

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High Library  
February 1st, 2012

**Committee Present:** Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Denis Keohane, Vice Chair; Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Leroy Walker. Student Reps to the School Committee: Darren Johnson, Acadia Ryder, Steven Pierre.

**Not Present:** Mary Kelly

**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 February 1st meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04 pm

### **Approve Agenda**

The 2012-2013 School Year Calendar was approved with minor edits. The committee approved the agenda.

### **Citizens Speak**

A group of students from Milton High School, all of whom are in clubs and/or on athletic teams, came to speak on behalf of the upcoming Walkathon. They asked for community support and explained how this fundraiser is taking the place of many of the individual fundraisers that used to occur throughout the year.

Meg Kaster and Laura Conway came to let the School Committee know that tickets are now available for the Big Beach Ball, to be held March 10th at the Boston Marriott, Quincy. There are new pricing structures this year. They also talked about a partnership with the local cable channel and Milton High students to produce a video on this year's MFE honorees.

Next, Ed Hayward, parent of two high school boys, spoke about his concern over the potential reductions in the music program. He asked that they not only preserve the current level of services, but encouraged the School Committee to take incremental steps to restore earlier cuts.

Amy Delaney, parent of three Milton Public School students and town meeting member, also came to speak on behalf of preserving the music budget.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Pavlicek entertained a motion to approve the Jan 4th minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Walker  
Second: Keohane  
Vote: 5-0-0

## **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: Led by Principal James Jette, members of the Pierce Site Council, including Teacher Representatives Jonathan Turissi and James Moonan; and Community Representative Anne Murphy; Parent Representatives Any Delaney and Amy Flanagan came to present the School Improvement Plan. This plan can be viewed online at [www.miltonps.org/documents/PMSSIP2-1-12.pdf](http://www.miltonps.org/documents/PMSSIP2-1-12.pdf). Currently, Pierce's AYP status is "Restructuring, Year Two, Subgroups." Assistant Principal Andrew Boles reviewed some of the Growth Model data, noting that 86% of all seventh-grade students reached proficient or advanced categories in ELA; as did 90% of eighth-graders. Mr. Jette reiterated that the goal at Pierce is to move every student into a higher bracket and this year's student growth percentile increased. "We're making significant gains." Next, they discussed Math Investigations, which is a course that provides additional support and reinforcement for students who need extra help in math. This program saw 92% of students in this class increase their math MCAS score. Mr. Jette also discussed the Pierce "280 Club," which recognizes the 76 students who achieved a perfect score on one or more of the MCAS subjects. In the past year, he noted that his staff has realigned the math curriculum to provide Algebra 1 for all Grade 8 students by 2013-13; assigned Common Assessments with the new Common Core standards; instituted benchmark testing for Grade 6 reading levels; created AIM to provide support for above-level students; participated in Math as a Slam Dunk program, as well as Study Island. Mr. Jette also discussed the Collaborative Coaching and Learning model for teachers, bi-weekly curriculum meetings as well as grade and team teachers meetings. In addition, there has been a pilot of FOSS units in science, development of common assessment in Geography. Parents Amy Delaney and Amy Flanagan discussed Collaborative Relationships, praising the work of the site council. They thought that middle school parents often have trouble balancing involvement with giving students room to grow. They suggested more parent coffees/open houses, as well as the addition of middle school sports and/or clubs in order to create smaller communities within the larger context of Pierce. Mr. Jette then listed more than a dozen events held throughout the school year to respect human differences, including No Name Calling Week, and the Pierce "High Five Wall." After the presentation, members commented on the teamwork and camaraderie among the Pierce faculty and congratulated Mr. Jette and the site council for their presentation.

Topic Two: Review of 2012-2013 School Year Calendar. Ms. Gormley noted that a prior request to consider moving the November session of Parent/Teacher conferences was unable to be accommodated. The Chairman moved to approve the calendar.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: School Happenings. Ms. Gormley said the recent Kindergarten Information Night was a big success and said she was looking forward to both the upcoming Grade One Information night and the Program of Studies Night for eighth-graders. Other Happenings include:

- PAC meeting on February 9th at Pierce at 7 pm
- Walkathon on February 11th at MHS Field House.
- Celebration for Education on March 10th
- MHS students participated in WGBH's "High School Quiz Show" on January 28th
- Future Problem Solvers teams competed in "bowl" at Glover on January 29th
- Mock Trial team won its first case vs. Catholic Memorial and will compete Monday
- The DESE will be distributing a questionnaire to educators in March and is looking for input.
- Milton Food Service will be awarded a Bronze Star on Monday, March 26th at Pierce

