

**Milton School Committee**  
**Open Budget Hearing**  
**Charles Winchester Auditorium, Milton High School**  
**March 16, 2010**

**Committee Present:** Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair, Glenn Pavlicek, Vice Chair, Beirne Lovely, Chris Huban, Mary Kelly and Kristan Bagley-Jones

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent, John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel, Matt Gillis, School Business Administrator

The Open Budget Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sheridan thanked community members present and those watching this presentation at home. She informed the public that after a brief budget presentation by the Administration community members will have the opportunity to ask questions or write them down on the index cards provided. The Administration and/or School Committee will respond to questions asked this evening and will also respond to questions previously sent to the Superintendent's office via email.

Ms. Gormley thanked community members for attending and encouraged them to view the budget detail posted on the website, [www.miltonps.org](http://www.miltonps.org). She also thanked the members of the Milton Public School staff who were present.

Ms. Gormley explained that the Warrant Committee requested that the School Department present a level funded budget for FY11. This information was presented to the Warrant Committee and to the public at recent School Committee meetings. Ms. Gormley began her presentation by reviewing the budget history. In the event of a level funded budget, Ms. Gormley explained that \$1,279,115 will have to be cut from the Milton Public School's budget. Ms. Gormley, Mr. Phelan and Mr. Gillis reviewed the list of reductions in detail and discussed the impact these reductions will have on the school system. The list includes 24.4 FTE positions; a \$75,000 reduction in electricity costs due to more efficient usage; and a re-classification of various positions into other revolving accounts. The re-classified FTE positions are not included in the 24.4 FTEs to be cut. The funding for these positions will be transferred to revolving accounts (4.5 FTE Unit C Lunch Aides to the Food Service revolving account and 1.0 FTE Full Day Kindergarten teacher to the Full Day Kindergarten revolving account).

Mr. Pavlicek reported that the Warrant Committee recently held an all day meeting to begin the budget process for the spring Town Meeting. Based upon their projections, the Warrant Committee was able to fund budgets at slightly above level dollar funding for next year. The preliminary recommendation for the School Department budget is that it will be funded at \$360,000 above level dollar funding. Mr. Pavlicek explained that this number is not final since local aid reductions have not yet been determined. Ms. Gormley added that at this all day meeting the Warrant Committee asked how many classroom teachers were included in the 24.4 FTE reductions. Mr. Gillis informed the Warrant Committee that this includes 7.1 classroom teachers (approximately \$415,000 of the \$1.2 million reduction). The \$360,000 the Warrant Committee is funding to the School Department budget will restore 6 of the 7.1 classroom teacher positions.

As part of this presentation, Ms. Gormley, Mr. Phelan and Mr. Gillis also reviewed the "Ten Most Commonly Asked Budget Questions." Ms. Gormley reminded the public again that the budget detail is posted on the

website, [www.miltonps.org](http://www.miltonps.org) and a copy is available at the Milton Public Library. Mrs. Sheridan stated that Lisa McDonough is coordinating a list of all questions regarding the budget. Community members can forward their questions to [lmcdonough@miltonps.org](mailto:lmcdonough@miltonps.org). A copy of tonight's budget presentation can be found at <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/FY11BudgetPresentationwithFAQ.pdf>.

Mrs. Sheridan then began the public discussion. She read several questions from the index cards collected and several community members voiced their questions and concerns. All questions were answered by School Committee members, members of the Administration, or school principals present at this hearing (Dr. John Drottar and Ms. Marcia Uretsky). **\*Please note that following this hearing a FAQ was prepared. The FAQ includes questions asked at the public hearing and questions sent via email to the Superintendent's office.** This FAQ can be found at <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/MicrosoftWord-QuestionsandAnswersfromBudgetHearing.pdf>.

Before ending the public hearing, community members, School Committee members and members of the Administration expressed their gratitude to Beirne Lovely for his years of dedication to the Milton School Committee and to the students of the Milton Public Schools.

Mrs. Sheridan thanked Ms. Gormley, Mr. Phelan, Mr. Gillis and her fellow School Committee members for their hard work throughout this budget process.

Motion was made to adjourn.

Move: B. Lovely

Second: C. Huban

Vote: 6-0-0

The Open Budget Hearing adjourned at 8:45 p.m.