

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Cable Studio  
Date: Monday, November 23, 2015

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

**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 November 23, 2015 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05pm.

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda after adding Item 9b Discussion and Vote; and adding AFSCME to Item 14a

### **Citizens Speak**

There were no speakers for Citizens Speak

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: PARCC. Ms. Gormley reported the recent decision of the DESE regarding assessment testing. She said the commissioner recommended a hybrid to be giving in spring of 2017 using both MCAS and PARCC. The Milton Public Schools will take the PARCC this year, which students also took last year. MPS students will take MCAS in science in Grades 5, 8 and 9, 10. As a result of the vote, DESE showed they are committed to a computer-based state assessment. The state has promised that districts will not go down a level as a result of PARCC. Districts will be "held harmless." Ms. Bagley Jones asked for a clarification on this. She also asked if we could put a very brief report, get the language and vocabulary out there. Ms. Gormley said we could do a "top ten questions" about PARCC and MCAS testing. Ms. Varela asked if the hybrid test will be administered in the spring of 2017. In 2019, it will be all electronic. Ms. Varela asked if there will be funding implications from this and Ms. Gormley said she would look into this. Massachusetts will remain a member of the PARCC consortium.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley announced that this past weekend, the Milton High School Girls Cross Country Team won the MIAA D2 All-State Champions for first time since 1998. Last Saturday's football game was summarized by Mr. Walker, who said this fall was "the best season in 52 years." Ms. Bagley Jones said MHS parents and players had a high approval rating of the coach. The team seemed very cohesive. Ms. Gormley said Steve Dembowski and Tom Shaw deserve a lot of credit. Ms. Gormley recognized the Diversity Committee for "Woman Up!" where a panel of women came to speak about women in leadership roles. She noted that the Model UN at Pierce did very well at a recent competition. The Debate Team did very well at the most recent tournament. More than 1100 students filled the classroom and hallways of MHS on Saturday for the South Eastern District Auditions. Best Buddies Gobbler was a success.

## **Chair's Report**

Topic One: Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Evaluation Progress Report. Mr. Zullas noted that this is a follow-up. As a recap, there is a model for a five-stage sequence. We are in the fourth-step "MidCycle Goals Review." On March 4, 2015, the committee approved the goals. Ms. Gormley reviewed her goals. Mr. Walker volunteered to help the Superintendent draft a charge for a subcommittee to review the goals in light of the transition from MCAS to PARCC. Mr. Zullas thinks the subcommittee should be small. Mr. Zullas said we should plan to have a proposed charge and proposed subcommittee members at the next meeting. Mr. Walker said that his feedback to Ms. Gormley is "largely the same" -- he doesn't think there's anyone who can do the job as well as she does it. He continues to be impressed. For one of the goals regarding athletic participation, he recalled a presentation from Mr. Rooney and Mr. Jette to increase participation of minority students. Has that been passed on to the current AD for action? Ms. Gormley said that, yes, it has. Dr. Donahue asked if the Superintendent sees any goals that require adjustment. Ms. Gormley said the student learning goal is all-encompassing. The STEM curricula is a very valuable goal. The issue around the IEPs, requiring that teachers sign that they've read them is very important. Regarding Goal #2, our understanding was that the deliverable would be a K-12 social-emotional curriculum.

## **Vice Chair's Report**

Topic One: Report from MASC Annual Meeting. Ms. Padera updated the committee on the recent MASC conference. The Quincy School Committee called for a moratorium on high stakes testing, which was voted down. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if anyone mentioned Pres. Obama's comments on high stakes testing. Ms. Padera said this did not come up, but there were many people who opposed high stakes testing in general. Also, many opposed to Common Core. Ms. Padera also mentioned the foundation budget review commission.

## **Finance Subcommittee:**

Topic One: FY17 Budget Update. Mr. Walker updated the committee that a vote of contingent and non contingent budget will take place at the Dec. 9th meeting. Ms. Bagley Jones thanked committee members for adding more meeting times.

