

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
December 5, 2012

Committee Present: Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Leroy Walker, Becky Padera. Student Rep: Acacia Ryder.

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 December 5th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04 pm

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda with no edits

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Milton High School Football Team Congratulations. Coach Jim Bowes. The Superintendent congratulated the team on their winning season. Mr. Bowes brought representatives of the current captains and the captain-elect. Ms. Gormley thanked the coaches and asked Mr. McCarthy for an update on the Pierce field, which he said would be ready by spring.

Topic Two: Music Department Congratulations. Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett, Director of Fine and Applied Arts; and Gary Good, Music Teacher (selected as Conductor for Sr. SEMSBA Festival in March, 2013). Also, Andrew Mowe, Milton High School Senior (accepted to the All Eastern Division Honors Chorus.) Ms. Gormley asked Dr. Burdett to talk about Andrew's accomplishments. She described Andrew as quiet, but a leader by example. School Committee members asked Andrew about his future plans and how early he became interested in music. Next, Dr. Burdett told the committee that Mr. Good has been selected to be conductor for Senior SEMSBA festival this spring.

Topic Three: Collicot Site Council (Attachment) Principal Janet Sheehan was accompanied by Collicot teacher Zeina Hamada and Collicot parent Patty Facey. Mrs. Sheehan presented the School Improvement Plan to the committee, beginning with the performance data at Collicot. For ELA strengths, she cited Grade 3 Style & Language, Understanding a text; Grade 4 Vocabulary and Concept Development. For Math, she noted that all student group performance levels were higher than state. In grade 3, there was a decrease in students scoring in Advanced & Proficient, but increase in that group scoring in Advanced. Regarding Science and Technology/Engineering, Collicot students performed higher than state. Increase in number of students scoring in Advanced &

Proficient. She discussed implementing flexible grouping and explicit targeted instruction. Collicot has also implemented research-based reading and writing practices. Ms. Hamada talked about differentiated instruction and reading support available in both French and English. Also noted was the Grade 5 Math Boot Camp, and methods to help students learn where they need instruction. Ms. Facey talked about parents who come in to volunteer on "Meet the Artist," program and "Math as a Slam Dunk," program and the recent "One Book, One School" event. Ms. Sheehan also talked about Increasing Inclusion Opportunities. She went through each of the district's Core Values and talked about how Collicot was adhering to them.

Following the presentation, school committee members asked Mrs. Sheehan about whether all districts struggle with the same MCAS topics as Collicot; whether or not science is taught in French; how to address the science scores; the use of MFE funds to create classroom libraries. Ms. Gormley asked for an update on the STEM program in first grade and Mrs. Sheehan reported that the program is very successful. She said students are learning to work better in small groups, problem solve and interacting, all skills which are overlapping with other subjects. Ms. Sheridan asked if there is a plan for the Kindergarten-level Readers Workshop to continue through to the higher grades.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley said to see the latest E-blast for the latest Happenings.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Annual Report (Vote) The chairman entertained a motion to accept the report as written.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan said she enjoys reading the report each year, with all the good news in one place. Ms. Kelly asked to post the report to the website.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Mr. Walker absent)

Topic Two: Superintendent's Evaluation. The Chairman entertained a motion to accept the document containing the evaluation with minor edits. No substantive changes.

Move: Ms. Bagley Jones

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Superintendent's FY13 Goals (Attachment) The chairman entertained a motion to accept the goals for the year. Ms. Gormley noted that she worked with a professional organization, which suggested the current goal structure. Ms. Bagley Jones expressed concern that one goal specifies reducing the achievement gap by 10% over the target. She is concerned that it is not realistic. Ms. Kelly would like to see a wording change on the first goal. Ms. Sheridan suggested approving the goals and reworking the numbers later. Ms. Kelly said she would prefer to have the numbers first and suggested that the superintendent make a presentation of her goals at a future meeting. Members also suggested reworking the goals, because of the calendar, to include Year One outcomes and Year Two outcomes. Also, Mr. Walker suggested something "more

concrete" on the Leadership Professional Practice Goal, to include a more qualitative and quantitative measure.

Mr. Pavlcek informed the committee that he has been attending Consolidated Facilities meetings for the past year. He discussed some of the cost-saving measures they have implemented. In addition, the chairman informed the committee that he has attended the town's Master Planning committee meetings. He noted that Mr. Phelan recently met with State Rep. Rogers to discuss the legislative agenda.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY14 Budget (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Kelly noted that this is the administration's proposal for an advancement budget. The budget being presented will help move the district forward and help students succeed. Ms. Gormley started with the district's vision statement. There are three main budget initiatives:

- * Initiative One: Emphasizing Early Literacy Achievements
- * Initiative Two: Closing the Proficiency Gap
- * Initiative Three: Advancing Science, and STEM Science and technology, engineering and math initiatives. (K-12)

Regarding the first initiative, Ms. Gormley talked about the ways to address the issue. She proposed hiring two certified literacy specialists/coaches to provide targeted reading and writing instruction to K-3 students. She also suggested hiring an additional elementary school librarian, the purchase of a formative reading assessment program to measure progress; professional development, purchase of curriculum materials; and partnerships with families.

