

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
January 9th, 2013

Committee Present: Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones (arrived late), Leroy Walker, Becky Padera.

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the January 9th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda for January 9th, 2013 with the following edits: Delete Item 5c (MHS program of studies); add a Facilities Report item after Item 8 (Finance); delete Item 8a (FY14 cut/reduction list); add "deployment of security personnel" to the executive session. Also, for the January 23rd agenda, Mr. Walker asked to add deployment of security to the executive session and also to invite Chief Wells and Lt. Richman. Mr. Walker asked for moment of silence for the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims. Mr. Pavlicek asked for a moment of silence for the late Mr. Wilkie, longtime supporter of MHS athletics.

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the following minutes of the Milton School Committee.

November 28th, 2012

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 4-0-1 (Ms. Kelly abstained)

December 5th, 2012

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Corrections: On the last page, reverse the policy letters "CBI" and "JGA."

Vote: 5-0-0

December 12th, 2012

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0-0

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Introduction of New Milton Public Library Director Will Adamczyk (Attachment) Frank Schroth came to the table to present the new director. Mr. Adamczyk came to Milton from the Quincy Public Library, where he was the manager of circulation. He spoke to the School Committee about his involvement in Abington town politics and said he is happy to offer his services to the school committee. He thanked Ms Gormley and the members of the search committee and said he is looking forward to working in the town.

Topic Two: Introduce Volleyball and Soccer Coaches/Team Members. Coach Robin Lee and Coach Michael Madden were introduced to the School Committee. Mr. Madden explained that his team won the Town Line cup this season, and qualified for third straight championship. Coach Madden was also awarded "Coach of the Year." Mr. Madden introduced members of his team and they were congratulated by School Committee members. Next, the girls' volleyball team came to the table, along with coach Robin Lee. She noted they were the only fall team to make it through to State Tournament level, and played in the toughest league in the state. School Committee members recognized the team for their outstanding season, as well as last year's Sportsmanship Award.

** note: KBJ arrived at 7:20 pm.

Topic Three: Pierce Site Council (Attachment) Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding, arrived, along with James Moonan, Teacher Representative, Jeff Stoodt, Teacher Representative, Melissa Webber, Teacher Representative, Marc Check, Parent Representative, Gillian Najarian, Parent Representative, Lisa Viola, Parent Representative and Amy Flanagan, Parent Representative.

The presentation began with a review of the data. Dr. Spaulding noted there is work to do on the science curriculum and scores. Regarding growth percentiles, Dr. Spaulding pointed out the Pierce students are above the state in all 3 grades, but 8th grade growth is not as far ahead. In terms of accountability, PMS was determined to be a Level One school, with a score of 77 on the Cumulative Progress and Performance Index. For low income subgroup, it did not meet the target, and there were no extra credit points from the state for moving kids into Advanced/Proficient and out of Failing categories. She then went through "guiding questions" for Achievement Gap analysis.

Ms. Viola reiterated some of the data points, including the achievement gap data, which shows it has narrowed over time in ELA and Math; and the performance of the special education subgroup has risen above state levels. Mr. Moonan spoke about the realignment of the curriculum with Common Core. He also talked about how Pierce is aligning instruction with professional standards of practice. Mr. Stoodt talked about how to recognize students in a variety of ways, for example, the upcoming science fair, the new sports teams and academic contests like geography and spelling bees. To view the entire presentation, click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/PMSSIPPres01-09-13.pdf>

School committee members asked questions and made comments after the presentation. Mr. Walker said he was impressed and asked if the school had the resources it needs to take on the new challenges. Ms. Bagley Jones said she was worried about some of the data and asked why low-scoring students couldn't participate in the iSTEM pilot. Ms. Kelly asked about the boy/girl ratio in the iSTEM class.

Topic Four: Technology Plan (Attachment) (Vote) Technology Director Bob Pattison attended the meeting to explain the technology plan. There was discussion of the pilot program for iPads at the Tucker, and the introduction of 7 android tablets at Milton High. Mr. Redden recently received some Kindles and there have been a few Google tablets ordered. Mr. Pattison reported that iPads are difficult to manage on a large scale and has found that Chrome Books are easier. Mr. Phelan mentioned that there are teachers from every level serving on the technology committee. Ms. Bagley Jones asked whether every teacher who has a Smartboard is able to use it. She referred to Page 7 of the technology report. It was suggested that a Smartboard presentation be scheduled. Ms. Kelly said she has "concerns" about the report and said that on Page 8, rather than "90%" it should say "100%" There were questions about the security in place to safeguard the devices. Mr. Walker said he is not ready to vote on the technology plan tonight. Mr. Phelan talked about compliance with Edline. He said that every teacher is evaluated on their use of technology as part of the regular evaluation. The first evaluation is done before Thanksgiving, but principals routinely observe teachers throughout the year. Ms. Bagley Jones stressed that this needs to be a priority. She also asked about computer "loans," to families in need. She asked if families could receive "retired" computers from MPS. It was also suggested that community members donate their old laptops to a donation fund. The chairman requested that members send edits on the technology plan to Mr. Phelan. Mr. Walker asked for more language about compliance with Edline and Smartboards and would like to pursue the computer loan program. No vote was taken.

