initiatives new this year. The first one is Pierce Academy. In the past, they have tried a variety of ways (after-school, and Saturdays) to help students who don't achieve as high as we hoped. Pierce

Academy is offering an extended day for this group of 8-10 students in each grade level and builds a mentoring relationship. Also, the Calculus Project is an innovative program which gives students a solid foundation to prepare them to be successful in Calculus. There is an emphasis on the importance of collecting and analyzing data. They are looking for alternative ways to have the Math Investigations course remain vital. Science kits have arrived for teachers' use. The aim is to make science instruction more inquiry-based. They talked about the importance of having a Science Coordinator at the school. There was discussion about PARCC assessments, the BOKS activation grant. There will be a fundraiser on Saturday, offering CPR training, and a babysitter's course which is available through a partnership with Fallon Ambulance. The site council also mentioned Curry College Eye to Eye Program which matches college kids with middle school kids, for mentoring, through a variety of projects such as art. This started last year and is extremely successful. They discussed "flipping the classroom" and about piloting Khan Academy. Upcoming dates: March 27th is the Science Fair. To view the entire presentation, click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/PierceMiddleSchoolSiteCouncilPresentation012914.pdf>

Mr. Walker congratulated the site council and commended them for their mission statement. He encouraged them to continue doing what they're doing. Ms. Bagley Jones called the presentation "amazing."

Topic Two: Technology Plan (Attachment) moved to after Happenings.

Topic Three: Diversity Report (Attachment) Mr. Phelan explained that Milton is one of the only school districts in the state to produce an annual diversity report. Mr. Walker asked to review it and suggested we invite Citizens for a Diverse Milton to come and discuss the report. Pat Lattimore Elizabeth Thomas and Cynthia Guise came on behalf of the CDM. The group asked the committee some questions regarding the report, including; What's the strategy for not going backwards? How do we do recruitment? What's the recruitment strategy? Mr. Phelan talked about School Spring and how it increases the pool of candidates. (*BP arrived at 8:16 pm.)

Mr. Walker asked about how many openings there might be in the teaching staff at the elementary schools. Mr. Phelan said they will know better in April. Mr. Walker asked for an update in May. Regarding the leadership team, the efforts towards diversity show. He asked, are we fully utilizing existing staff? Can our in-school diversity committees help? Ms. Bagley Jones talked about exit interviews and said she'd like to see these implemented. Ms. Gormley talked about how diversity within the school district is a good thing. She wants to offer the best that exists within the commonwealth. The committee then discussed the assessment data. SAT scores are a problem as there is still a proficiency gap. She asked about increasing the number of students of color in AP courses, but Mr. Walker said if it's open to all, what more can we do?

There was discussion about diversity training for guidance counselors. Mr. Walker asked for three years of athletic data and would like it broken down by sport. Ms. Padera asked for data on clubs and activities. Mr. Phelan thanked Dr. Spaulding for introducing the framework for presenting data in this manner (held up grid) and said this

type of work speak volumes to what kind of work we're doing. Ms. Sheridan noted that this report is on the website. Ms. Lattimore thanked the committee for inviting the CDM for coming to go over the data.

Topic Four: FY14-15 School Calendar (Attachment) Parents are starting to call and ask questions about the calendar. Ms. Kelly asked for the early release days to be held on different days of the week next year. The chair entertained a motion to approve the calendar.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: Unanimous (5-0-0)

Happenings: More than 300 people attended K Info Night. Ms. Sheridan said the energy from this crowd was unbelievable. Each elementary will have their own Grade One Information Night. Soon, the district will send out one video per night to show what Innovation Pathway and French Immersion classrooms look like. These will be 90 second segments. Parents can see/feel what the classroom looks like. Also, Growth & Development night was tonight. Dr. Midura was fantastic. Will give presentations to fifth-graders. This Saturday at Pierce, the CPR event. Also, at Cu/Co, Robotics competition, and on Jan 30th, Cu/Co science fair.

Topic Two (moved from earlier) Technology Plan (Attachment). Mr. Phelan explained how the district is in compliance with the state. Mr. Walker said he thinks this is an opportunity. Lets not wait until 2017 to develop a technology strategy. We need someone to be a Technology Education Coordinator and perhaps this should be a full-time position.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY15 Budget: Mr. Walker said there was a good discussion with the warrant committee.

Topic Two: FY15 Fees. Good news for parents. Regarding full day Kindergarten fees, we will keep tuition at \$3,700. The chair entertained a motion to approve the fee schedule.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: **4-0-0** (Ms. Bagley Jones stepped away)

Topic Three: FY15-19 Capital Requests (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker talked about certain items on the spreadsheet, such as the Chromebooks, had to be moved around and explained the other requests. The district had to replace some of the PCs. Some

Smartboards are becoming obsolete. He recommended moving approval of this document.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan asked why Chromebooks are in Year 3 and Mr. Walker explained that some were moved some from FY16 to FY15. Ms. Sheridan asked to put the disclaimer out there, by 2017, it might not be Chromebooks, since the technology may change, there might be something else.

Vote: 5-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

STEM update, Cunningham Site Council and Facilities Update were added to the next agenda.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing deployment of security and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (5-0-0)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.