

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
June 27, 2012

Committee Present: Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Mary Kelly, Leroy Walker, Becky Padera.
(Kristan Bagley Jones arrived at 7:07 pm)

Not Present: Lynda Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair.

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 27, 2012 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm

Approve Agenda

The committee agreed to remove Item 6a (May expenditure); add Kindergarten Enrollment (6b); Add Approval of Minutes (Item 4) -- change subsequent #s; add Orientation Packet for New SC Members; add Collective Bargaining Strategy item to Executive Session; add Vote to FDK item; add Vote to FDK item; move MASC awards to beginning after Citizen Speak. The committee then approved the agenda.

Citizens Speak

Nicque Bradshaw came forward for Citizens Speak. As the parent of an incoming first grader at Glover, she expressed her displeasure with the data regarding her daughter's first grade co-taught classroom. She asked the administration and the School Committee to take a look at the data and ensure that a healthy vibrant and rich educational experience would be provided.

Chairman's Report

(Item 5b inserted here) The Chairman announced that both of the Milton School Committee's nominees for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees have been awarded. He introduced Glenn Koocher, executive director of MASC, to present the awards. He said that his group received 90 nominations this year and there were only three recipients. Ada Rosmarin was presented with the "Friend of Public Education" award; and Mary Gormley accepted on behalf of the Copeland Family Foundation, which was presented with the "Outstanding School Partners" award.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the May 23rd minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Ms. Kelly asked that her name and Mr. Walker's name be deleted from the "Not Present" category on May 23rd, as they arrived late.

Vote: 3-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones and Ms. Padera abstained)

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Marvin Gordon, clerk of corporation; Bernie Lynch, President, Frank Giuliano, treasurer, and Mike Lynch, all of Milton Public Education and Government Television (MPEG) came to speak to School Committee members about the improvements made to the television studios at both the middle and high school buildings. Mr. Lynch presented a video detailing the changes to the physical spaces in each building. More than \$187,000 has been invested in these improvements, all of which is funded by Comcast. The MPEG board outlined their plans to work collaboratively with the Milton Public Schools to offer students training and access to the studios. They requested that the School Committee extend their lease to a five-year term at a future meeting. With the improvements, they will now be able to air two live meetings at once. Mr. Walker asked what it would take for Pierce and Milton High courses offered by MPEG to be credited. Mr. Phelan said this is something the administration has been working on. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if internships could be extended to Milton High seniors. There was some discussion about programming and other potential collaborations with the schools.

Topic Two: Alcohol/Drug Abuse prevention. Assistant Superintendent John Phelan gave a presentation on Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention and what the Milton Public Schools currently have in place at each grade level. There was some discussion about increasing the amount of time spent on drug and alcohol awareness; and on introducing these topics at earlier grade levels. Mr. Phelan said they will be working on aligning the curriculum over the summer and will try to pilot the new schedule in the 2012-13 school year. The work of the Wellness Committee was discussed, including mental health presentations, webinars, work with Dr. Knight, CATZ training, etc. Mr. Walker expressed his wish to see more programs to discourage underage drinking and drug abuse and Mr. Phelan said part of the issue is funding for these health and PE positions and also said it is important to provide other options and positive choices for students. Ms. Kelly expressed her wish to see PE as a year-long class, not half a year. She also would like to see more health curriculum at the elementary level and suggested getting creative with the high school schedule to provide more students the opportunity for these classes. Ms. Padera suggested introducing peer leaders/peer educators for the elementary level.

Happenings: Milton Summer Enrichment is underway, with 550 students enrolled. The Special Ed program is underway at Cunningham/Collicot with 108 students enrolled and an additional 30 receiving services. In addition, the NEC program began this week. Ms. Gormley reiterated the Summer Reading requirements for students. Next, there was an update on the search for a Cunningham principal. There are three finalists and the new principal's name will be announced next week. In addition, the search for the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator is ongoing, as is the new Math Department Head for Milton High. Ms. Gormley informed the committee that there will not be an additional

first grade strand of English at Cunningham this fall. However, the Cunningham first grade and two Collicot first grade classes will be combined. Milton High Science teacher Tom Shaw, who has been coaching track at Ursuline Academy, was recently named Division 4 Coach of the Year in Girls Track.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman noted that he had neglected to welcome Becky Padera at the beginning and officially welcomed her to the School Committee. Also, he asked to observe a moment of silence for Anne Coughlin. Next, he asked for some discussion on whether the MCAS data on French Immersion and English programs should be discussed during the summer, or wait until the start of school? Ms. Bagley Jones thought it should be released now. Ms. Kelly said it depends on what the committee plans to do with the data, if it is to change things for September, we should do it now. Ms. Gormley informed the committee that the data is intended to be used for the 2012-13 school year.

Topic One: Summer Meeting Schedule. The chairman said there is a planning time presentation for Milton High School in response to the NEASC report. Also, the retreat needs to be planned. He suggested July 25th or August 8th and tentative dates. He also asked for a committee member to represent Milton at the MASC annual meeting and another member to represent the committee on MPEG. Those decisions will be made at a later meeting. The Chairman also asked for a member to sign the warrant at town hall for the release of payroll. Mr. Walker volunteered to do it next week.

Topic Two: MASC awards (moved higher on agenda)

Topic Three: Distribute New Member Orientation Packet. Mr. Walker described his first attempt at outlining what new members should have in this packet. He included documents taken from the MASC binder, information from the State Ethics Commission, the committee's Conflict of Interest Policy, an Organizational Summary, school rosters with names and titles, a copy of the FY13 budget and information on Public Records and the Open Meeting Law. He asked committee members to look at the outline and tell him if it was sufficient and send suggestions as to what else should be included.

Finance Subcommittee:

Mr. Phelan talked about a spike in enrollment at the Kindergarten level. Right now, there are 19 students waiting to be placed and there are only 12 seats in Kindergarten district-wide. This does not account for those students who have not yet registered. Mr. Gillis handed out a worksheet which showed that it would be possible to add a K classroom without impacting the budget, which would keep class sizes at an acceptable level. Mr. Pavlicek asked whether there was enough classroom space to add another class. Ms. Gormley said the extra classroom would be at the Cunningham or Collicot, as they are the only buildings with space. Ms. Padera asked if this would impact the FDK grant and Ms. Gormley said it would not. Ms. Bagley Jones said she is concerned about how this would impact the Grade One assignment process. Mr. Phelan said the administration is aware that this could impact Grade One assignment, but that process has not yet been finalized. Mr. Walker asked if the money would have to come from elsewhere in the

budget and Mr. Gillis said no. Ms. Bagley Jones said the committee should vote on the K classroom immediately, as parents need to know where their children will be going to school. Mr. Walker said he feels a sense of urgency about the larger issue, class assignment, that is important to keep in mind. He said the schedule the committee has set is a little leisurely. Ms. Gormley said the data presentation would be on July 25th, at which time there would be a proposal and a recommendation. Ms. Padera asked if the committee could vote now to add the class, then talk later about placement. The Chair entertained a motion to authorize the new classroom. Ms. Kelly moved to approve a new teacher and aide, provided the money currently exists in the budget.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

There was more discussion about the issue of placement. Mr. Phelan explained the timeline of events leading up to the addition of a classroom and on the potential of capping French Immersion.

Mr. Walker moved to add to the motion that the committee defer the vote until July 25th, at which time the administration will provide a clear timeline on where the decisions can be made in sequence.

Ms. Kelly did not accept Mr. Walker's friendly amendment. She expressed her wish to get a teacher hired for Kindergarten, and for prospective parents to agree that the committee takes class size seriously.

Ms. Bagley Jones agreed that the Kindergarten classroom needed to be added and move forward and a month can make a big difference. The Chairman reminded the committee that Ms. Kelly's motion was still on the table.

Vote: 4-1 (Mr. Walker voted No)

New Business

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for July 25th

Old Business: Ms. Bagley Jones asked to clarify whether or not the committee could respond to tonight's speaker. The answer was no.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Kelly asked that the prior meeting's minutes be posted online.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with non union personnel and strategies for bargaining units, and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Roll Call Vote: 4-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones was out of the room)

The meeting adjourned at 9:55