

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High Library  
June 6, 2012

**Committee Present:** Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones and 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 June 6th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:35 pm

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the June 6th agenda after removing Item 5a (First Grade Assignment Planning -- Data Presentation) because the presentation is incomplete. Item 7c (Policy IJNDD, Social Networking) was also removed. Ms. Sheridan asked to add a 350th Anniversary Committee update under Item 6 (Chairman's Report.) In addition, Mr. Walker requested that a vote be taken on Item 6c (AFSCME LOCAL 1395, Report on Status of Collective Bargaining) The committee then approved the Agenda for June 6, 2012.

### **Citizens Speak**

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: First Grade Assignment Planning – Data Presentation (Attachment). Mr. Phelan reported that, since the last meeting, they have been working on the request for a data presentation to assist with First Grade Assignment. Because of the large amount of data that must be analyzed by hand, it is taking longer than expected. Ms. Gormley reported that her office has been working on creating a second strand of English at the Cunningham and/or Collicot. A letter has been sent to parents explaining about the class size differences and asking if any families would be interested in switching to a Cunningham/Collicot first grade English class. Ms. Gormley said she would update the committee after hearing back from parents on this issue. Next, Ms. Gormley reported that there are still families who have not registered for Grade One, either because they are in the process of moving to Milton or are switching from private kindergarten. Historically, families continue to register in June, July and August up through Labor Day

and they enter both French Immersion and English programs. Mr. Phelan said because of the scarcity of seats and high class sizes in the French classrooms, he suggested the administration select an end date to close enrollment for French. Currently, only 8 French seats exist district-wide and at least four students who are in the registration process have chosen French. Mr. Walker moved that other than those families who have begun the enrollment process for the 2012-13 school year, the district will close enrollment for French Immersion program at this time.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones said she would like to see a minimum before enrollment is closed. Mr. Walker reiterated that for now, this is the right action to take. Ms. Kelly noted that a previous letter sent to parents created some movement between the programs. She said there is so much interest in the French program that it is affecting the English program. Ms. Bagley Jones said she was hesitant to cap the program since some families might choose to leave the French for English during the summer, thus opening seats. Ms. Gormley reported that those families “in the pipeline” for registration will fill all French classrooms to 26 students each. The Chairman called for a vote.

Vote: 5-0

School Committee members discussed the letter that will be sent by the administration regarding the possible creation of a second strand of English. It was agreed that the letter would be directed to the French Immersion students at all schools. Ms. Sheridan asked if there was money in the budget to add a second strand and Ms. Gormley said there is a budgeted co-taught teacher who has not yet been assigned to a classroom.

Topic Two: Happenings. Ms. Gormley reported that all Milton High students have been invited to take part in a CATZ class at Milton High at a reduced rate between seasons. She thanked Mr. Traister and MPS parent Todd Ducharme for putting this together. Ms. Gormley also reported that Dr. Karen Spaulding has been appointed the new principal of the Pierce Middle School. A screening committee for the new Cunningham principal will be formed and Ms. Gormley invited interested parents to contact their PTO for more info. She also reported on a very successful Senior Week and Commencement ceremony.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that prior to the School Committee meeting, a reception was held for the 2011-2012 Milton Public School retirees. They include: Dr. Anthony Bonacci, Edward Burke, Jeanne Glynn, Nora Goonan, James Greene, Michael McCormick, Maryellen McDermott, Eileen Neret, Patricia Sampson, Ann Saur and Martha Sherman. Next, the Chairman announced that the School Committee's two nominees for MASC awards had both been granted the award. Ada Rosmarin has been named the 2012 Friend of Education; and the Copeland Family Foundation was named the 2012 Outstanding Educational Partner.

Ms. Sheridan gave an update on the activities of the 350th Anniversary Committee. She reported that Town of Milton stencils, along with red, white and blue stripes have been painted along the parade route. She spoke about potential parking issues and road closings during the weekend festivities.

