

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
December 4th, 2013

Committee Present: Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair; Leroy Walker, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones (arrived late), Becky Padera, Mike Zullas. Student Reps: Audrey Erickson, Matt McCarthy and Evvie Oliverio and Amanda DelConte.

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Call to Order: The Chair called the December 4th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 pm

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the agenda after removing Item 10c (Deployment of Security Personnel) from the executive session.

Citizens Speak: No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Milton Foundation for Education. Presentation by Don Greene and Margaret Eberhardt of the Milton Foundation for Education along with John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel. Mr. Phelan talked about last spring's Celebration for Education event, which raised money for technology in the MPS. The total was just over \$150,000 worth of technology devices. Mr. Phelan thanked the MFE for a very generous donation. Ms. Eberhardt thanked the entire Milton community. She said they are looking forward to next Celebration with the theme of "Power Up." Mr. Greene said the 440 devices being donated will allow the district to launch a pilot program and build an environment that will help students to learn. Mr. Phelan showed a brief video that showed students using their new technology. Mr. Walker applauded the MFE for their initiatives, noting how quickly we got wireless; how quickly we got devices in children's hands, calling it "lightning speed." Other School Committee members thanked the MFE for their dedication. The upcoming celebration will take place in April this year. "Power Up" with the chairs of Sheila Leddy, Rachel Shue and Courtney Affanato.

Happenings: Congratulations to MHS for winning the Golden Gobbler and to the MHS Football team for their win on Thanksgiving. There will be a PMS art show on December 6th, MHS will host a cabaret and talent show on December 12, an ensemble winter concert in the auditorium on Dec.18th. Dates will be announced shortly for K and Grade 1 info night.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review (Attachment). Ms. Gormley said that there are four standards required as part of the evaluation:

Instructional Leadership
Management and Operations
Family and Community Engagement
Professional Culture

Ms. Gormley said that the School Committee can look at percentages and noted that there were two areas that didn't make the target. One of the leadership goals is to turn principal meetings into Learning Walks. These have been driving instruction and student achievement.

Ms. Sheridan talked about the white binder that Superintendent Gormley provided for each SC member, which supports the research behind decisions that are made and work that Ms. Gormley is doing towards achieving her goals. The goals are SMART goals; specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely.

Mr. Walker said that he was impressed with the amount of detail in this evaluation.

Ms. Padera applauded how the goals target very specific programs.

Ms. Kelly said the goals need to be more clearly defined including a definition of what is success. She said the goal as a system is to get every student to proficient and above. To evaluate progress, she said, we need a better definition. Ms. Kelly also said she would like to measure, on any of these goals, how they are carried down to the student level. For the STEM program, she said she's not sure if the program comes with its own assessment.

Ms. Bagley Jones said she'd like all data to be either numbers of percentages, but not both.

Ms. Padera asked how the leadership walks have been refined. Ms. Sheridan added that she couldn't say enough about the power of learning walks. This is a process that evolves.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY15 Budget (Attachment) Ms. Gormley explained how, two years ago, the finance subcommittee asked the administration what, based on the data, would be required to the MPS forward? What budgetary needs would drive instruction, etc. At this point, the administration brainstormed initiatives and last year, they presented three: early literacy, closing proficiency gaps, and advancing science and STEM. Mr. Phelan then presented a slide show that explained how each of the initiatives was addressed and explained the resources required to address them. Then, they discussed the FY15 Advancement Budget, what the needs are and what resources would be required to fund them. Ms. Kelly said she had concerns with the total dollar request and suggested the committee whittle it down to be more in line with last year's request. She asked if it might be prioritized. Ms. Padera asked whether the state would be helping to fund part of the \$60,000 required for PARCC. If we pay for it, can we get reimbursed later? Ms. Kelly asked about the hardware required for PARCC and Mr Phelan said that the MFE money would help us to that end.

Mr. Zullas asked what would happen if the district stopped pursuing the advancement initiatives before the three years are up. Ms. Gormley said it would be dire and said it would be be

unconscionable to the students. Ms. Sheridan asked where would we physically put the pre-k students? Ms. Gormley said there will be a room in the district to use. Ms. Sheridan asked about the \$20K to hire a consultant and Ms. Gormley explained that this person will evaluate our practices, etc. Ms. Gormley said the positions that are proposed are very important. Ms. Kelly asked to prioritize and reduce the dollar amount to match last year's funding request. There was some discussion about whether to cut requests out of the advancement budget or to look at the budget as a whole. Some suggestions were made about reductions. Mr. Walker said he disagreed with cutting the advancement budget, as these are the things that we've said are the most important. However, there was agreement that the PARCC funding should be cut. Ms. Gormley said students should learn to use the technology before the actual test, but she could live without it. Ms. Kelly suggested putting this money (\$60,000) on the regular budget. Mr. Zullas said if he got answers about PARCC and PARCC PD, he would be prepared to vote on the advancement budget. Ms. Bagley Jones said she would look to the administrative team to set priorities. Ms. Sheridan suggested members go home and read it over before voting.

There was discussion about the meeting with the Warrant Committee on December 19th. The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11th, and then there will be a joint WC/SC meeting on Dec. 19th.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Bagley Jones asked to add a Health and Wellness update to the next agenda.

New Business

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations for collective bargaining with AFSCME; discussing contract negotiations for collective bargaining with MEA. The committee would adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Roll Call Vote: unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.