Topic Two: First Quarter of Grants (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker moved approval to accept these grants as listed in the 11/4 memo

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Mr. Zullas

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Three: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote) Dr. Pavlicek introduced Warrant #21 from November 19th in the amount of \$582,734.62. Mr. Walker moved for approval.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

### **Policy Subcommittee Report:**

Topic One: First Reading, Policy JICH, Weapons in School Policy. Dr. Donahue said he had originally planned to defer the first reading, but Mr. Zullas had expressed interest in making revisions. He received these revisions from the chair earlier today. He said he would do the first reading now, then add the info from the chief of police at a later date. Mr. Walker asked, when will we get input from police department? Dr. Donahue said after the first reading. Ms. Padera asked if we could vote on a first reading. Mr. Zullas noted that it's not necessary to vote on a first reading.

Topic Two: Update on Policy AC, Nondiscrimination, Policy ACA, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender and IFC, Diversity Policy. Dr. Donahue noted that we re-evaluated two policies, specifically with regard to gender identity -- a subgroup which should be addressed in this setting. Our counsel's opinion was that we don't need another policy. Mr. Walker asked a question about the legal references. Dr. Donahue said 151B is the statute that covers discrimination for the State.

### **School Committee Meeting Location**

Topic One: Milton Access TV Executive Director Michael Lynch. Mr. Lynch came to speak to the committee. He welcomed the group and discussed the features of the room. The filming equipment is high-def, which is an advantage. Secondly, any presentations can be seen from any angle. Also, it is possible to conduct Skype interviews, there are now microphones for each person, the crew is in the control room. In addition, lights don't need to be turned out during presentations. Ms. Bagley Jones said she appreciates this, but there are things she misses about using the library. Ms. Varela asked about soundproofing, noting that, during percussion classes, we can hear the noise. Mr. Lynch said that more soundproofing will take place, including adding carpeting. Mr. Zullas asked about the funding. Mr. Lynch noted that the equipment was \$180,000. We added the Mac lab for \$30,000. This was funded through MPEG and there were no taxpayer dollars used. The next step is to develop curriculum and get kids involved, similar to what's happening at Pierce. Mr. Lynch said that the portable equipment is getting older and needs to be upgraded. We would need about \$50,000 to invest in the library to make it work. You'd have to enclose the area of the library. Ms. Bagley Jones asked, if we were to stay in the library, how much would we have to spend on that equipment? Mr. Lynch can't really say. Mr. Zullas asked, did the board build this room with the hope that the School Committee could meet here? Mr. Lynch recommended that the School Committee meetings could take place here. It is equipped as another meeting room. Ms. Bagley Jones said, when we accepted the gift, there weren't any strings attached. Mr. Zullas said the committee can decide where we want to meet the next time, or for the foreseeable future.

Topic Two: Discussion and Vote. Ms. Padera said, as we sit here, most of the audience is at home. We have to think of the people who are sitting at home. The sound is better, the presentations are better. I see no reason why we wouldn't use this room, if it makes it a better

presentation for people at home. Mr. Lynch said he would like to show the presentations side-by-side with the library and the new space for an accurate comparison. Mr. Walker said he would like more soundproofing, rugs and more comfortable chairs. Ms. Varela said, as long as the acoustics improve, she's in favor of meeting in the studio. Mr. Walker does not want to displace music students, and Dr. Pavlicek explained that the music students won't be displaced. Mr. Lynch explained that the School Committee could move back to the library if they had to. Ms. Bagley Jones said she didn't realize that they were expected to move. She said, she thinks it's nice to be in an environment with student work. The library is the "jewel of the system" in her opinion. Mr. Walker moved to designate this room as our primary meeting space.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Ms. Bagley Jones

**Vote:** 5-0-1 (Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

### **Approval of Minutes**

The chair entertained a motion to approve the September 30 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

**Move:** Mr. Zullas

**Second:** Ms. Varela

Discussion: none

**Vote:** 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

The chair entertained a motion to approve the October 7, 2015 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

**Move:** Mr. Zullas

**Second:** Ms. Bagley Jones

**Vote:** 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

**Old Business: none**

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Walker asked for the second meeting in December to include a facilities subcommittee report. (Dec 16) Also Ms. Bagley Jones asked to add a Health & Wellness report to the Dec 2 meeting.

### **Citizen Speak Round 2: none**

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, approval of minutes, and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

**Move:** Mr. Zullas

**Second:** Ms. Bagley Jones

**Roll Call Vote:** unanimous.

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2nd.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

MD