

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High Library  
April 25th, 2012

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

**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 April 25th Regular Meeting to order at 7:15

**Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda after deleting the Policy Subcommittee (Item 8a and 8b) Also, the chairman noted that Item 5d, regarding the Assistant Principalship, does not require a vote. Ms. Sheridan asked to add a brief 350th Anniversary Committee update. Ms. Kelly asked to have the finance subcommittee report (item 7) removed from the agenda. Ms. Sheridan requested that the Facilities Subcommittee Report (item 9) also be removed from the agenda. The Agenda was approved with amendments.

**Citizens Speak**

No one came forward for Citizen's Speak at this time. However, a resident was permitted to speak as part of Citizen's Speak later in the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the March 14 and March 21st minutes of the Milton School Committee.

The Chairman made a motion to accept the minutes of March 14th.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Comments: Ms. Kelly asked for clarification on the term "unanimous," as it pertains to a Roll Call Vote.

Vote: 5-0, with Mr. Keohane abstaining.

The Chairman made a motion to accept the minutes of March 21st.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Keohane

Vote: 6-0

**Superintendent's Report:**

Topic One: Food Service Department Update/Lean Fine Textured Beef. Jacqueline Morgan, Food Service Director, came to give a report on a beef product that has recently been under public scrutiny. This product has been available in the school lunch program since the 90s. However, Ms. Morgan said that the Milton Public Schools does not use lean fine textured beef in its food service program. She then played a video clip from the USDA press conference on this topic. Mr. Walker thanked Ms. Morgan for her presentation and said he felt reassured about our program.

Topic Two: Milton Public Schools Summer Programming.

A. Barbara Perry and Chase Eschauzier came to speak about Milton Summer Enrichment. This is their second year as co-directors. They gave a PowerPoint presentation. They touted MSE as a unique opportunity for students/parents to customize their own program. The MSE runs from June 25 to July 27th and offers a wide variety of selections, including cooking, sports, Spanish, art and poetry. More than 600 students attended last year.. Paperless registration is new this year. Many high school student are employed in this program. The program was praised by the administration and School Committee members. Check [miltonps.org](http://miltonps.org) website for more information and a course brochure. Open registration will be held on May 9th from 7 to 9 pm at MHS. Contact: [mse@miltonps.org](mailto:mse@miltonps.org)

B. Karen Clasby, Director of Pupil Personnel came to speak about Extended Summer Services. Erin MacCurtain could not be in attendance. ESY stands for extended school year. For students on IEPs, this is an option, but not a requirement for the family. It is recommended for students for whom their disability could cause them to regress and their recoupment time is significantly longer. The program runs from July 2 to August 9th and is housed at the Cunningham/Collicot. After fielding questions from School Committee members, Ms. Clasby noted that this program allows many Milton students to stay in-district to receive services.

Topic Three: Lyme Disease and Public Awareness. Judy Leher Jacobs, executive director of Friends of the Blue Hills and Denny Swenson, Friends of the Blue Hills, along with Collicot parent Kathleen Peto presented information on how to prevent and identify tick bites. They unveiled their "Go Out and Play, Check Every Day," campaign and noted that children aged 9-11 get highest rate of Lyme Disease. They also talked about importance of self-checking for ticks.

**\*\*topic 5e ii (Mr. Shapiro) was inserted out-of-order here\*\***

Topic Four: Middle School Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator Position. Mr. Phelan described the creation of new position at Pierce Middle School. With the departure of Mr. Boles, the administration has redesigned this position. They will be hiring an Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator for this job.

Mr. Phelan explained that there did not need to be a vote on this issue at this meeting because there had been a Finance Subcommittee meeting during April vacation and the position was voted on at that time by the School Committee. To clarify, next year, at Pierce, there would be one Assistant Principal and two Assistant

Principal/Curriculum Coordinators. He said this was a creative way for the district to achieve the goal of teacher support in targeted areas and was an example of reallocating resources to be more productive.