Topic One: School Committee Open Seat Appointment Process. The Chairman informed the committee that, at the time of the prior meeting, there were only 5 interested parties and now there are 12. He was concerned that 30 minute interviews would be too long and asked for suggestions as to how to proceed. The requirements are that 7 days notice be given; and that the candidate be approved by a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee with a minimum of five votes. Mr. Walker agreed that 30 minutes is no longer feasible, but requested 15 minute interviews. He offered to draft a standard set of questions. The Chairman suggested that the next meeting's agenda be limited to the interviews only. Mr. Walker moved that the committee afford each candidate 15 minutes, with the meeting to begin at 8 pm.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

The chair noted that the meeting would run to 11 pm and the Board of Selectmen may not be available to stay that late. Ms. Sheridan proposed a friendly amendment to change it to 10 minute interviews. Ms. Kelly proposed a second amendment, that the meeting be held at 7 pm for the School Committee only; and invite the Board of Selectmen to a future joint meeting after a candidate has been selected. Mr. Walker accepted the two friendly amendments from Ms. Kelly: the 7 pm start time and a School-Committee-only meeting. He did not accept the friendly amendment to shorten the time of the interviews from 15 minutes. There was some discussion as to how to craft the interview questions in advance without violating the Open Meeting Law. It was agreed that a legal opinion would be sought on this matter. The motion on the floor was to begin the June 13th meeting at 7 pm and allot 15 minutes per person for the interviews.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Vote: 5-0

There was some discussion about how the voting process would occur and how the pool of candidates could be reduced to a smaller size. They agreed to add the joint Board of Selectmen/School Committee meeting either the 14th or the 19th.

Topic Two: School Committee Retreat Date/Summer Meeting Schedule

The Chairman indicated that June 20th had been scheduled for the School Committee Retreat. However, since the administration will be holding its own retreat between June 22nd and the 29th, he asked if the committee could postpone their from the end of June to the beginning of July. Mr. Walker requested that the committee not schedule business on June 20th, as he would not be able to attend.

Topic Three: AFSCME Local 1395, Council 93, AFL-CIO Contract. The Chairman reported that at last week's Executive Session, the School Committee ratified the

agreement. The issues were concerning a weekend shift, which should save the schools some money on overtime. Also, employees of Consolidated Facilities can now work inside the schools and some of our members can work in other buildings. Mr. Walker noted that he voted No during Executive Session because he felt there was a key Consolidated Facilities issue which had not been addressed. However, the union representatives subsequently agreed to a side letter which addressed his concerns, which spoke to a difference of 24 days in the contract. He would now like to vote Yes on the contract. Ms. Kelly asked if the side letter required a vote and the Chairman entertained a motion to authorize the Chairman to approve the letter.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0

Next, there was a motion to reopen the vote from the May 23rd Executive Session for a new vote.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0

The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the AFSCME Contract.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0

### **Policy Subcommittee Report:**

- a. 1st Reading, Policy FF, Naming New Facilities. Mr. Walker explained the policy. Ms. Kelly expressed her concern that a building be named after a sitting elected official and asked if we could put language in the policy to that effect. She does not advocate removing any names which have already been approved but would like to avoid a repetition of this. Ms. Sheridan noted that currently, 5 out of 6 School Committee members need to approve any naming. Ms. Kelly reiterated that she would like to see some language to address the issue of sitting elected officials. Ms. Bagley Jones said she would like a clarification of the standard of how long a school employee must serve before being considered for naming. For example, Dr. Grassa O'Neill served for 13 years. John Riordan served for 25. The Chairman noted that the final decision for all naming is at the sole discretion of the School Committee.
- b. Policy IHAMD, Wellness Policy. The Chairman noted that the policy is structured in such a way that it meets the requirements and suggested that it not be amended. Ms. Kelly made a note that on Page 3, it gives specific requirements for PE, which are not met at the high school level. She wondered if this was "tying our hands" and asked what is the MASC template on this issue? After some discussion, it was agreed the committee would check with Jackie Morgan and report back at a later meeting.
- c. Policy IJNDD, Social Networking (removed)

**Finance Subcommittee Report:**

- a. April Expenditure Report. Mr. Gillis gave a detailed report on the April expenditures. He said that while some salaries, tuitions, and grants still are being spent down, the revolving funds are in overall good health. Any items in the negative will be “cleaned up” before June 1st. Ms. Kelly asked for this report to be posted online, which can be accessed here: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/AprilExpReport.pdf>
- b. Fee Schedule. Mr. Gillis presented the new fee schedule, with all changes highlighted. Tuition for the preschool program would increase as would some Adult Education courses. Some facilities fees were adjusted. The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the new fee schedule.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Ms. Bagley Jones noted that some costs are high, which is hard on families, but there is nothing the School Committee can do about it. She expressed her opinion that she would like to change it. Ms. Sheridan asked about the status of the Pierce field, which Mr. Phelan said is currently being discussed with Parks & Rec department.

Vote: 4-0 (Mr. Waker recused himself)

**New Business**

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for June 13th.

**Old Business:**

There was no Citizens Speak Topic Response.

**Second Round Citizens Speak**

There were no speakers

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0