

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: March 4, 2015

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair; Mike Zullas, Vice Chair; Lynda Lee Sheridan; Mary Kelly; Becky Padera and Kristan Bagley Jones. Student Representatives Matt McCarthy and Audrey Erickson.

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Human Resources; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Call to Order: The chair called the regular meeting to order at 7:48pm.

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the March 4, 2015 agenda after adding a FY16 budget update and moving the Health & Wellness report higher in the agenda, to occur right after Chairman's Report. The chair also added an Executive Session item related to AFSCME collective bargaining strategy. Ms. Kelly asked if the Health & Wellness item could take place as part of the Superintendent's Report, after the Cunningham Site Council's presentation.

Citizen Speak: There were no speakers.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Response to February 2015 Citizen Speak: Ms. Gormley gave a Citizens Speaker's Response to some issue raised at the last meeting. Ms. Gormley addressed the situation in the Glover second-grade classroom which was the topic of concern to some parents who came to a prior Citizen's Speak. Ms. Gormley outlined the steps that the district has taken to ensure that the needs of all students in the classroom are being met.

Topic Two: Cunningham School Site Council: Principal Jon Redden introduced the site council, which includes teachers Ms. Mulligan and Ms. Gordon; and parent representatives Ms. Graham, Ms. Clancy and Ms. O'Keefe. The council reviewed accountability data grade by grade. They noted that the percentage of students in Advanced and Proficient in Grades 3 and 5 in ELA remain steady, the percentage of students in Advanced and Proficient has declined in Grade 4 ELA. Grade 3 Math has shown a steady increase since 2012, and Grade 4 Math and Science have shown a slight decrease. There was a review of internal assessments, a look at the data-driven process, a listing of the next steps. The council also listed many of the initiatives funded by the Advancement Budget. They reviewed their goals, which include improving literacy, support/develop the whole child, and increase proficiency in science.

To view the entire presentation, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunninghamSchoolCommittee2015.pdf>

At the end of the presentation, two Cunningham students, Anna Hamlet and Baron Clancy, spoke to the School Committee about their experiences at Cunningham Elementary School. To see the Cunningham School Improvement Plan, please click here: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunninghamSIP2015.pdf>

After the presentation, School Committee members praised the Site Council for their work. Ms. Padera talked about enhancing the science program and inspiring students' love of science. Ms. Sheridan asked about the integrated ELA curriculum, and asked if this was outside the Readers/Writers Workshop. Mr. Redden said yes, they add more writing lessons and time spent on writing. He said there is additional support for this extra piece of the curriculum. Mr. Zullas asked, for each of the goals, technology was mentioned. He asked if there was a resource component for technology. Mr. Redden said the recent purchases by MFE have put them in a very good position, as well as some technology spending in the district. He said a balance of Kindles, iPads, Chromebooks and Smartboards has been a great combination. Ms. Gormley praised Mr. Redden for his use of technology in the classroom. Mr. Zullas mentioned a STEM-garden curriculum, and Ms. Gormley talked about the Lorden family, who began a pilot program on hydroponic gardening. Ms. Kelly asked about the use of Google Docs, and Mr. Redden explained how his staff utilizes this. Ms. Kelly asked about the extended day program and Mr. Redden explained how it works, noting that it is small-group learning, offered in either ELA or in Math. She also asked about the Saturday morning program. Mr. Redden said that because the PTO funded this program, they were able to offer it to a larger group of students at no charge. Mr. Walker praised the presentation and said it demonstrates that the Cunningham has developed a cohesive team, who are all pulling in the same direction.

Topic Three: (moved up on agenda) Resource Pages. Kristan Bagley Jones and Rich Guarino. Ms. Gormley explained the work of the Health & Wellness Committee. They meet once a month, district-wide. Ms. Bagley Jones and Mr. Guarino gave a presentation to roll out the Resource Pages project. Mr. Guarino said the best part of the project, for him, is that families can go online and find support anonymously. Ms. Padera congratulated the pair for their work on this project. To view the Resource Pages, click here: <http://www.miltonps.org/partnerships-resourcepages.php>

Topic Four: School Year Calendar. Ms. Gormley explained about the DESE requirements for instructional hours and how those have been affected by school days. Districts have asked for exceptions to be made to this ruling, due to the large number of snow days.

