

**Milton School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Library  
August 24, 2010**

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

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent, John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel, Matthew Gillis, School Business Administrator

**1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**2. Approval of August 24, 2010 Agenda**

With the consent of the Committee, Mrs. Sheridan approved the agenda for August 24, 2010.

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

No one came forward to speak.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the School Committee minutes of May 18, 2010.

Move: C. Huban

Second: G. Pavlicek

Vote: 5-0-1 (M. Kelly)

Motion was made to approve the School Committee minutes of June 8, 2010.

Move: C. Huban

Second: G. Pavlicek

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion was made to approve the School Committee Retreat minutes of June 22, 2010.

Move: G. Pavlicek

Second: C. Huban

Before voting, Ms. Kelly made a friendly amendment to clarify the wording on page 4, paragraph 2 to read: "Ms. Kelly reported that she touched base with the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen regarding security cameras and Resource Officers. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen recommends that a letter be written to Chief Wells regarding the priorities of the School system."

A vote was taken to approve the School Committee Retreat minutes with this friendly amendment.

Vote: 6-0-0

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## 5. **Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Gormley introduced three new administrators to the School Committee and the public. The new administrators included:

- Andrew Boles - Assistant Principal at Pierce Middle School
- Amy Gale - English/Math/Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator at Pierce Middle School
- Marilyn Decker - K-12 Science Coordinator for the Milton Public Schools

After reviewing the resumes of these individuals, Ms. Gormley and School Committee members welcomed them to the Milton Public Schools. Resumes of these individuals will be posted on the website.

Ms. Gormley informed the School Committee that at the next meeting she will provide biographies of the new teachers who joined the school system as a result of retirements, leaves of absence, resignations, etc. As a result of additional stimulus funds, Ms. Gormley was pleased to inform the School Committee and the public that the School Department was able to appoint one English Reading Specialist and one French Immersion Reading Specialist. These positions were posted and Mary Ellen Burke has been appointed as the English Reading Specialist and Kate LaValle has been appointed as the French Immersion Reading Specialist.

Ms. Gormley informed the School Committee that a successful Strategic Planning Retreat was held at Curry College. Ms. Gormley thanked Assistant Superintendent John Phelan for the work he did preparing for this event and thanked Curry College President Ken Quigley and his staff for their continued generosity to the Milton Public Schools. The Strategic Plan will go to the school Site Councils and will be presented to the School Committee in November.

In an effort to bring administrators together and offer them support, Ms. Gormley announced that Dr. John D'Auria has been hired to conduct some professional development sessions. Dr. D'Auria is a previous Wellesley Middle School principal and is the retired Superintendent of the Canton Public Schools. Dr. D'Auria currently works with Teachers 21 and he has held one session with our administrators on the topic of supervision and evaluation. Future sessions are planned and will be held after the school day.

With regard to the Race to the Top funds, Ms. Gormley stated that Massachusetts was notified that it was one of the top ten winners in the Race to the Top. Last year this grant was discussed with the School Committee, the Administration and the Milton Educators Association. After evaluating the level of work and reporting necessary to be part of this grant program, Milton was not one of the districts that signed on. Ms. Kelly asked if the state receives these funds, will it be re-aligning curriculum standards to the national standards as opposed to the well-defined frameworks it currently follows. Ms. Gormley replied that the common core standard has been accepted and administrators are currently examining what the differences are. The Administration will attend future seminars given by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding common core standards. Mrs. Sheridan asked that Ms. Gormley give an update on this at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Gormley announced that after interviewing several candidates, Charlene Roche has been appointed as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Ms. Roche has acted as the School Committee secretary for the past several years. The School Committee secretary position has been posted and Ms. Roche will continue to do the minutes in the interim.

Mr. Phelan reported that teachers have been participating in several professional development opportunities throughout the summer. At the elementary level teachers have participated in professional development in math content, curriculum writing and Full Day Kindergarten curriculum alignment. AP training was offered to high school teachers and Smart Board training and inclusion training was offered to both special education and regular education teachers. In addition, the Milton Public Schools is currently negotiating with Bridgewater State College to do some partnering in math content area training with elementary teachers and special education training and certification for any Milton Public School teacher. Additional professional development will take place for all Milton Public School staff on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Huban asked if any decision had been made regarding an email he had sent to the Superintendent about the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Gormley replied that this was discussed at a recent Leadership Team meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited from the main office of every school every morning of the school year.

Ms. Bagley-Jones inquired what the library hours will be at Pierce Middle School and Milton High School. Ms. Gormley responded that both the Pierce and the Milton High School libraries will be open after school through the after school Homework Club. The Pierce library will be open 2 or 3 days until 3:30 p.m., and Dr. Drottar is in the process of insuring that the Milton High School library will be open every day until 4:00 p.m. Updated information will be included in the next Email Blast.

