

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
March 21, 2012

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

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 24th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 PM

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after deleting Item 7 (Facilities Subcommittee Report) since Mr. Richie would not be available. Also, Ms. Gormley asked to add Nancy Mickels' name to the agenda. The chairman moved to approve the agenda.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: Unanimous

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Milton High Life Smarts Team: This group was in attendance, led by principal Advisors Paul Arenberg and Nancy Mikels. They recently qualified to compete in a National LifeSmarts competition in Philadelphia. The team consists of Devin Stanley, Patrick Kelly, Jack Caljouw and Mona Yuan. Each student gave an example of a question that was asked during competition.

Topic Two: Milton High School Robotics Team: This group was in attendance, led by Advisor Marilyn Decker. She offered a PowerPoint presentation, while a student demonstrated one of the team's robots. The team members are Quentin Brown, Patrick Kelly, Conor Byrne, Jonathan Maher, David Collins, Rafael Ramos, Tu-Quan Dang, Yusef Solomon and Albert Ednedy. They shared the news that Milton High hosted a robotics scrimmage and members of the Robotics Teams recently qualified for the State competition.

Topic Three: Milton High School Boys' Varsity Hockey Team: Along with coach Paul Noonan, they were congratulated by the School Committee for making the state finals at the Boston Garden.

Topic Four: NEASC Presentation: The NEASC committee, comprised of Dr. Joseph Arangio, Brian Borde, Michelle Kreuzer, Alan Cron and Yolanda Beech, made a presentation to the School Committee. Dr. Arangio said that the report is overall very favorable. One of the areas where the report recommended improvements to the library and needs to involve the librarian in curriculum development. The next steps are to

create a follow-up committee to plan and implement proposals. School committee members asked questions about the report and thanked the committee for their efforts on the NEASC committee on behalf of Milton Public Schools.

Topic Four: First Grade Enrollment: Sean Walsh came to speak about First Grade Assignment. He explained the process that the administration uses to assign students to classrooms. This year's maximum class size is 22 in English and 26 in French. This year, there are 325 incoming first-graders. Mr. Phelan reminded the school committee that close to 90% of parents get their preferred assignment. To view the presentation, visit www.miltonps.org/Documents/SCGR1Presentation.pdf

Topic Five: First reading. The Milton High Life Smarts Club recently qualified for a National Tournament April 21-24. Mr. Phelan explained that this is an all-expense paid trip to Philadelphia and students will miss two days of school. Mr. Walker moved to dispense with the second reading and vote to approve.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote 5-0-1 (Ms. Kelly abstained)

Topic Six: Happenings. Ms. Gormley talked about the recent PAC meeting, with the topic of Summer Services. She also plugged the upcoming Pierce ACE Art Show, Jackie Morgan's USDA award, the upcoming Best Buddies Prom at Milton High. She talked about the screening committee being formed for the new high school principal and reminded everyone that the deadline for Kindergarten registration is April 30th.

Chairman's Report:

Topic One: For the town's 350th Anniversary Celebration, Mr. Phelan announced that Milton Public Schools' teachers and students have been hard at work on videos, drawings, speeches, etc. on the history of the town. On April 11th, there will be a town-wide celebration at Milton High School, with the student work displayed and a presentation from each grade level. Ms. Sheridan updated the committee on the "Mayor of Milton" competition, and said there was still room for community groups to enter a float in the parade.

Topic Two: Community Leader Nomination. These are awards given by MASC to recognize leaders in the public school community. There was some discussion as to whether School Committee members should nominate the Copeland Family Foundation or Ada Rosmarin. It was decided that there should be two nominations. The first was to nominate the Copeland Family Foundation as the Outstanding School Partner.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: Unanimous

Next, the Committee entertained a motion to nominate Ada Rosmarin for the Friend of Education award.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: Unanimous

There was some discussion about the private use of MPS facilities for groups with tax-exempt status. The chairman reminded the committee that there can only be a certain proportion of "private" facility rentals. So far, the MPS has been compliant on this issue. The chairman also reminded the committee to be diligent about borrowing and leasing issues, which also can affect the schools' bonds. Finally, he reported that the schools are still waiting on the owner-controlled insurance policy. the MTC money will be coming in for the solar panels as well. Mr. Walker suggested it would be a good idea to remind residents that the schools refunded money to the town.

Old Business

Topic One: Citizens Speak Topic Response: There was no Citizen Speak at the last School Committee meeting.

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Mr. Walker talked about revised version of ADA. The policy subcommittee added introductory paragraph to read as follows:

"The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure the timely development of district object ives each year such that those objectives can be used for academic year planning and the evaluation of leadership team performance. toe the extent possible, object ives will be prepared using the SMART format, resulting in objectives that are: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Bound. Objectives should be completed no later than September of each year."

Other edits include the addition of "May" as the date for commencement, and the addition to the third paragraph of "as soon as all relevant information is available. This will usually be in the June-July timeframe." Also, "in late August or early September " was added to the final paragraph. This was a second reading and it was moved to adopt.

Move: Ms. Bagley Jones

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Next Meeting Agenda Items: The topics of Budget and Facilities were added to the agenda, as was the Milton High School Improvement Plan presentation. Mr. Walked asked to schedule a follow-up discussion on the NEASC report after town meeting.

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.