

Minutes of the School Committee
School Choice Open Public Hearing
May 2, 2012

Committee Present: Kristan Bagley Jones, Glenn Pavlicek, Lynda Lee Sheridan, Leroy Walker

Not Present: Mary Kelly (note: Denis Keohane submitted his resignation this week)

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

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Mr. Pavlicek explained that this was an open hearing on school choice for the Milton Public Schools. Milton is not currently a school choice district. He asked if anyone wished to speak regarding school choice; no one came forward. There was no public comment.

The Open Hearing was closed and the chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
May 2, 2012

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

Not Present: Mary Kelly. (Ms. Kelly arrived late)

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 May 2nd Regular meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:06 pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after adding the 350th Anniversary Committee Update.

Citizens Speak

Paula Sullivan Heiller came to speak about the Milton High School All-Night Graduation Party. She explained that this has been a tradition at Milton High for 19 years. The party starts at 10 pm and takes place in the Copeland Field House. Students are "locked in," and stay until 5 am the next morning. Ms. Sullivan-Heiller asked for parent volunteers, as well as both financial support or donations from community members. The party costs approximately \$15,000 to host, but it has been a very successful event. Ms. Bagley Jones thanked Ms. Sullivan-Heiller for helping to organize this event.

Note: Mary Kelly joined the meeting at 7:12 pm

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the April 4th minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Ms. Sheridan asked for a correction. Please add the words "Celebrating Milton's 350th Anniversary." after "oral and video presentations"

Vote: 4-0-1 (Kelly abstain)

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the April 19th minutes of the Finance Subcommittee.

Move: Mr. Walker moved to defer these minutes since some information is missing.

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0 unanimous

Approval of the minutes of the April 19th was postponed to a later meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Cambridge Science Festival Curiosity Awards: Dr. Karen Spaulding, Principal of Cunningham Elementary School, along with her student, fourth-grader Wallace Heller came to talk about the Curiosity Awards. There were 1,500 submissions and both Mr. Heller and third-grader Arjun Sohur were selected to receive an award. The students were honored at a brunch at MIT. Also, the students' work will be included in a book to be published by MIT. SC members congratulated Dr. Spaulding, Arjun Sohur and Wallace Heller.

Topic Two: Milton High School Debate Team, with Coaches Nick Fitzgerald and Nancy Warn came to introduce the Debate Team. The members present were: Evelyn Oliverio, Jule Midy, Colman Lados, Aman Negassi, Katrina Ramkissoon, Olivia Erikson, John Caljouw, Terrez M. Deaibes, Corina DeLorme, Chris Dsida, Amy Savino, Michael Ricciuti, Isabelle Smith, Ailsa Jeffries, Maya Rosmarin, Chris Ricciuti, Leone Quach,

Cormac Michael Conners. Additional Debate Team members who could not attend are: Martin Rebrovic, Phil Rebrovic, Beylul Negassi, Trezure Lardeur, and Yaritzi Nunez. The Debate Team has had a very successful year in competition. Additionally, the team was asked to moderate the recent Candidates Night at Fuller Village in advance of the town elections. Ms. Gormley mentioned the team was initially founded as a partnership with Milton Academy and thanked them for their collaboration.

Topic Three: Commendation Schools Regional Dissemination Grant (Attachment) with Marcia Uretsky, Tucker Principal and Martha Sherman, Elementary Language Arts and Social Studies Coordinator & Title One Director. The pair came to explain the recent award that Tucker received from the state. This was a Title I Commendation Grant from the state, which recognized Tucker's superb growth in AYP status. The grant funds regional partnerships to identify, document and disseminate effective practices of Title 1 Commendation Schools. The Milton/Randolph collaborative grant was for \$59,209.00. There is a short time frame and the grant requirements must be completed by the end of the school year.

Ms. Bagley Jones asked how the "reward" aspect of the grant would be structured. Ms. Uretsky said that the funds would be used to purchase a set of iPads to be used at the Tucker Elementary School. In addition, a "web-inar" would be offered to the Milton Public School teachers as part of professional development.

Topic Four: Residency Presentation (Attachment) Assistant Superintendent John Phelan gave a quick update on the issue of residency. The Milton Public Schools, in order to determine which students are not residents of Milton, must follow MGL Ch. 76 5:6, which pertains to residency issues. Mr. Phelan discussed the positions, a part time registrar, a full time residency coordinator, two stipended Milton Police officers. Collectively, he estimated that 76 hours per week is spent on this issue. Not only is the issue of residency addressed during the enrollment process, but it is also followed up during the school year. In the 2011-12 school year, the MPS has investigated 171 cases. Of that number, 38 students have been excluded and 63 were able to re-establish residency. 70 cases are still under review. The entire presentation can be viewed by visiting this link: www.miltonps.org/Documents/Residencyppoint05-2-12.pdf Mr. Walker praised the work of Mr. Phelan -- which he described as above and beyond his regular job -- on this topic. Ms. Kelly said that other districts call and ask Mr. Phelan for advice on residency issues.

Happenings: Postponed to the next meeting, per Mary Gormley

Topic Five: Milton's 350th Anniversary Update: Ms. Sheridan informed the committee that prior to Town Meeting on Monday night, all town churches will ring their bells. Also, the meeting will be held at First Parish Church.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: School Choice Attachment (Vote) The chairman noted that the School Committee prepared an extensive study and presentation on this issue last year. This

issue requires an annual vote. A motion was made to opt out of school choice for the Milton Public School district for the FY12-13 school year.

Move: Mr. Walker
Second: Ms Sheridan
Vote: 5-0 unanimous

Topic Two: Open Seat on School Committee: With the recent resignation of Denis Keohane, there is now an open seat. The School Committee is obligated to provide at least seven days for people to express an interest in the seat. Interested parties should send an email to schoolcommittee@miltonps.org or send a letter to Mr. Pavlicek. Ms. Bagley Jones requested that the School Committee draft a packet of information on the requirements and obligations of school committee members. Mr. Pavlicek asked for a volunteer to take Mr. Keohane's place on the MPEG board.

Finance Subcommittee

Fee Proposal. Postposed to next meeting

New Business

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 23rd.

Old Business:

Citizen Speak topic response. Ms. Gormley said that two of the parents who attended Citizen Speak met with her last Friday and another parent is scheduled to meet with her within the week. Another parents came in to discuss the first grade assignment/IEP process. Ms. Gormley said she would provide updates on these issues at a later date.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Finance subcommittee has been moved to next week. Also, there will be a NEASC update, a report on the Anti-Bullying initiatives; Mr. Ritchie will bring his new appointment in to meet the School Committee; Ms. Gibbons will speak to the state mandate on establishing BMI at specific grade levels. Also, the 2012-13 school calendar will be discussed. Mr. Walker requested an update on drug/alcohol abuse prevention.

Citizen Speak (second round) Nobody spoke at the second Citizen Speak opportunity.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with AFSCME Custodial Union and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker
Second: Ms. Sheridan
Roll Call Vote: 5-0 Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.