2014-15 Ms. Gormley reiterated that the last day of school is June 25th, which is a half day. She went through various scenarios if there should be additional snow days this year.

2015-16 Ms. Gormley said the Commissioner recognized and commended districts who begin school before Labor Day, one of which is Milton. Ms. Gormley noted that we

will continue to do this for the 15-16 and she will present next year's school calendar at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Kelly asked if the 2015-16 calendar has been distributed to parents yet and Ms. Gormley said it has. Ms. Padera asked what would be the last day of summer school would be, and Ms. Gormley said it would be August 6th. Mr. Walker entertained a motion to accept the Superintendent's Recommendation on the school year calendar.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 6-0-0

Ms. Gormley noted that First Grade Information Night was a huge success. Dr. Pavlicek noted there was a correction made to the presentation — one of the slides refers to a "minimum" of two French classes per school, which was not correct. It has since been corrected. Ms. Gormley also noted that Kindergarten screening will take place shortly.

Topic Five: Preschool Update. Assistant Superintendent Janet Sheehan has been working with staff throughout the district to coordinate preschool programs. Ms. Sheehan walked the School Committee through the different choices for parents. Ms. Padera noted that Ms. O'Keefe McKenna and Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai have done a great job creating this program. Ms. Kelly asked if there would be more classes offered next year.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley noted that Growth & Development night is upcoming, as is the MFE Celebration for Education event. Mr. Walker gave an update on the boys' and girls' hockey teams. Ms. Bagley Jones noted that the girls' basketball team made it to tournament for the first time in many years.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Superintendent's Goals. Chairman Walker said these goals would be from 2014-2016. A mid-cycle review would be done in October 2015, and a summative evaluation in October of 2016. He would like to get them adopted. Ms. Bagley Jones said that she likes the layout, but then questioned some of the percentages included in the goals. She said she wants to make sure it's realistic. Mr. Walker entertained a motion to approve the goals.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrant. Dr. Pavlicek introduced Warrant #35 for \$429,994.94

Move: Mr. Kelly
Second: Mr. Zullas
Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Kelly)

Dr. Pavlicek introduced Vendor Warrant #36 for \$412,456.34

Move: Ms. Kelly
Second: Mr. Zullas
Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Kelly abstained)

Topic Two: FY16 SRO II Cost. Mr. Walker explained that the cost for the second SRO officer is higher than had been expected. Ms. Padera asked about the additional costs on top of the salary. Ms. Kelly asked, is this specific to the particular person who is filling the role, or is it for any officer who is filling the role? Mr. Walker explained it is calculated on length of service and educational credentials. Dr. Pavlicek pointed out that our Kindergarten grant was cut mid-year this current fiscal year. In the Governor's proposed budget the Kindergarten grant is eliminated completely.

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee Report

Mr. Zullas noted there are two tracks: Identify issues for each of the schools. The committee has reviewed the Glover, Tucker and Collicot. At the next meeting, they hope to do Pierce and Cunningham. Either "specific" or "global" issues. Specific issues are referred to Jake Smith, and global issues will be worked on by DCR, Milton PD, etc. Also, they are working with Safe Routes to School. They are preparing walking assessments at each of the schools. Also, they are looking for members from Collicot and Pierce.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Kelly asked for a report on language arts assessments. Would also like the science assessments. Ms. Sheridan asked for School Committee minutes to be put on agenda. Mr. Sheridan would like an update on the Parent Outreach Liaison work.

Mr. Walker entertained a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining strategy for AFSCME, not to return to Open Session and to adjourn directly from Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14pm.