#### Happenings:

A. Ms. Gormley next informed the committee that as a result of our wellness committee, working with alcohol and drug abuse issues, we have formed a relationship with Dr. John Knight at Children's Hospital. Dr. Knight has been working on a project called "Teen Safe." A presentation will be made to high school students this prom season. The website is: <http://www.teen-safe.org/>

B. Steve Shapiro, a Milton parent, and owner of Pinnacle Learning, was introduced to the committee. Mr. Shapiro began the annual partnership with children from Japan and is the creator and director of Math is a Slam Dunk program on Saturdays. Mr. Phelan, along with the committee, officially thanked Mr. Shapiro for his "unique contributions," to the Milton Public Schools.

C. The recent appointment of Mr. James Jette as new principal of Milton High School was discussed. Ms. Gormley thanked the screening committee and expressed her opinion that this was a "wonderful appointment." Mr. Phelan discussed the departure of both Mr. Boles from Pierce Middle School and Mr. Cron from Milton High School.

D. Ms. Gormley mentioned the installation of two new granite signs at both entrances to Milton High School. David Taugher, Terry Driscoll and John Phelan worked together to complete this project, along with Anthony Musto. A plaque to acknowledge donors for these signs is being completed and contributions are still being welcomed. This project was completed at no cost to the district.

E. Other happenings include the April 27th "surprise" announcements for Teacher of the Year from the MFE: Kindergarten registration is due on April 30th; Tuesday, May 1st is Scholastic Honors Night; and Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 7, 8, 10 and possibly the 14th and 15th. Awards. Town meeting on May 7th, 8th, 10th and maybe the 14th and 15th; Collicot is having a fundraiser at the View restaurant at President's Golf Course on May 11th.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Topic One: Ms. Sheridan gave an update on the work of the 350th Anniversary Committee. She mentioned the concert to be held on May 5th at the Quincy Marriott with Ronan Tynan and Pauline Wells. She talked about the commemorative stickers available, and the new flags that have been hung around town. In addition, the Milton Public Library's tulips are blooming, courtesy of the committee. Ms. Sheridan explained how Annual Town Meeting will be held at First Parish church on the first night only. Finally, Ms. Sheridan asked for ideas for "Legacy Gift," -- the theme is "beautification of town of Milton."

Topic Two : The Chairman congratulated Mr. Keohane on his election to the town's Board of Selectmen. Mr. Keohane made some brief remarks about his gratitude to the committee. The chair then outlined how Mr. Keohane's spot will be filled. He said that once Mr. Keohane officially resigns his position with the town clerk, the School

Committee will contact the Board of Selectmen to inform them. They will solicit volunteers, who must be registered voters in Milton. A replacement will serve out the rest of Mr. Keohane's term. This replacement will be chosen by during a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee.

**New Business:** Mr. Pavlicek asked if we could allow a Citizen Speaker out of order.

Move: Walker

Second: Keohane

Vote: Unanimous

Mary Kelly suggested that we perhaps add a Citizen Speak to the end of the agenda.

The speaker was Mac D'Alessandro, who was displeased with the enrollment process for incoming first-graders. His daughter attends Cunningham and his incoming first-grader has been assigned to Glover. He said he was troubled by the process and would like more transparency as to how students are assigned, particularly those on IEPs.

**Old Business:** Citizen Speak topic response. Mr. Pavlicek said that a meeting is being held on Friday morning to discuss the issues regarding first grade English/French assignment policy which was brought up at the last Citizen Speak. Also, Mr. Walker announced that he will recuse himself from any votes regarding Milton Community Schools because his son James will be returning as a Camp Cunningham counselor. Mr. Pavlicek reminded School Committee members that there is a policy which states that family members of both the Superintendent and the School Committee should not be employed by the school department, but those who were working before their family member was elected are "grandfathered."

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** On May 2nd, the committee has invited the Milton High Debate Team, as well as the Pierce Geography Bee and Spelling Bee winners and the Cunningham students who won the Curiosity Challenge. Also, Mr. Ritchie's new assistant at Consolidated Facilities will be introduced. Ms. Uretsky and Ms. Sherman will discuss Title One, and School Choice will be voted on. The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 2nd at 7 pm in the Milton High School Library.

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

Move: Mr. Keohane

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:15