Topic Five: Superintendent's Goals (Attachment) School committee members added some edits to the document. Ms. Gormley said she met with Ms. Sheridan to work out the reporting times on her goals. It was suggested that the goals be delineated over the next two years. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the goals, with the addition of a "Year One" and "Year Two" delineation.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Comments: Ms. Bagley Jones asked about the 5% figure and wanted to be sure it was realistic. Ms. Gormley said that she is comfortable with the figure.

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley said the first half-day at Milton High for teacher collaborative time went very well. There is also an upcoming meeting of Citizens for a Diverse Milton, with representatives from each of the schools. She also noted that in the green folders, there is a new spreadsheet tracking system for School Committee tasks. She asked members to look it over and provide feedback. Kindergarten Info night is Jan. 17th;

STEM parent info night is Jan. 31st; Grade One Info night is Feb. 12th. Pierce Players will perform "When in Rome," on the 17th and 18th. Mr. Phelan spoke about the upcoming MLK night at the Concord Baptist Church. It was also noted that Stephanie Nephew and Drew Echelson are now in a job share partnership; and Mr. Gillis is going to Hull Public Schools and will leave at the beginning of February. Ms. Bagley Jones discussed the upcoming walkathon on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Ms. Padera updated the committee on the work of the MFE's March 9th, event. Mr. Walker and Mr. Pavlicek met with Ada Rosmarin and Dr Calderon-Rosado to talk about full day K grant. On April 1st, representatives from the state DESE will visit the Glover and Milton High School.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: CHARMS Collaborative (Attachment) (Vote) The chairman explained that the committee is required to appoint a representative to the CHARMS collaborative. It has usually been Ms. Gormley and he entertained a motion to nominate a candidate. Mr. Walker made the motion to nominate Ms. Gormley.

Move: Mr. Waker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: School Safety. The chairman said that in light of recent events, many parents have been asking about safety protocols. He explained that while many safety issues are not discussed publicly, he noted that Ms. Gormley meets regularly with police officials on this topic. Mr. Walker said that he has been informed there is not 100% compliance on safety drills and he would like this addressed.

The chair also made note that the town's Master Planning Committee is hosting forums on the visioning of the town and the public is invited to attend.

Policy Subcommittee Report:

Topic One: Policy JGA, Grade One Assignment, Second Reading (Attachment)(Vote) The chair noted that this is an updated version of the policy. It has been edited, but he did not want it to be a procedural document. It now has specifics on the lottery details. Ms. Kelly asked if the policy could be more specific about the dates. The following edits were added: Under "Lottery Detail," fourth sentence, add "assignment to..." before "available seats." Also, in the first sentence, change "in the spring" to "From March 1st to April 15th." Finally, on item 2 under Lottery Order, change "leave" to "leaving." The chairman entertained a motion to approve as revised.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Ms. Sheridan noted that last fall, the SC voted a new policy on Mass. General Laws regarding idling vehicles. Now, there are signs up to say "No Idling."

Finance Subcommittee Report

Ms. Kelly deferred the report to Mr. Walker.

Topic One: Full Day Kindergarten FY14 Tuition (Attachment) (Vote) The cost went up \$150 from \$3,550 to \$3,700 for FDK. The chairman entertained a motion to approve.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: There were questions about how the projections are calculated, which Mr. Gillis explained.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones stepped away)

Facilities Subcommittee Report: Offsite Solar. Mr. Walker said he would move to approve the committee to authorize the chair to execute a contract with an electrical vendor who will be the offsite solar vendor. The SC received an opinion today from counsel that he is comfortable with this contract. The vendor is Wildcat Solar LLC.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: The timeline was discussed. The earliest the project would go online would be 9 months. The latest would be about 14 months or so. There will be 14,000 solar panels in Natick dedicated to the MPS. The project still needs NSTAR approval.

Vote: 6-0-0

Old Business

Citizen Speak Topic Response. None

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Technology Plan. MHS program of Studies. Executive Session on devices and personnel issues.

Citizens Speak (Round 2) (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes) None.

Executive Session: The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel/Administrative Contracts (Attachments) and Negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.