

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: October 21st, 2015

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

Not Present: Superintendent Mary Gormley

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

Call to Order: The Chair called the October 21st meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04pm.

The chair introduced the student reps in attendance, Audrey Erikson, Michael Sullivan and Grace Varela.

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the agenda after adding a PARCC update as Item 4b under the Superintendent's Report; adding a five-year financial forecast as Item 5a under the Chair's Report; and removing Item 6b from Finance Subcommittee (first quarter report)

Citizens Speak: Students from the MHS drama club performed a song from 42nd Street.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Diversity Report Follow-Up. Assistant Sup't Sheehan asked for comment on the Diversity Report. Mr. Walker said he'd have comments for the next meeting.

Topic Two: PARCC update. Dr. Pavlicek talked about the DOE debate over PARCC vs. MCAS. Ms. Varela said it's dismaying that Commissioner Chester, who sits on the PARCC board, is now going against it and suggesting MCAS 2.0. Ms. Sheehan said parent and educator feedback may be why he is reconsidering. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of PARCC testing and/or MCAS testing.

Happenings: Ms. Sheehan reported a great success for several fundraisers, including Electronics and Clothing Drive, a concert by Pauline Wells and Brandon Grimes and the Boosters Swing for Sports. Also, she gave a reminder that the Alice Hoffman event was upcoming, as well as the Pierce Fall Fling and the Town Meeting.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Five Year Financial Forecast. Mr. Zullas noted that there will be a meeting on October 23rd at 8pm at the Council on Aging. Mr. Zullas asked School Committee members to let him know before Nov 3rd if they would like to attend. He asked for Finance Subcommittee to sign off on an alternative scenario. Mr. Zullas then moved to delegate to finance subcommittee the creation of an alternative scenario for the five-year financial forecast that has been requested by the town administrator

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones asked for a more complete explanation and asked what would the scenario look like? Mr. Zullas said they need to take out the one-time costs and roll forward all other costs. Mr. Walker said on the presentation of the five year plan, we engaged on an accelerated schedule earlier this year. He said he would rather present our own financial forecast first at the Board of Selectmen meeting, since we put a great deal of work into that. Mr. Zullas said we could clarify that.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: MASC Resolutions (Attachment) (Vote). Ms. Padera explained that this is the annual conference held by Massachusetts Association of School Committees and she will be attending as the Milton School Committee representative. She then went through her list of resolutions for votes.

Resolution 1: Regarding High School Starting Times.

Ms. Padera moved to support.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution 2: Poverty and Children

Ms. Padera moved to support.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution 3: Tying Test Scores to Chapter 70 Funding

Ms. Padera moved to support.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Zullas

Discussion: Mr. Walker asked for an explanation. Dr. Pavlicek explained how test scores are attached to the students' district on the day they take the test. Chapter 70 funding is attached to

where a student attends school on October 1 of each year. Mr. Walker said this seems like an imperfect solution. Mr. Zullas asked if there was a friendly amendment. Ms. Padera explained that delegates propose amendments and offered to do this for this resolution. Mr. Walker offered an amendment, but Ms. Padera said she would like to leave it as is. Mr. Zullas said the friendly amendment is not accepted.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Mr. Walker votes no)

Resolution 4: Support for an equitable and sustainable placement program for students covered under the McKinney Vento homeless education assistance act.

Ms. Padera moved to support.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Zullas

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones asked how this works. Right now, when a child becomes homeless, they're allowed to stay in their previous school district. How does this change that? Mr. Zullas said it sounds like they're trying to create a program to consider other factors.

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution 5: Tax Reform Ballot Question

Ms. Padera moved to support.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Ms. Varela

Mr. Walker thinks this is well beyond the scope of MASC and poorly written. Mr. Zullas agreed, and Dr. Pavlicek said he thinks this is part of the "Raise Up Massachusetts" ballot initiative.

Vote: 1-5 (Ms. Padera votes yes)

Resolution 6: Membership of a School Committee member on the board of elementary and secondary education.