Topic Four: Start Times. John Phelan said that a Start Time Committee has been formed. They began with a critical review of literature on student and adolescent sleep and the impact on student achievement. The committee plans to conduct a parent/guardian and staff survey. The goal is to solve some of the district's transportation issues and also consider some of the research on optimal start times for each age group. Ms. Bagley-Jones asked how this would impact parents, and Mr. Phelan said that no decisions or changes have been made or recommended yet and that parental input would be included. Mr. Keohane asked whether this issue is budget-driven and Mr. Phelan asked that it originally was budget-driven, but has become a student achievement issue as well. He said that currently, the bus routes are stretched too thin and students sometimes do not get to school on time.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Topic One: The 2010-2011 Annual Report is ready. This report will appear in the Town of Milton's Annual Report. It has been circulated to all School Committee members via e-mail for input and edits. It has already gone to print, but it requires a vote. Move to approve the Annual Report.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Town of Milton 350th Anniversary Celebration. Ms. Sheridan said the recent fundraising dinner at the Milton Marketplace was a huge success, as was the bowling event at Cunningham Hall. She reminded the committee that the "Mayor of Milton" contest was still ongoing, as is the Forbes House Museum's Lincoln Day celebration on February 12th.

### **Finance Subcommittee:**

Topic One: Full Day Kindergarten Tuition Increase: Mr. Walker reported that at a recent meeting of the Finance Subcommittee, they voted to approve an increase in tuition for Full Day Kindergarten. The amount of \$150 would be applied, which reflects a 4.1% increase, for a total of \$3,550 tuition. This amount reflects receiving the Full Day Kindergarten grant from the state again and a sliding scale for tuition is available to families. He noted that half-day kindergarten would remain free.

Move: Mr. Walker  
Second: Ms. Sheridan  
Vote: 5-0-0

### **Policy Subcommittee Report:**

Ms. Sheridan said this subcommittee is tackling the policy manual section by section, since MASC requires that policies be updated every two years. There was some discussion as to whether it would be prudent to switch the wording to review to every three or four years. Mr. Keohane and Mr. Pavlicek both spoke in favor of keeping it on a two-year review cycle. Mr. Walker said they could keep track of the changes made to the policies by highlighting substantial changes, but sending out a "tracked changed" version of the policy was not feasible. They chose to vote on policies in groups. Ms. Sheridan moved to change the wording of Policy ACAA. "A" or "B" -- delete the word "or." The Chairman suggested they have the first readings of policies AA, ACA, ACG, ADB, all of which have no edits. Reaffirm.

Mr. Walker: Move  
Mr. Keohane: Second  
Vote: 5-0-0

The Chairman then moved to have second readings and adoption of policies JJIF, AB, AC and ACAA.

Mr. Keohane: Moved  
Ms. Bagley-Jones: Second  
Vote: 5-0-0

Note: The Social Networking Policy will be delayed due to some potential collective bargaining issues. Language may need to be "fine tuned."

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

Ms. Bagley-Jones reported that the committee, comprised of herself, along with Steve Traister, Mary Gormley, Jackie Morgan, Yolanda Beech, Rich Guarino, Scott Devlin, Jason Bouffard, Todd Ducharme and Vicki McCarthy, discussed the following:

- Update from Milton Hospital's nutrition program with Cunningham School. This program, for third-graders, will begin in March and will also include grades 4 and 5. This will feature nutrition lessons from the hospital staff, along with Jackie Morgan and the food service staff.
- Dr. Ben Thompson from Milton Hospital will work with Milton High athletes
- Ms. Morgan will be discussing some of the upcoming changes regarding food served on school property, both before, during and after school. This would affect concession stands, food in the classroom, bake sales, etc. Ms. Bagley Jones said that more information will be forthcoming.
- There is interest in participating in "The Great Body Shop," curriculum for health education. This teaches nutrition, exercise, dental health, hygiene, etc for elementary school children. May need grant money to fund this.
- A youth risk behavior survey should be conducted to assess high-risk behaviors. This survey provides good data, which drives instruction, which in turn, drives intervention.

- Chris Heron, a former player on the Boston Celtics, was recently the topic of an ESPN documentary on drug use and young people. Ms. Bagley-Jones said they are trying to arrange for him to come to speak to MHS students.

**Facilities Subcommittee Report:** Mr. Keohane said that this subcommittee has managed some savings. Money for the Green Community Grant has been used at Pierce. There, they changed light bulbs cutting energy by 10% savings. The rooftop solar panel project is about 98% done. The offsite solar project is moving ahead, but very slowly. Consumption of energy is down 7-10 percent from last year. Mr. Pavlicek noted that the plans for Consolidated Facilities next year won't involve transferring salaries out of our accounts, but they are looking at contracts of our vendors.

### **School Building Committee Report**

Mr. Pavlicek reported that the transfer to pay for the final Copeland Foundation gifts has been completed. One of the few remaining tasks would be to collect the insurance money and essentially "put ourselves out of business." Ms. Gormley congratulated this committee for its hard work and dedication over the years. "The project was extraordinary, and the effort on behalf of the community was quite an endeavor."

### **Capital Planning Subcommittee Report:**

This committee has met twice recently. There is ductwork scheduled for Milton High, (estimated at \$680,000) and a 15-year-old dump truck needs to be replaced (estimated at \$35,000) both of which have been submitted to the warrant committee. Mr. Walker said there is a need for generators at the Pierce Middle School to power our servers/telephone system.

**Old Business:** none

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** none

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.