

Milton School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: October 15, 2014

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair, Michael Zullas, Vice Chair, Mary Kelly, Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Kristan Bagley Jones, Becky Padera. Student Reps: Spencer Torres and Matt McCarthy.

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent, Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources.

Call to Order

The Chair called the October 15, 2014 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing the Approval of Minutes and removing Item c from the Finance Subcommittee (EOY Financials.)

Citizen Speak: Town Meeting Member Cindy Christiansen, Heather Montgomery and Tori Curtis, along with parents from East Milton came to speak about the difficulty of walking to school from East Milton Square and the bus fee proposal.

Next, Nora Vernassa from the MFE came to speak about the upcoming Monster Dash. and talked about how to pre-register.

*** Ms. Kelly asked to move the agenda item on bus fees up higher so that the parents in the audience could be present for the vote. ***

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Revised FY15-16 Bus Fee (Attachment) Dr. Pavlicek explained the history of the East Milton shuttle. It was originally a "shuttle" with only two stops, but several years ago, the route became a regular bus with regular stops. The issue of safety has been raised several times and the administration has communicated with Milton Police Chief Richard Wells. During construction in East Milton Square, the Chief wants to add one Crossing Guard at the Firehouse. Dr. Pavlicek noted that the recommendation of the Administration and the Finance Subcommittee was to approve a \$375 per person bus fee with a \$900 family cap. Mr. Zullas said he'd like to speak with some of the East Milton parents about this issue. Ms. Bagley Jones said she understands how difficult it is to cross streets in some parts of town and agreed to have a sit-down with parents. She thinks this topic needs more discussion, but also, that fees need to be fair across town. She would like to equalize it and talk about this issue some more. Mr. Walker encouraged the parents to reach out to their school committee members on this topic and it will be addressed at the next meeting on November 5th.

Topic Two: Introduction of Dr. Angela Burke, Technology Administrator (Attachment) Ms. Gormley introduced Dr. Burke. She outlined her professional experience. Ms. Sheridan talked about how important this position is for the students and Ms. Gormley welcomed her on behalf of the schools. Ms. Kelly asked if teachers are being taught the proper skills while they are still in college on how to use instructional technology in the classroom. Ms. Burke said there is some instruction on this, but there is additional PD available.

Topic Three: Follow-Up on Student Achievement Data (Attachment) Dr. Spaulding came to review two issues: growth across the levels, achievement across the levels. To view the presentation, click here: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/ResponsetoSCQuestionsPresentation101514FINAL.pdf> Dr. Spaulding's presentation included a chart which showed the median growth percentile. Ms. Kelly asked if some students took the test more than once. Ms. Concannon talked in more detail about where continued work is needed. She indicated students need to write more and teachers need more PD in Science. There has been a district-wide increase in new FOSS curriculum in Grades 1-5. The third initiative, closing the proficiency gaps, requires a focus on ELA and math. Ms. Concannon said she would like to increase technology and inclusion methods for SPED students. Ms. Sheehan talked about highlighting the preschool program, which will be housed at the Tucker School. Mr. Zullas asked if another Reading Specialist would help improve scores and Dr. Spaulding said yes. Her school focused several initiatives on 6th grade, based on data. Ms. Gormley noted that working on a team has been very helpful for these administrators. Dr. Spaulding talked about Pierce Academy, where 10 students in each grade commit to staying after school. This model is based on the idea that if we want to close gaps, we must target interventions with the subgroup in mind. So far, the results have been promising, especially for Grade 8 ELA. Ms. Bagley Jones asked why there are only 10 students in Pierce Academy -- could they add more? Dr. Spaulding said that ideally she would like to invite 30 per level. Ms. Concannon talked about a pilot which allows a teacher to "earn" a laptop by attending a specific PD workshop. More than 50 teachers attended the workshop. Mr. Walker commended the group for their presentation. He said this answers specific questions about how students who have been with us their whole academic career have performed. He said the report included very important information on resources and how to allocate resources.

Happenings (this item was moved up on the agenda) Students reported that there will be a Best Buddies event on Friday as part of the football team's home game. Also, there will be the 5K Gobbler on November 22. Students also gave an update on the Exercise for Evan event.

Topic Four: Follow-Up Special Education-Strategies and National Best Practices for Closing the Achievement Gap (Attachment). Director of Pupil Personnel Services Karen Clasby. to view this report, click here: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/AddressingtheAchievementGap-FOLLOWUP.pdf> Ms. Clasby presented this report as a response to questions posed during her October 1st report. She said the DESE does not publish data related to specific disabilities and achievement rates, but that individual student data is available and can be sorted and reviewed in a number of ways. She also discussed IEPs and how an IEP team functions. She also went over the RTI data and how it is applied in the classroom. She also talked about other school districts and how they use the RTI approach, using Newton as an example. She also discussed the timetable and budget for the upcoming year, and what the district is doing to address

social/emotional needs. She showed a slide with the number of students on IEPs, OODs and 504 plans. Regarding how children are distributed in classrooms, she explained the assignment process and also discussed the supports available to French Immersion students.

Topic Five: Diversity Report (Attachment) Janet Sheehan and Moira Downes presented the district's diversity report. To view the report, click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/editeddiversity2013-14.pdf>

The report included data on hiring, student demographics, the work of the diversity committees in each school, staffing, student enrollment, assessment, AP/Honors participation and athletic data. Mr. Walker suggested a follow-up discussion after the Committee had the opportunity to review the extensive data in the report.

