

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
December 12, 2012

Committee Present: Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Leroy Walker, Becky Padera.

Not Present: Kristan Bagley Jones

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 12th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after deleting the executive session. Declared approved.

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the October 17th minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker

Discussion: On Page 4, change the word "principals" to "principles"

Vote: 5-0-0

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY14 Budget (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Gormley made a presentation on the FY14 budget. She described the budget "drivers" as follows:

1. Advancement Initiatives
2. Contractual Obligations
 - a. Central & Technology Costs
 - b. Special Education Mandated Services
 - c. Transportation Expenses
 - d. Facilities Expenses
 - e. Negotiated Agreements w/Instructional & Non-Instructional Staff

Ms. Gormley then went over the Advancement Initiatives, and defined the success and challenges of the district. She then described each of the expenditures outlined in the advancement budget, to total \$515,000.

Secondly, she went through the non-salary items, including, at Central: legal expenses, required software, licensure fees and supply costs. For Transportation: Regular Education transportation and Special Education transportation increases. Mr. Phelan explained each of the SPED items and why there was increase in tuitions. He detailed that 54 students with special needs attend school outside of Milton. He explained the difference between private school and collaborative schools. Ms. Kelly asked for a clarification that this year's budget experienced a cut in circuit breaker funds. She also asked about NECC program and asked for an explanation of how the district will save money by adding another NECC classroom. Mr. Phelan explained that the program we have at the Collicot is the equivalent of the NECC program on its own campus. It would cost Milton \$600,000 to place these students outside, which saves the district \$270,000 in costs. With five more students coming in next year who need the NECC services, the addition of a second NECC classroom will keep those students in-district. Mr. Gillis then spoke to the facilities increases, including custodial supplies of \$27,000, an increase in heat budget, an electrical budget increase by \$74,000. Also consolidated facilities now has an electrician, which should save the district money. Ms. Sheridan noted that the facilities have been successful at cutting back on usage, but you get to a point where you're so efficient, you can't find more savings.

Next, Ms. Gormley went through the School Committee categories for the budget and detailed the FY13 cost, the FY14 cost and the dollar change. The next slide detailed the funding sources, including grants, fees, funds, facilities rental. The total budget number was \$45, 05,118. The entire budget presentation can be viewed at: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FY14BudgetRequest12-12-12.pdf>

The next discussion was what would happen if we were to receive level dollar funding. Ms. Gormley outlined the elimination of 43 FTEs. She explained that the Warrant Committee asked the administration to present the impact of a level-dollar budget. This will be in January. Ms. Gormley explained that 87% of our budget is staff. We would have cut facilities, texts, PD, etc.

Mr. Walker noted that the committee should do we do everything we can to maintain the standards of excellence. He noted that, with the data-driven advancement budget, this is going to be an even more difficult discussion about where to make reductions.

Ms. Sheridan commented that making the "cut" budget has a huge impact on morale of the school and the communities and is a sobering exercise. She said she's aware of the necessity of doing this, but it's a painful process to go through. Mr. Pavlicek noted that the Saturday session is very early in February and we still won't have a good idea of funding. If it were done later, we'd have a better "floor" from which to work. The chair entertained a motion to approve the budget.

Move: Mr. Walker moved to approve a budget of \$38,379,680 and to forward that budget amount and detail to the Warrant Committee.

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Kelly noted that there's a desire to get the budget together. Full committee meets on the 7, 8 ,9 or 10th. She requested the committee vote a budget book.

Mr. Walker moved that the School Committee authorize the Finance Sub-Committee to prepare a budget book in the same form and format as last year.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Kelly noted that the School Committee should plan to have PTO presentations of the budget, and to have them before the Warrant Committee meeting. There was some discussion about the schedule and a series of January dates would be sent out for approval.

Ms. Kelly also asked the chair to explain the purpose of the meeting with the Warrant Committee on December 19th. Mr. Pavlicek said the Warrant Committee had requested a “tutorial” for some of their new members on the school budget, including steps and lanes. It would be posted as a School Committee/Warrant Committee meeting, but it would mostly be a basic presentation on how the pay structure works. Mr. Walker disagreed with this plan, saying if there was a meeting with the Warrant Committee, it should be to discuss the FY14 budget presentation, not a technical presentation of steps and lanes. Ms. Kelly stressed that it was important to have this meeting before the first of the year.

The chairman then announced that, several meetings ago, members co-signed a letter with the Board of Selectmen to be put on the list for a “technical audit,” from a state agency. The request was approved and the town should expect the financial management review team to begin in late April. Mr. Walker thanked the committee for pursuing this. Mr. Pavlicek also noted that he and the administration met with Rep. Rogers from Norwood regarding legislative issues. Also, Mr. Walker, Ms. Gormley and Mr. Phelan met with a representative from DESE regarding the Kindergarten grant, which was very productive.

New Business

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2013.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Items on the Budget and Facilities were requested.

Citizen Speak Part Two

No speakers

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

MD