Ms. Padera moved to support.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Resolution 7: Relative to the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessments for Kindergarten Students

Ms. Padera is meeting with the administration on whether to support this resolution. Ms. Varela asked if we could discuss this at the next meeting. Ms. Sheehan explained that TS Gold is a "developmental assessment" mandated by the state. Teachers have received a great deal of professional development on this topic. Mr. Zullas said there are finance subcommittee meetings before Nov. 3rd. Mr. Zullas suggested that we could vote to delegate this issue to finance subcommittee, which could hear additional feedback from the administration. Mr. Walker said this seems to be a policy issue, so he is in favor of sending the delegate with a "no vote" on this one. Ms. Padera said we are leaning towards a "no" vote on this assessment and said she would

be fine with discussing this to finance subcommittee. Mr. Zullas moved to delegate to finance subcommittee a vote on resolution #7.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: School Committee Goals (Attachment). Mr. Zullas said at the last meeting, he assigned a person to goals. Ms. Bagley Jones said she asked, when it says "Responsible Committee/Person" -- what does that mean? Mr. Zullas said that some member and/or some committee will be responsible for the goal. Discussion ensued regarding a mid-way check-in on the goals.

Topic Four: Budget Process. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pavlicek gave a "Finance 101" talk. Ms. Varela asked about Chapter 70 costs and about revolving fund accounts. How is athletic team fundraising is different from student activity fund? Dr. Pavlicek explained that when students do the fundraising for a club, then that money belongs to the club. Dr. Pavlicek said there will be a change from the School Committee perspective regarding fundraising, which will require a new level of oversight at the School Committee level. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about athletic fees, and about Boosters. The Boosters have "nothing to do with us," financially. She requested a footnote be added to the presentation to note that the PTOs, Boosters, FAME and FAVA are separate entities from the Milton Public Schools.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: Final FY16 Budget Reduction List (Attachment) (Vote). Mr. Walker introduced the cut list restoration priorities. The items below the line are the cuts that have already been implemented. Mr. Walker said this is NOT a prioritized listing of restorations. Mr. Walker moved to retroactively approve the high school cuts of .4 math, .4 English, .2 PE.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: Dr. Donahue appreciates the clarity of the list. As a whole, the effect on our programs is less. This is a good exchange from that perspective.

Vote: 6-0-0.

Ms. Varela would like to note that the middle school was the most decimated last year.

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote)

Mr. Walker introduced Warrant #17 in the amount of \$953,430.47. Mr. Walker moved approval of 10/22/15 for that amount.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-1 (Walker abstained)

Policy Subcommittee:

Policy IFC, Diversity (Re-Approval) (Vote). Dr. Donahue moved to re-approve the diversity Policy IFC.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Mr. Walker

Mr. Walker asked, is this unchanged and Dr. Donahue confirmed that it is unchanged. Mr. Zullas asked if we did a first reading at the last meeting. Dr. Donahue said he thinks that unchanged policies do not need a first reading. Mr. Zullas suggested calling this a first reading, with the vote at next meeting. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if we should include trans-gender issues. Mr. Walker said he thinks there's a distinction between an anti-discrimination policy and a diversity policy. Dr. Donahue pointed out that in reading through the policy, it references Mass. laws and federal statutes. Mr. Zullas said we should look at the gender issues and vote on the December 4th.

Vote: no vote

Facilities Subcommittee Report

Mr. Walker said that this subcommittee has met twice to discuss the space needs study and a comprehensive facilities management plan. He said the district should look at the possibility of taking advantage of the Cunningham attic, which is unused right now. Another idea is to talk to Curry College and/or Milton Academy to ask for space for preschool programs. Regarding the facilities management plan, we have been talking about this for some time. He feels that they made good progress at the last meeting, but they may need approval to engage outside resources

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee Report

Ms. Varela updated the committee on school traffic signage. She noted the lack of signage at Pierce and has been trying to resolve this issue with both MPD and the DPW. She said the annual Walk to School day will be held on Nov 18th. Regarding bus issues, she noted that some of the buses have traffic issues through East Milton Square. There are also concerns about high school buses leaving too early.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Health and Wellness (Ms. Bagley Jones)

Ms. Varela asked to report out on Health Night at Pierce Middle School.

Mr. Walker asked to put Superintendent's Evaluation on for Nov. 5th meeting and introduce it at next meeting. He would like to solicit feedback and prepare evaluation for the 23rd. Dr.

Donahue would like policy to be put on.

Citizen Speak Round Two

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for MEA and the approval of minutes and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Roll Call Vote: unanimous

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm