

Minutes of the School Committee
Open Budget Hearing
Milton High Library
March 14, 2012

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

Not Present: Denis Keohane

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 March 14th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 pm. He explained that the first meeting would be the FY13 Annual Open Budget Hearing. The committee heard from one community member, Mr. Geoff Wilkinson of Beacon Street. He is a town meeting member and came to urge the school committee to reinstate the elementary school chorus program. In the past, Grades 4 and 5 have had chorus, but this program has been cut due to budgetary issues. Mr. Wilkinson asked that the committee work towards reinstatement.

Mr. Pavlicek asked if there were any other speakers. Seeing none, he moved to adjourn the Open Budget Hearing portion of the evening.

The Open Budget Hearing was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

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Regular Meeting
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Not Present: Denis Keohane

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Citizens Speak: There were no speakers for Citizens Speak

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the agenda for March 14, 2012 after making several changes. Item 5d, School Year 2012-2013 First Grade Enrollment, there has been some flux in the numbers, so this item will be removed and addressed next meeting. Mr. Pavlicek suggested removing the Executive Session, since there would not be a vote on the contract. Mr. Walker said he would still like to meet in executive session to discuss the contract. Also, Item 8a should be changed to "Tobacco Free School and Prolonged Vehicle Idling Policy." Finally, under Item 7a, they would like to add the January/February expenditure reports. The chair declared the agenda of March 14, 2012 approved.

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to delay Approval of Minutes until later in the evening.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Pierce Future Problem Solver's Club, along with their coach, Nicole Hoyceanyls, The team has been very successful this year. There are two teams, one comprised of sixth-graders and the other comprised of seventh- and eighth-graders. The Future Problem Solvers at Pierce are divided into two teams, consisting of three students each. The junior division team of sixth graders, David Casaz, Joshua Kackley, and Timothy Karoff, and the middle school division team of seventh grader, Ryan Rafanan, and eighth graders Carleen Mullally and Michaela Olson. The problems-solvers use a six-step process to work on a problem. Sixth-grader Timothy Karoff recently advanced to the International Bowl and received a first prize.

Topic Two: March is Music in Our Schools Month; Youth Art Month and National Nutrition Month, Ms. Gormley invited the following:

1. The Globe Scholastic Art Award winners. Two Milton High students won Gold Keys for their portfolios. Ms. Gormley recognized Ms. Derby and Ms. Hughes in the art department, along with several of the winners, and their artwork.
2. The Milton High Saxophone Quintet came and performed for the school committee and discussed "Music in Our Schools Month." The musicians were: Carolyn Truax, Nick Savage, Nick Orlando, Ellen Chow and Peter Mulkern.

Topic Three: Assistant Superintendent John Phelan presented the School Start Time Study. Mr. Phelan reported that his committee read more than 30 pieces of research on this topic, as well as heard from several experts. The committee concluded that there is a positive impact of starting school a little later for middle and high school students. However, Milton currently has the second-latest start time in the area. They further concluded that most parents and teachers are happy with the current start times. At this point, there is no reason to change start times, but in the future, if they were to be changed, the committee recommends they only be made later for middle and high

school students. Members of the school committee asked Mr. Phelan several questions related to the survey and also asked if Athletic Director Steve Traister would meet with Mr. Phelan to discuss if Bay State League officials or MIAA officials would be amenable to later start times in the participating high schools.

Topic Four: School Year 2012-2013 First Grade enrollment was deferred until the next meeting.

Topic Five: Food Service Department Report. Jacqueline Morgan, Food Services Director, made a presentation to the school committee. She reported that 2,400 students participate daily in the Food Service program. In addition, 91% of those who qualify for free meals participate. She noted that Pierce Middle School recently was recognized with a bronze medal by the USDA as part of the "US Healthier Challenge," which recognizes districts with outstanding nutrition and exercise programs. She also said her department was recently audited by the DESE and got a very positive report. The recommendations include verification procedures for income, listing of condiments and labeling of boxes. She discussed the Farm to School program and the collaborative effort between the Milton School Food Services and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Milton. Ms. Morgan also introduced "My Plate" - a new model of the food pyramid, and the physical activity recommendations. Ms. Gormley asked for a synopsis of the new "food law," going into effect July of 2012. This law would govern what food can be provided to or sold to a child 30 minutes before school, during the day and 30 minutes after school. This law will affect classroom celebrations, concession stands, bake sales, etc.

Happenings: Mr. Pavlicek mentioned that one third of Milton is now in a new Congressional district and Congressman Michael Capuano recently visited both Pierce Middle School and Tucker Elementary School. Also, Ms. Gormley congratulated our high school students who competed in the Dramatic Society Group competition recently at Duxbury High School. This was Milton High's first appearance at the semi-finals since the year 2000. She also noted the success of the recent Big Beach Ball, the annual Milton Foundation for Education fundraiser. The Milton High Robotics Club recently attended the state finals and had a very successful experience. Also, the Life Smarts team recently won a state level competition and will be heading to the nationals in Philadelphia. The success of the boys' ice hockey team was also noted. The excise tax bills went out recently and Ms. Gormley urged community members to donate to MPACE through this means. A PAC meeting will be held in the Pierce Library on March 15th and the topic is summer services. Ms. Gormley noted that the Faculty Talent Show will now be held every other year. Also, the Massachusetts Best Buddies Program will be holding their prom on March 31st.

Approval of Minutes: The chair entertained a motion to approve the School Committee minutes of February 1 2012

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

4-0-1 (Ms. Kelly abstained)

The chair entertained a motion to approve the School Committee minutes of February 8, 2012.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: Unanimous

The chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the finance subcommittee of February 27th 2012.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Corrections: Mr. Walker suggested an amendment to 3b to read we do have the money. "currently funds have been identified to cover the fiscal year 2012 costs and funds for fiscal 2013 will be identified prior to the end of the year." Ms. Kelly clarified further, no changes.

Vote: 3-0-2 abstentions (Ms. Bagley Jones and Ms. Sheridan)

Chairman's Report:

Topic One: Community Leaders Nominations. There was discussion of whether there was an organization the School Committee would like to nominate for these awards. The deadline is March 31st. "Outstanding School Partner" and "Community Leader for Public Education." The committee discussed nominating Ada Rosmarin for the Community Leader and the Copeland Family Foundation for the Outstanding School Partner.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

Topic One: Residency Coordinator. The position of Residency Coordinator was discussed. A job description, detailing the position purpose, the supervision, job environment, essential function and salary level was submitted. Mr. Phelan said that this position requires a great deal of sensitivity and deals with issues of homelessness and transient families, at times. They investigate between 120 to 130 cases per year, and as many as 70 families are excluded per year. The chair entertained a motion for approval of the residency coordinator position.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Comments: There was some discussion as to how investigations are triggered, whether Milton seeks reimbursement from the "home" district.

Vote: 5-0

Topic Two: Banner Program Coordinator. There was a proposal to make this a stipend position. The maximum salary would be \$5,000, with a base of \$1,000 and the remainder to be earned as an incentive, with 4% of gross sales. Ms. Kelly expressed her concern about the way the stipend is structured and thought there should be specific language about what types of banners are appropriate. Ms. Bagley Jones

asked for a more detailed job description, to whom would this person report and how would they be evaluated?

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 4 -1 (Ms. Kelly votes no)

Policy Subcommittee Report:

Topic One: Second Reading, Policy ADC, Tobacco Free School Policy. Mr. Walker said he incorporated Ms. Kelly's suggestion that the policy be named, "Tobacco Free School and Prolonged Vehicle Idling Policy." He referenced a new version of the policy, with changes highlighted in yellow. There were two sentences added, as follows:

"The exhaust fumes from idling vehicles can also be harmful to health." and "Further, it is the intention of the School Committee to prohibit any school or personal vehicle from prolonged idling while on school property." There was no specific time limit indicated.

The chairman noted that, upon second reading, this would be for approval. He entertained a motion to approve this policy.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0

Topic Two: First Reading Policy ADA, School District Goals and Objectives.

The chair asked for a change in language regarding the "second meeting in September," and asked to tweak the timeframe. Due to vacations, etc., there was some discussion about the optimal meeting schedule. Mr. Walker agreed to edit the policy before a second reading.

The chair noted that the Policy Subcommittee is still working on a Social Networking Policy.

Health & Wellness Subcommittee:

Topic One: Ms. Bagley Jones reported that Chris Heron, a former NBA player and recovering addict, will be visiting the district in October of 2012 to meet with students by day and parents by night. In addition, the collaboration between the schools and the newly-named Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center - Milton has been working well. She discussed the Great Body Show, a health curriculum for K-5. In addition, the CATZ program will be running recess program and added a conditioning program for MHS athletes to stay in shape between seasons.

Old Business:

Topic One: Citizen Speak Response: none

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

First grade enrollment numbers. The NEASC team prepared report and digest for presentation. The LifeSmarts, Robotics, Drama and Hockey teams have been invited to the next meeting.

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

Roll Call Vote: unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:54.