

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
November 4, 2015

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

Not Present: Becky Padera

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

Call to Order: Mr. Zullas called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Approve Agenda: The committee approved November 4, 2015 agenda after removing Item 6a and removing the word "AFSCME" from Item 12a (Executive Session)
Later in the meeting, the chairman deferred Items 7 and 8.

Citizen Speak: MHS Junior Michael Sullivan described his project of retiring American flags. The committee congratulated him for his efforts.

Superintendent's Report:

Topic One: Glover Site Council (Attachment) Principal Dr. Sheila Kukstis, along with teacher representatives Margaret Turner and Allison White and parent representatives Adrienne Sullivan, James Suppelsa and Kevin Fleming. The council gave a presentation and a school improvement plan. Dr. Kukstis answered questions from committee members regarding the presentation. Discussion ensued.

Topic Two: Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results (Attachments) James Jette, Milton High School Principal and Laurie Stillman, Senior Consultant, Milton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition came to discuss the results of the Youth Risk Behavior survey. Mr. Jette gave a brief powerpoint and then talked about awareness, prevention and support. He also discussed the results of the survey. Ms. Stillman said the schools should be commended for doing this. Ms. Varela asked about why alcohol use is so high but noted that drinking and driving rates were low. She also noted higher rates of depression in females. Ms. Bagley Jones mentioned peer leaders. Mr. Walker agreed that transparency is important and said the survey results are "alarming." Discussion ensued.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley announced the upcoming production of 42nd St musical at Milton High School. She commended Mike Sullivan for his retired flag project and reminded families that parent/teacher conferences are upcoming.

Chair's Report

Topic One: Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Update. Mr. Zullas explained that it is the School Committee's responsibility to evaluate the superintendent. The committee uses a DESE model for the evaluation, and he explained that at this point in the year it is tie for the mid-cycle update. The summative evaluation will be next fall. Ms. Gormley provided a progress report with respect to the goals which were set. She explained that this is a five-step cycle. She had submitted a blue folder to each School Committee member for review. Step One is the goals that she set. Step Two includes 40 rubrics to evaluate her on four topics. She encouraged School Committee members to review the goals and make any suggestions to her.

Topic Two: Update from Board of Selectmen Meeting regarding Five-Year Financial Projections. Mr. Zullas briefed the committee on the meeting. The Town Administration working group presented two budgets at the meeting. The first, needs-based budget, which was approved last January and could be described as "level service." A second budget was "inflation-based" budget. He talked about the impact an override, or lack of override would have on these budgets. He reported that concerns were expressed at the meeting about funding free FDK. Dr. Donahue pointed out that the figures that presented in the budget are an aggregate of five years without an override.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: First Quarter Report (Attachment) (Vote). Mr. Walker moved to approve first quarter report. He made one adjustment in the cover memo, reflecting that there might be a deficit in the special education budget. He moved to approve the report.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr Zullas

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote)

Dr. Pavlicek read Warrant #19 from Nov 5, 2015 for \$164,412.27

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-0

*Ms. Bagley Jones asked if the finance subcommittee meeting schedule could be changed to either Thursday or Friday so that she could attend more of them.

*Mr. Walker noted that the finance subcommittee will be presenting a list of spending priorities. It was initially planned for this evening, but Ms. Padera asked us to wait for

her, so on November 23rd, that list of priorities will be presented and a budget. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Zullas moved to defer the next two items on the agenda to the next meeting. Items 7 and 8 were deferred.

Next Meeting Agenda Items: The next meeting on 11/23 will be held in the Milton Cable Access TV studio at Milton High School. There was some disagreement about whether to hold meetings in the library or in the cable studio. Discussion ensued. Mr. Zullas moved to have next meeting at the Milton Cable Access TV studio at Milton High School.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 4-1-0 (Mr. Walker voted no)

The next meeting will be held at the new studio.

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

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Dr. Donahue

Roll call vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.