

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School/Milton Access Studio
Date: January 20, 2016

Committee Present: Michael Zullas, Chair; Becky Padera, Vice Chair; Leroy Walker, Sheila Varela, Kevin Donahue.

Student Reps: Grace Varela

Not Present: Kristan Bagley Jones

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 January 20th, 2016 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after adding Item 5c (Meeting Schedule Change) and deferring Item 9a and 9b (Approval of Minutes); and deferring Item 13b (Approval of Minutes.)

Citizens Speak

Samantha Baum and Luke Palmer came to talk about the upcoming production of Once Upon a Mattress, which will be performed this weekend.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: 2016-2017 School Year Calendar. Dr. Pavlicek introduced the school year calendar and explained the two features that are different for next year: the October Professional Development Day/Yom Kippur. Normally, the PD Day is the Friday before Columbus Day weekend. But because of the date on which Yom Kippur falls, they will have the PD day on the Tuesday after Columbus Day weekend. Also, because 2016 is a Presidential Election Year, they will add a PD day on that day, and move the first day of class on Wed, Aug 31st. Mr. Zullas asked if teachers were apprised of this. Dr. Pavlicek said yes. Mr. Zullas moved for approval.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0-0

*Ms. Gormley said this will be posted online and included in the Eblast.

Topic Two: Technology Report Update. Dr. Pavlicek said the DESE does not require a

technology report to be submitted. There is no technology report to submit, therefore, since it is no longer required.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley said there was a successful Preschool Info Night. There was a very high number of families registering. Tomorrow night, K Info Night will be held at 7pm in the Charles Winchester Auditorium. The Pierce Players will present Once Upon a Mattress. The Glover Science Fairs are tonight and tomorrow night. Also, there will be a forum regarding the Storm water article at 7pm. On Thursday, there will be an SAT Info Night. Also, will pilot the first monthly television show. The first show will be on the college process. March 7th is First Grade Information Night. STEM Info Night will be Friday, March 11th. Ms. Grace Varela read the Athletic Update.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Annual Report (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Zullas explained the process for this report. The Superintendent has presented this report. The report is communicated to every program in the MPS. Mr. Walker asked if the vote could be delayed so he could read the report. It was agreed that members could suggest edits, even after the vote. There was a motion to approve the 2014-15 Annual Report.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 4-0-1 (Walker abstained)

Topic Two: Long Range Planning Update. Mr. Zullas explained what the committee does. The proposal read, "Establish an advisory committee, the purpose of which is to work with the school administration, staff, members of the community and others to identify long-range goals and innovations for the District as well as potential concerns and to recommend to the School Committee a process for achieving those goals or addressing those concerns."

Mr. Zullas said he would like to discuss the potential members of that committee and see if there is consensus. At the next meeting, he will nominate members of this committee. There is a proposal for two School Committee members, one member of the administration, one principal from each level, and three community members. Dr. Donahue said he agrees with the number nine. Mr. Zullas said he would like to attach names to this list.

Topic Three: Meeting Schedule Change. Mr. Zullas said the next meeting is 2/3, then the next one is 2/24. In the interim, there is a special town meeting, which could potentially affect budget deliberations. The chair proposed changing the 2/3 meeting to 2/10. He asked Ms. Gormley if this works to cancel the 2/3 meeting, or possibly to hold two meetings. Ms. Gormley said it's fine either way. Ms. Padera asked, how do those meeting agendas look? Should we spread it out? Ms. Varela asked, if this is evenly spread out, let's focus on budget. Mr. Zullas said if we cancel the 2/3 meeting, then the 2/10 meeting will be a fairly full agenda. Dr. Donahue suggested prioritizing the

agenda on the 10th. Mr. Zullas moved to cancel the 2/3 meeting and scheduling a 2/10 meeting.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0-0

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY17 Cut/Reduction List. Mr. Walker said this will now be discussed on the 2/10 meeting. Mr. Walker said the School Committee has been working diligently with the administration. They have come up with a tentative cut number of \$720,000. This is based on one of the agenda items for the 2/8 Special Town Meeting. He said the committee should defer final discussions until after Town Meeting on 2/8.

Topic Two: FY17 Fees. Mr. Walker went over how some of these fees may change amounts depending on the success of an override. Dr. Pavlicek explained that if there is no state grant available, the Full Day Kindergarten tuition could change. It is necessary to report the tuition figures to the state. Dr. Pavlicek noted that there will be a sliding scale. Other fees are "basically the same," -- music lessons going up \$1. Also, for short-term rentals, the fee schedule has been equalized. Mr. Walker moved approval of the fees contingent on a question -- does the discount cover our costs? Dr. Pavlicek said yes.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Discussion: There were questions about which preschool is assigned to which campus. Dr. Donahue asked, are we approving a range of tuitions between 4-4,300, and Dr. Pavlicek said yes. Ms. Gormley noted how many K classrooms are in each school, saying that the district has had between 14 and 16 K classrooms over the past years. Mr. Zullas offered a friendly amendment to vote all the fees, except for transportation. Mr. Walker said we are not recommending any changes to the transportation fees, so he assumes the conversation would be the same. Mr. Zullas agreed, but said he's hesitant to vote on it. Mr. Walker proposed a conditional vote. Mr. Zullas withdrew his friendly amendment. Ms. Varela asked if we should bring this to the Transportation Subcommittee. Mr. Zullas said it's a great idea to bring this up at the next meeting.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Mr. Walker asked for the warrants. Dr. Pavlicek introduced Warrant #29 dated January 14, 2016 is for \$397,579.47. Mr. Walker asked to move approval of said warrant.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Transportation Subcommittee:

Ms. Varela said that this group was unable to meet for a while, but they recently met. In the late fall, all four elementary schools held pedestrian safety seminars. These were set up by Janna Lindhardt and Jake Smith, who worked with 5th and 2nd grade students. The second-grade teachers were impressed. They also had safety seminars at Pierce for bike riders. Large increase in bikers at PMS, so they will address some of those safety issues, as well. Regarding the bottlenecking at Glover, the first steps is to invest in signage, and encourage parents/guardians to pull "all the way up" to the back. If they abide by that, the bottlenecking will get better. Parents asked to look into a crossing guard at the library, for MS and HS walkers. They are having a "winter walk to school day." Also, looking into having 5th graders help out at the elementary schools.

Policy Subcommittee

Topic One: Second Reading Student Activities Policy JJF. Dr. Donahue said there were no edits from the prior meeting. Dr. Donahue moved for approval.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Second Reading Field Trip Policy IJOA . Clean copy, edited policy. There were changes between last meeting and this meeting. The additions are change of 30 days to 60 days, prior notification of School Committee and administration; and addition of paragraph on short-notice trips, which would not require 60 day notice or intervening School Committee meeting. Mr. Walker moved approval.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Mr. Zullas asked about the change with respect to final approval.

.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: First Reading Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender, Policy AC. Dr. Donahue explained this policy. He vetted this through counsel and updated legal references to include Ms. Gormley. Mr. Walker said, given that the only change was the addition of a legal reference, can we vote it now? Mr. Zullas referred to the School Committee policies to see if a second reading was necessary. He said they can vote this at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Zullas asked for second readings of the policies.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining with AFSCME, negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining with MEA and to adjourn directly from Executive

Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: unanimous

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for Feb 10th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.