

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: Wednesday, October 26th, 2016

Committee Present: Chairman Leroy Walker, Vice Chair Dr. Kevin Donahue, Kristan Bagley Jones, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead.

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

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04pm.

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the agenda after deferring Item 4e (SEL Job Description); Item 5a (Goals Discussion) and the Item 7 (Transportation and Safety Subcommittee Report) to the Nov. 9th meeting. The Chair also added a Policy Subcommittee report; and deferred the Deployment of Security Personnel item in executive session to November 9th.

Citizens Speak: Denise Queally and Greg Gordon came to promote the Monster Dash on October 30th. This is a fundraiser for Elementary Science enrichment.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: FY18 Budget Presentation (Attachment) First, the Cunningham Site Council presented. Principal Jon Redden, along with his Site Council, presented the School Improvement Goals. He outlined the school's needs for personnel, as well as text, materials and supplies. He outlined what success would look like. Ms. Franc Graham arrived as part of the Site Council to speak about the "whole child." Ms. Varela asked about Science Specialists. She also asked how many Adjustment Counselors there are for Cunningham. Mr. Redden indicated there is one per school. Dr. Craghead asked whether the text, materials, supplies list is prioritized. Mr. Redden said yes. Ms. Gormley talked about the success of the FOSS kits. Ms. Eberhardt asked if the Goal Book was a district wide initiative and was told it was. To view this presentation, visit this link: <http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunnDraftBudget2016.pdf>

The Glover Elementary Site Council came to the table next, to present their School Improvement Goals. Principal Karen McDavitt came with her Site Council, which includes Teacher Reps Maureen Flanagan, Meredith Kempf, Allison White, Lauren VanDeCort, Parent Reps Mrs. Patty Facey, Jimmy Suppelsa, and Kevin Fleming. Glover has 585 children this year. Ms. McDavitt outlined her goals, which include:

- Increase the number and types of opportunities for family and community engagement that contribute to creating a positive experience.
- Increase the number of opportunities for students to use and apply digital technology.
- Increase reading specialist staff to provide targeted supports for struggling readers.

She highlighted the importance of common planning time, where teachers can come together to share resources and ideas. Ms. McDavitt talked about the co-taught classroom. She said there is a need for an Assistant Principal, and increased lunch and recess staff. She outlined the positions needed. Ms. Varela asked about specifics for the staffing needs. There was a discussion about the elimination of Assistant Principals at the elementary level. Ms. Gormley explained that this was due to budget cuts. Mr. Walker asked, what happened to the computer lab and was told it's been turned into a classroom. They now squeeze the computers into 1/3 of the library. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about space issues at the Glover. Ms. McDavitt said the K and 1 grades are very large and there are no extra classrooms. Ms. Eberhardt agreed with the furniture needs. Ms. Gormley recognized Mr Suppelsa and his Junior Achievement program. There was discussion about the Junior Achievement partnership and Ms. Gormley said she would like to replicate this district wide. Mr. Walker asked about the Professional Development slide and about the literacy coaches. To view the Glover presentation, visit this site:

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

Topic Two: Diversity Report (Attachments) MPS Data Specialist Vy Vu made the presentation, along with the Citizens for a Diverse Milton members. Ms. Gormley spoke about the history of the Diversity Report. Ms. Lattimore thanked Ms. Gormley for inviting them to the discussion. She said the group believes the structure is in place to do the work of the CDM. Part of their goal is to make it more effective and efficient. One demographic they are looking at is the underrepresentation of children of color in French Immersion. There was discussion about support for children who do not speak English as their first language; diversity in sports; and staff demographics. There was praise for the progress in the number of students taking PSATs and SATs, but there is still a gap in the percentage of African American vs. White students taking those tests. There have been tremendous gains in the number of students taking APs. CDM members talked about the racial makeup of staff, including lunch aides and custodians. They would like to see these groups reported on the total numbers. Vy Vu reviewed some of the slides addressing the makeup of each school. Ms. Bagley Jones noted that Ms. Gormley is passionate about this issue. Ms. Varela asked about sports, and noted there is a new AD this year. We should strongly support the recommendation of coaches reaching out to promote diversity. She asked if CDM has reached out to Little League, Milton Soccer, etc to encourage diversity. Ms. Varela noted that nationally, there are not many people of color in the field of education. Dr. Pavlicek said it's only 9%. Regarding sports, Ms. Lattimore said they were actively involved with the AD in reaching out to various town sports. Mr. Jette cautioned that this issue (diversity in sports) is not a high school problem. It is a national problem.

Mr. Walker said this is an extraordinary amount of data for diversity. For him, the take away is, we have work to do in increasing the diversity of the teaching staff. His second point is that this requires a "sales job." We have a high performing district, a diverse community and a competitive pay scale. The focus should be on recruitment and retention. To view the Diversity Report, visit this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2015-16DiversityReport10-26-16.pdf>

Topic Three: Follow Up Data Presentation (Attachments) MPS Data Specialist Vy Vu, along with MHS Principal James Jette, Pierce Principal Dr. Karen Spaulding, Glover Elementary Principal Karen McDavitt, Tucker Elementary Principal Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai, Collicot

Principal Holly Concannon and Cunningham Principal Jonathan Redden were present to discuss the district data on the Spring 2016 MCAS Park Cohort Analysis. The School Committee had previously requested cohort analysis. Ms. Vu presented a PowerPoint, which showed that the focus on Grade 8 science instruction is paying off. Scores are improving. To view this report, visit this link:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2015-16MCASPARCCCoortAnalysisfinal.pdf>

Each of the Principals narrated the presentation for their school. At the conclusion, Mr. Walker thanked the Principals and Curriculum Coordinators for their work. Mr. Walker then moved to delete Agenda Items 4f, along with 5c, 5d, 6a, b and c and Item 8, as well as Executive Session.

Topic Four: Annual Report. (Attachment) Mr. Walker moved to approve the report.

Move: Mr. Walker
Second: Dr. Donahue
Vote: 6-0-0

Chair's Report

Topic One: MASC Resolutions (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker moved to authorize the Milton School Committee members to represent the group at MASC and to vote on issues on behalf of the School Committee. Members Varela, Craghead and Walker will be attending.

Move: Mr. Walker
Second: Ms. Varela
Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker then moved to authorize the Chair and the Chair of Policy Subcommittee to work with the Superintendent to first invoke the emergency approval process for policies and to approve those policies.

Move: Walker
Second: KBJ
Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker then moved to adjourn the meeting.

Move: Mr. Walker
Second: Dr. Craghead
Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 11:35pm.