Topic Six: Annual Field Trip List (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Gormley talked about the field trip requests for the upcoming year, which must be approved by the School Committee. Dr. Burdett submitted a proposal for her Annual Music Department Field Trip to New York City. Mr. Walker entertained a motion to approve

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: Mr. Zullas asked which grades will be included and Ms. Kelly asked about the price and fundraising opportunities. Ms. Gormley said there will be a fundraising aspect to this field trip, as usual.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Seven: FY16 Budget Calendar (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Pavlicek presented the budget calendar. One correction was made, to remove to meeting on October 29th. The Chair entertained a motion to approve.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 6-0-0

More Happenings: (note: some Happenings were presented earlier in the agenda.) Ms. Gormley noted that October 21st will be the Swing for Sports event at Wollaston. Pierce will hold the MCAS luncheon (280) on October 23rd. The Monster Dash and Athletic Hall of Fame induction are coming up soon. Milton High Drama Club will present "Legally Blonde," on Nov. 6th and 7th. Ms. Gormley also noted that going forward, from M-F the front door of Milton High will be closed and locked at 3pm. Ms. Sheridan asked why the back door is being used instead of the front and Ms. Gormley replied it is due to the athletic program's use of the field house and locker rooms.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Follow Up: Mr. Walker stated that any items left over from FY 14 should not "fall off."

Topic Two: Superintendent's Evaluation: Mr. Walker passed out forms to each of the School Committee members entitled "End of Cycle Summative Report," and explained how to fill them out. He asked for them to be returned by October 22nd and he will incorporate their comments and return to all by October 29th. On Nov. 5th, it will be publicly read and voted on. Dr. Pavlicek indicated that when School Committee members return these forms to Mr. Walker, they will be public documents.

Topic Three: Vote MASC Resolutions (Attachment) (Vote)

Ms. Padera informed the group that she will be attending the MASC conference and would like to get consensus on how to vote on the following MASC Resolutions:

Resolution #1: Greater Transparency and Accountability for Out of District Placement Costs: Ms. Padera recommended approval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Kelly

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution #2 Universal Quality Pre-K Access in Massachusetts. Ms. Padera recommended approval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution #3 Charter School Reform. Ms. Padera recommended against approval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones said even though we don't have charters in Milton, we may someday have them, so it still affects us. Mr. Pavlicek said that Milton does lose as estimated 6 students per year to regional charter schools, which translates to approximately \$50,000 per year. Ms. Bagley Jones said she would like to see approval of this resolution. Ms. Padera then withdrew her original motion and submitted a new one, recommending approval of Resolution #3.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 4-2 (Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

Resolution #4 Fingerprinting. Ms. Padera recommended approval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Ms. Kelly asked about the language making the DESE the "clearinghouse" for the fingerprinting info. Dr. Pavlicek said right now it's district-by-district. The intent is to have a single place where the results are sent.

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution #5 Reinstitution of Earmarking. Ms. Padera recommends disapproval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones asked for clarification. Mr. Zullas said the government has gotten away from the practice of "earmarking" to avoid accusations of pork-barrel politics. However, the MASC feels that school districts can benefit from this practice.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

Resolution #6 Unfunded Mandates and New Testing. Ms. Padera recommended approval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution #7: Assessment System in Massachusetts. Ms. Padera recommended approval.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Kelly

Vote: 6-0-0.

Topic Four: Strategic Planning Update. Mr. Walker said this has gone out for a second round. There were two bidders. Both bidders submitted cost proposals that far exceeded the budgeted amount for this plan. He suggested, if the committee wants to proceed, they should make this part of the rolling three-year plan. They will be seeking pro-bono assistance on certain aspects of the plan.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Dr. Pavlicek presented Warrant #16 from Oct. 16th in the amount of \$318,136.73

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 3-0-3 (Ms. Sheridan, Mr. Walker and Ms. Kelly abstained)

Dr. Pavlicek pointed out that three yes votes can carry this. The motion passed.

Topic Two: FY16-FY20 Capital Requests (Attachment) (Vote)

Mr. Walker referred to the two handouts and asked members to correct the fourth item on the list – exterior cameras for the Elementary Schools, not "security cameras." He then entertained a motion to approve.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Ms. Kelly explained about the virtualized servers and the splitting of this in two years. Ms. Sheridan said that in the past, the facilities subcommittee used to put this together and give input and noted that the Facilities Subcommittee's responsibilities are becoming less and less. She asked to see the charge for this subcommittee.

Vote: 6-0-0

Ms. Kelly mentioned that Free Cash that might be applied to FY16 budget requests is considerable. PD dollars that might be considered one-time expenses should be considered for potential use for one-time money.

Topic Three: Quarterly Grants Report.

Ms. Gormley described two recent grants, which must be approved by School Committee:

- i. Blue Hills Bank Charitable Trust, "Into the Field" - Pierce Middle School, \$9,944.65
- ii. New England Dairy Council - Pierce Middle School, \$4,000

The first grant is to support the field work around environmental sciences. The second grant is for the cart/equipment for breakfast at the middle school.

Ms. Kelly moved to accept both grants from Blue Hills Bank Charitable Trust (cited amounts)

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan asked, when does this quarter end, and was wondering why the recent BIDMC grant was not on this list.

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Pavlicek noted that Finance Subcommittee recommended that the School Committee chair sign the EOY report on behalf of the committee, in order to submit to the State.

Move: Ms. Bagley Jones

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items: Ms. Bagley Jones would like to ask if there could be a study group on the bus safety issues, to make recommendations. Mr. Walker said that all the info has been gathered. Ms. Bagley Jones suggested that she and Mr. Zullas look at how such a group might be constituted. Ms. Kelly said we should devise a communication strategy to get this word out there about the work done on researching and setting fees.

Ms. Sheridan said she would like to add agenda item. She would like to see a form with upcoming meeting agenda topics to be added. Ms. Bagley Jones would like direction on SPED program and whether there will be a review. Ms. Kelly said she would like to vote final FY15 budget line items.

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 pm.