

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
March 6, 2013

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

Staff Present: John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel.

Call to Order

The Chair called the March 6th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:08 pm

Approve Agenda: The agenda was approved after members agreed to delete Item 5a and f; Item 8 and Item 13a.

Citizens Speak: Jerry Vitti came to talk about the new Challenger League, which is a division of Little League that enables boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 5-18, or up to age 22 (if still enrolled in high school), to play baseball.

Mr. Vitti explained that Challenger games will be played as a combination of tee ball and coach pitch. The Challenger players wear the same uniforms, shoulder patches and safety equipment as other Little League players. In a Challenger game, each player gets a chance to bat. He thanked the Little League organizers and JP Plunkett for their assistance in getting this up and running.

Approval of Minutes:

The chairman entertained a motion to approve the minutes of January 23rd:

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Superintendents Report:

Topic One: Celebration for Education "Live Wire" update. As part of this presentation, Margaret Eberhardt, President of the Board of the Milton Foundation for Education (MFE) announced that in honor of Maritta Cronin's commitment to the Town of Milton and the Milton Public Schools, she would be made an honorary graduate of Milton High School. Ms. Eberhardt praised Ms. Cronin and the other honorees. Ms. Cronin was given a Milton High School diploma and congratulated on being the newest MHS alumna. Mr. Phelan thanked the two chairs for their support and said this year's Celebration is sure to be a great event.

Topic Two: Tucker Site Council, led by Marcia Uretsky, came to present the Tucker School Improvement Plan. Speakers included Piel Hollingsworth, parent rep; Catherine DesRoche, teacher rep; and Oliver Truog, parent rep. The presentation began with an overview of the Tucker demographics. Ms. Uretsky noted that the Tucker is seeing more ELL learners, more low income families and more families on free or reduced lunch. As far as student growth, the latest data shows high student growth for ELA. Ms. Uretsky also pointed out that many new students enter Tucker each year -- more so than at the other elementary schools. She described the process of "RTI" (Response to

Intervention), which addresses students' unique needs. To view the presentation, visit: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/TuckerSiteCouncil.pdf>

School Committee members congratulated Ms. Uretsky on her presentation and improvement plan and asked a variety of questions about the assessment data. Mr. Walker asked what resources might help the Tucker and Ms. Uretsky mentioned more opportunities to bring art and science enrichment into the classrooms.

Topic Three: Screening Committee Updates. Mr. Phelan updated the School Committee on how many applicants there have been for the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Tucker Principal positions. So far, there is a field of 15 for each of the jobs.

Topic Four: 2013-14 School Year Calendar (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Phelan presented the school calendar. He noted that the teachers will return on August 26 and 27th and the first day of school will be Wednesday, August 28th. The days off are consistent with the past few years. Ms. Kelly would like to know if the high school half-days could be put in and Mr. Phelan explained that the decision on those dates has not yet been made. Ms. Bagley Jones wanted to express her displeasure that there is only one conference scheduled per year. She would prefer to see two.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Mr. Phelan noted that March is National Youth Art and Music in our Schools month and listed a variety of concerts and art fairs in the schools. In addition, Step Up Day is this week. Upcoming events: Walkathon, College Planning Night on March 20th, and March 21 and 22 is Faculty Talent Show. He also gave a Winter Sports update.

Mr. Phelan also reported that each school collected the Grade One requests, and on Tuesday, March 5th, they held the randomized lottery for seats in the French Immersion program. The administration sent letters to Kindergarten parents letting them know the results. There was a three-phase process. Right now, there are 12 families in the entire district who did not get seats in French Immersion. A total of 312 got the program they wanted. If there is any movement in the district, the 12 families on the waiting list could be moved into the French seats. He asked for patience from all and said that he was

happy with the success rate. Ms. Kelly noted that the communication around the STEM program has resulted in the balance and Mr. Walker asked that the numbers be posted on the website. Mr. Phelan also reported that no lotteries were held at Cunningham or Collicot, as they were able to place all families in their program of choice. Districtwide, 57% chose French Immersion; and 43% chose English with the STEM component.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Warrant Committee FY14 Budget Update. Mr. Pavlicek outlined the latest news from the budget talks. At the last few meetings, the Warrant Committee recommended the schools get \$1.98 million above level funding, which means taking Level Two cuts off table. Mr. Walker said the committee needs to finish the discussion about what cuts to actually make, and needs to vote the final cuts. Mr. Pavlicek agreed that this needs to be worked on. Other School Committee members discussed the timeline as to when to make the final cuts.

Topic Two: Sequestration. The chairman reported that the state budget will require some cuts. The news is that there will be 2% cuts across the board, but it will be more like a 5 or 6% cut in those programs that can actually be cut.

The chairman also noted that swipe card-access doors were approved last night at a school building committee meeting.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: FY13 and FY14 Security Fee at Milton High School (Attachment) (Vote)
Mr. Phelan explained that there is a need to tighten security at Milton High School from 3 to 10 pm. Right now, there are good protocols during the day, but there is a need to put someone in a security guard/front desk position in the evenings. The position would be funded by a fee from those enrolled in the after-school programs at MHS (music lessons, etc.) The position would start mid-March and the pay scale would be \$15/hour. It would be needed 7 days a week until the end of the school year. The chairman moved to accept the change in the Fee Schedule to accommodate this post.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Milton High School Security Position (Attachment) (Vote)
After having received approval for the funding, Mr. Phelan said he would like to post this position. It would be temporary -- for this year only -- and would require working with Milton PD. Mr. Walker moved to approve the position, with the understanding that the School Committee would hear about the qualifications of the individual hired.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: There was some discussion about whether it would necessary to staff the building on Fridays. Mr. Phelan said that for this year, yes, since there are Friday activities scheduled, but next year, they will only schedule activities Monday through Thursday. Ms. Sheridan noted that the general public might not be aware of how many people come use the MHS building in the evenings, and how badly-needed this position is. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about the use of the back door for athletics, and Mr. Phelan noted that the Milton PD suggested the front door security first. It is a work in progress. Mr. Jette and Mr. Traister will be helping to plan a system for the back door.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Milton Summer Enrichment - Length of Program (Attachment) (Vote)

Ms. Kelly said that during the initial vote on the Fee Schedule, there was uncertainty about whether the Summer Enrichment program would continue as a five-day program or move to a four-day program. After receiving feedback from parents, it was decided that the four day would be the best choice. There was a motion to approve the four-day.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Policy Subcommittee Report

Ms. Sheridan explained that on advice of counsel, the School Committee should rescind the two prior residency policies and institute the new one.

Topic One: Policy JFAA, Admission of Residents Students, Motion to eliminate this version from policy manual.

Topic Two: Policy JFBB, Evidence of Residency/Guardianship, Motion to Eliminate from Policy Manual

Topic Three: Policy JFAA, Residency Policy, Second Reading (Attachment) (Vote)

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 6-0-0

Old Business Citizens Speak Topic Response (none)

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The next meeting will be held in two weeks. Ms. Kelly asked for an update on class sizes, and would like to see this updated monthly.

Citizen Speak (round two) No speakers

The chairman moved to adjourn at 8:59 into executive session for two purposes:
Contract Negotiations for Non-Union Personnel/Assistant Superintendant and
Negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining; not to return to to open session, but to
adjourn directly from executive session.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Roll Call Vote: unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm

MD