#### **6. Consolidated Facilities Report**

Mr. Huban reported that minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Facilities Committee meetings are included in tonight's School Committee packets. At the last meeting the Committee ironed out some details of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and some legal questions remain. The MOA will hopefully be approved by September and it will then be reviewed by the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen at a possible joint meeting. After explaining some of the remaining legal questions, Mr. Huban stated that he hopes to bring the MOA to the School Committee table by the first October meeting for a discussion and vote.

#### **7 Policy Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Huban reported that the Policy Subcommittee met a few time over the summer to discuss issues that had been brought up during the spring. With regard to Policy JEB, Entrance Age, it is the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and the Administration to revise the wording of the first sentence of this policy to read: "The entrance age to the Kindergarten is five (5) years on or before August 31. The entrance age to first grade is six (6) years on or before August 31". This is the first reading for the change to Policy JEB, Entrance Age; therefore, no vote needs to be taken.

The Policy Subcommittee also reviewed the issue of whether or not exchange students should be allowed to walk with the other students at high school graduation if they were here at that time. The Policy Subcommittee felt this was more of a policy for the Administration rather than a School Committee policy. He believes the Administration feels strongly that exchange students do not walk with the other students at high school graduation since they have not been at Milton High for four years and have not fulfilled all graduation requirements. The Administration will get a policy in writing and distribute it to the people who do have exchange students. Mrs. Sheridan added that this is something the School Site Council can discuss at Milton High School.

Mr. Huban noted that the Policy Subcommittee reviewed some suggested revisions to the Complaint Procedure which had been previously approved and recommended not to make any revisions at this time. The Policy Subcommittee continues to review the procedure for evaluating the Superintendent due to changes in the Open Meeting Law (Policy CBI and CBI-E1 were suspended at an earlier School Committee meeting) along with policies surrounding how a school district responds to the media and how teachers, team captains, etc. correspond with students. Ms. Kelly asked if the Policy Subcommittee would review the student assignment policy and put something in writing on how the process works.

## **8. Chairman's Report**

Due to a scheduling conflict, Mrs. Sheridan reported that the School Committee will change its schedule and will be meeting on the first and third Wednesday of every month through the end of December. The School Committee calendar has been revised to reflect the following meeting dates: September 8<sup>th</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Kelly asked that a residency update be given at a future meeting. Ms. Gormley replied that this will be provided and that she will provide enrollment updates to the School Committee on a regular basis.

Mrs. Sheridan discussed the Kohl's Cares grant. Mr. Phelan explained that this grant was brought to the attention of the Superintendent's office by Milton parent Denise Queally and Ms. Gormley immediately had Chris Masalsky get involved. This grant would provide a school district the opportunity to win \$500,000 if it receives the most votes on Facebook. If Milton were to win, the \$500,000 would be put towards Milton High School Athletics and there would be no fees for sports this year. An Email Blast was sent out giving families this information and a link will be put on the Milton Public School website. Mrs. Sheridan encouraged everyone to vote for Milton and stated that the deadline for voting is Labor Day.

## **9. Finance Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Kelly asked the Administration to give an update on the camera/security system being discussed for both Milton High School and Pierce Middle School. Ms. Kelly reported that during the summer the School Committee voted to appropriate up to \$200,000 towards the purchase of security cameras. Mr. Gillis added that in addition to the \$200,000, both the School Building Committee and the Copeland Family Foundation

each contributed \$50,000 towards this effort. Mr. Gillis stated that meetings were held with several vendors and in early August proposals came back. The prices were close for outdoor cameras; however, there were some discrepancies on the cost of inside cameras. After several questions from School Committee members, Mr. Gillis stated that he will be meeting with the vendors again this week. Ms. Gormley added that Mr. Gillis and the two principals will visit other high schools that have security camera systems before a final decision is made. Both Ms. Gormley and Mr. Gillis thanked the parents who came forward to offer their expertise in this area. The Administration and the School Committee also both expressed their gratitude to the Milton Police Department for working collaboratively with them in this effort.

Ms. Kelly discussed the issue of Resource Officers and explained that previously there had been one Resource Officer at Pierce Middle School and one at Milton High School. Currently there is one Resource Officer at Milton High School and the Police Department does not have the resources to fund the second position at this time. Ms. Kelly stated that the School Department believes this is a valuable position and will continue to look for sources to fund this position for Pierce Middle School.

The Finance Subcommittee is finalizing Full Day Kindergarten tuitions and will report out at the next School Committee meeting. Ms. Kelly requested that Mr. Gillis report out at an upcoming meeting as to how the schools closed out for the FY10 school year. Once available, Ms. Kelly requested that this information be posted on the website.

**10. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- End of the year report

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

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