Regarding the second initiative, the superintendent cited the district's efforts to close the proficiency gap. She proposed acquiring the ANet Assessment software; providing targeted instruction for extended time on learning to all students at risk of not reaching Proficiency on MCAS. She also proposed purchasing instructional texts and materials and professional development.

The third initiative included a proposal for a curriculum administrator whose primary role will be to support Science & STEM in K-5. In addition, Ms. Gormley proposed the purchase of texts, equipment, and additional Lego "WeDo" kits; as well as science modules for various units; and professional development through partnerships with local universities.

School Committee members praised the administration for the work on the advancement budget, saying that it provides an excellent framework for discussion. They asked about how to get more children enrolled in preschool and asked how to ensure that low-income students have access to technology at home. There was also discussion about pairing the MPS preschool programs with after-school programs to help working parents.

Ms. Bagley Jones wanted to know what type of staffing we currently have for reading specialists, and how many of these positions have been lost through budget cuts. Ms. Sheridan noted that at one point, there were four elementary librarians, and now there is one. Ms. Gormley noted that the district has lost several math coaches, literacy coaches and librarians. Ms. Bagley Jones noted that for some students, there is not enough time in school and there was discussion about extended day, Saturday programs, and pre-teaching math and/or reading.

Next, members discussed keeping school libraries open past the current 3:30 closing, especially the middle and high school libraries. The entire cost of the advancement budget is \$515,000. Ms. Sheridan made a motion to approve the budget.

Move: Ms Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Discussion: Ms. Kelly reiterated that the goal tonight was to talk about the advancement budget. During the next meeting, they will discuss the entire budget. She explained that this is a different process than they've done in the past. Members expressed some concern about scheduling another meeting and wondered if this would affect the timeline for the warrant committee. It was agreed to meet again on the 12th to discuss the budget in its entirety. There was a motion to approve the advancement budget as presented.

Vote: 6-0-0

* Mary Kelly noted that the next meeting would be on December 12th. She asked if Ms. Gormley would like to present the goals at that meeting, or wait until January. It was agreed that the December 12th meeting would be budget-only.

Policy Subcommittee: (Attachments) Ms. Sheridan noted that these are re-approvals, and that the policy subcommittee only added MASC language. She went over a few minor edits. She asked for a motion to re-approve all three (A, B, C)

- a. Policy BBA, School Committee Powers and Duties, Re-Approval
- b. Policy BBAA, School Committee Member Authority and Duties, Re-Approval
- c. Policy BEC, Executive Sessions, Re-Approval

Move: Ms. Bagley Jones

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: There was some question as to whether to change the last sentence to tie into the district's goal-setting method. Mr. Walker noted that this does not define what the evaluation process is and asked to move forward with the motion to approve all three as written.

Vote: 6-0-0

Next, members discussed the following two policies. Again, the subcommittee used the suggested wording from MASC. There was a motion to approve Policies D and E.

- d. Policy CBI, Superintendent's Evaluation, 2nd Reading
- e. Policy JGA, Grade One Assignment Policy, 2nd Reading

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Discussion: Ms. Kelly asked for some clarification on the First Grade Assignment Policy. What about students who are not enrolled in the MPS as of March 1st? How will they be assigned? She asked that this info be included in the policy. Members agreed to rewrite

the policy to include this information and vote on this at a later date. By unanimous consent, the Committee tabled Policy JGA.

No Vote.

Members returned to Policy CBI. Mr. Walker moved to approve.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: Ms. Kelly thought this policy does not set standards and may need to be reworded. Mr. Pavlicek suggested removing the word "annually." After some discussion, it was agreed to vote the policy as-is.

Vote: 6-0-0

Health and Wellness Subcommittee Report

Ms. Bagley Jones updated members on the work of this subcommittee, including the Great Body Shop, implementing a mentoring piece for the Grade 8 Orientation event, and Dr. Knight's initiatives at Milton High. Wellness Week is dovetailing with the Chris Herren presentation. She also discussed a grant that has been written, requesting \$5-25,000 to make train recess aides in order to make recess an activity period to target increased BMI in older grades. Another grant is being pursued for a "boot camp" type activity period for parents, staff and community members. Ms. Kelly noted that there is a trend of standing at your desk and wondered if students might benefit from some type of standing or physical activity period during class.

Old Business:

Citizens Speak Topic Response: None

New Business

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 12th.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Budget

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with non-union personnel administrative contracts and collective bargaining strategy and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Roll Call Vote: unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.