

Minutes of the Milton School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Library  
November 3, 2010

**Committee Present:** Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair; Glenn Pavlicek, Vice Chair; Chris Huban, Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones, John Savino, Student Representative, Michelle Nabi, Student Representative

**Not Present:** Denis Keohane (attending the MASC Annual Meeting)

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Matthew Gillis, School Business Administrator

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Sheridan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### **Approve November 3, 2010 Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda after making the following changes:

- Deferral of Superintendent's Goals to a later meeting
- Deferral of the Athletics and Personnel sections of the Finance Subcommittee Report to a later meeting
- Deferral of the Gift Policy and Procurement Policy readings to a later meeting

### **Citizen Speak**

Collicot parents, Carole Anne Meehan and Helen Hoerman, and Cunningham parent, John Gillooly, spoke in support of fully restoring the visual arts program at the elementary schools.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Cunningham Site Council

The Superintendent recognized Dr. Karen Spaulding, Cunningham School Principal, and two representatives from the Cunningham School Site Council, parent representative John Gillooly, and teacher representative Margaret Sadock, who presented the Cunningham School Improvement Plan for 2010 – 2011. The presentation included 1) information on Cunningham's MCAS and AYP results, 2) an analysis of the school's strength and weaknesses in the areas of Math and ELA for grades 3, 4, and 5, and 3) strategies for improving student achievement and engagement. The Cunningham School Improvement Plan can be found on the MPS Web site at:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunninghamSiteCouncilSCPresentation11-3-10.pdf>

#### Anti-bullying Program

Vice Principal of Milton High School, Alan Kron, presented a summary of the extensive anti-bullying initiatives of the MPS. Information about the Bullying/Peer Aggression

Policy, Bullying Prevention Committee members and meetings, as well as scheduled events for students and parents on this topic can be found on the MPS Web site at:

<http://www.miltonps.org/bullying-peer-aggression-info.php>

### Field Trip Approval

Assistant Superintendent, John Phelan, presented, for School Committee approval, the field trip request for the MHS Debate Team to participate in the Patriot Games Classic at George Mason University December 4th – 5th. The cost to participate is \$160 per student. The students and the coach will travel in a van with the Milton Academy team.

A motion was made to approve the field trip as requested by Mr. Phelan.

Move: Huban

Second: Pavlicek

Vote: 4-1-0 (Kelly against)

### Professional Development

Mr. Phelan presented to the School Committee a listing of the numerous professional development opportunities offered to MPS teachers, which will be facilitated by staff members. As Mr. Phelan reported, the majority of teachers take more than the minimum requirement of 10 hours of professional development each year. The MPS has held three full professional development days to date.

### **Finance Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Gillis reported on the FY12 budget preparations for anticipated special education, facility, and utility expenses. He projects 1) an increase of \$156,521 for SPED, 2) a decrease of \$48,025 for utilities, and 3) a relatively flat amount from FY11 – FY12 for custodial and maintenance supplies.

The administration is carefully reviewing the SPED expenditures, including out-of-district tuitions and program growth, as well as evaluating both the financial and educational impact of the efforts made toward full-inclusion of special education students in the classroom.

### **Health and Wellness Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Bagley-Jones reviewed the work of the Health and Wellness Subcommittee, which has been focused on setting goals and action steps for 2010 – 2011, including:

- Conducting a Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Improving access to clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities for all students
- Supporting the goals of the Bullying Prevention Committee
- Sustaining health education in light of budget cuts
- Collecting good data to study the relationship of student success and involvement in activities related to health, wellness, art, sports, fitness, etc.

### **Policy Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Huban presented a policy on Homeless Students for a second reading. A motion was made to accept the Homeless Student policy as presented by Mr. Huban.

Move: Pavlicek  
Second: Bagley-Jones  
Vote: 5-0-0

### **Facilities Subcommittee Report**

As reported by Ms. Sheridan, the Facilities Subcommittee received an update from Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Gillis on necessary repairs and associated costs for 1) the high school roof (part of the old roof which was not replaced during the renovation and addition project) and 2) district-wide ductwork insulation. They estimate repairs to the ductwork district-wide will cost \$800,000. They also proposed using in-house labor to repair and extend the life of the high school roof—a potential savings of 20-30% the cost of installing a new roof.

Ms. Sheridan also reported that MHS was awarded an Energy Star Approval from the EPA. The rating is based on a comparison of energy consumption and efficiency among buildings with similar square footage and operational use. MHS is one of 3,617 high schools in the US with an Energy Star rating, and one of 57 high schools (out of 1,000) with the rating in Massachusetts.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- Report on the MASC Annual Meeting from Mr. Keohane
- Update on Athletics
- Superintendent's Goals

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and contract negotiations and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not to return to Open Session.

Move: Pavlicek  
Second: Huban

By a roll call voice vote, the School Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not to return to Open Session.