

Minutes of the School Committee

Regular Meeting

Milton High Library

Date: November 20, 2013

Committee Present: Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Chair; Leroy Walker, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Becky Padera, Mike Zullas. Student Reps: Audrey Erickson, Matt McCarthy and Evvie Oliverio.

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Call to Order

The Chair called the November 20th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after deleting item 6b, 7a, item 8 and adding FDK chargebacks. Also, they agreed to move the James Moonan presentation to later in the night.

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Approval of Minutes

The chair entertained a motion to approve the October 16, 2013 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council Presentation. Jerry Vitti, Chairperson, Michelle Connolly, Vice Chairperson appeared before the committee to talk about the history, goals of the PAC. They said there is an event tomorrow night about IEPs. "An IEP for my Child." Mr. Vitti discussed the 2013-14 PAC calendar, and the goals. He said they are looking for a high school student who can help with web design, maintain website, babysit for meetings. They also talked about finding different ways to connect with parents. Ms. Padera asked about child care for the meetings and suggested community service. She also asked, can they provide ways for the School Committee to help improve communication and asked if the School Committee could be on the email list. Ms. Kelly said she wanted to have the PAC in to ask if there were things needed in the budget. Is there a top 3 list? Michelle Connolly asked if they could get back to the committee on this question. Ms. Gormley said there is need for experts to give PD in the district. Ms. Kelly asked if the Milton PAC could have a web component of our website and Ms. Gormley said she would look into this.

Topic Two: 2013 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. James Moonan, Pierce Middle School Math Teacher and Pierce Middle School Principal Karen Spaulding. Mr. Moonan was the only Massachusetts recipient this year. John Phelan thanked Mr. Moonan, who noted that his mentor was Anne Murphy. Mr. Moonan called this "a great week." It was noted by Mrs. Sheridan that the Milken Family also awarded Holly Concannon this award several years ago.

Topic Three: Diversity Report (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Gormley introduced the report and noted that it has grown from a one-page report to what is now a large and inclusive report. Our diversity permeates our district and we celebrate our diversity. Ms. Gormley described the report and Mr. Phelan spoke about the partnership with Citizens for a Diverse Milton. Ms. Bagley Jones noted that this is an incredible

amount of data. Why does Milton High have a higher percentage of staff of color? Is there more turnover? Mr. Phelan said the district hires about 25 teachers a year and there is an effort to try to get diverse applicants. They use School Spring now, which helps to attract a more diverse pool. Mr. Walker thanked the Superintendent for compiling a "more robust" diversity report. The student reps spoke to the diversity in the district and what a positive experience it has been for them. Ms. Kelly asked if we could see how diverse the clubs/activities are. Mr. Walker said, to close on a positive note, the encouraging note is the percent of qualifying scores on AP test. When we get our students to the high-achieving realm, there's complete parity. Mr. Walker moved to accept the report and include it on next agenda for discussion.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: The Best Buddies Road Race is on 11/23. Congrats to Ally Jones for helping to organize. In football, the Wildcats got a victory over Medfield. Alex Toyas, was named the Bay State player of the week. Girls Cross Country competed in State Div 4, and qualified for the 11/16 race. The team finished 11 out of 185 teams in the state. Also reminder that there is no school Wed, Thurs or Friday for the Thanksgiving break.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Town/School Consolidation Committee (Vote). Recently several SC members went to Board of Selectmen to discuss this. Six board members on this, Mr. Pavlicek, Ms. Fagan, treasurer, accountant, one Board of Selectmen member, also one outside person, or "person at large." Mr. Walker moved to nominate Mr. Zullas and Mr. Pavlicek to serve on this committee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera.

Comment: We should establish the committee before establishing the membership of the committee. Mr. Zullas asked to waive this procedure. Mr. Walker then moved to amend the motion, but after discussion, went back to his original motion.

Vote: 5-0-0.

Topic Two: MASC Conference Update. Ms. Padera updated the committee on what occurred at this conference. She said that Resolution One passed; 2 passed with an amendment. 3 passed; 4 passed; 5 passed (was not split.) She noted that Mr. Pavlicek received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which she called the "highlight of the evening." Ms. Padera said she attended conferences on the arts. "Flying Cloud Institute," which brings in local artists, such as a dance teacher who came in to use dance teacher to demonstrate chemistry. Presentation on sexuality education in schools. She also talked about presentation about high-quality early education. Student Rep Ms. Oliverio talked about the Gettysburg Address in speech class.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: First Quarter Report (Attachment) Ms. Kelly asked to turn the discussion of direct transfers over to Mr. Pavlicek. He said, normally, when we pay bills, they are in the warrant. Some of those bills are to pay the town of Milton, for example, the FDK health insurance for the FDK teachers. This involves a transfer \$60,000 from our accounts to the town's health insurance account. In the future, we would like to avoid writing checks to ourselves, and instead, use direct transfers. In advance of trying to work out a policy, perhaps they could create a "pseudo-warrant" But in the meantime, Mr. Pavlicek said he is asking for a vote to approve direct transfers.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Vote: 6-0-0 (Ms. Kelly asked what line item it would be.)

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Pavlicek reported that the ductwork repairs at MHS are complete. They are looking for rebates for increased efficiency and recently signed a purchase agreement to lock in electrical energy prices. Ms. Sheridan asked if the rate is better than last year and Mr. Pavlicek said that it was. The rate is 7.5 cents per kilowatt and Mr. Ritchie was pleased with it.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Diversity Report follow up, The Superintendent evaluation, a first quarter report and a health and wellness report. Ms. Bagley Jones asked for a student rep to serve on Health & Wellness.

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 Deployment of Security Personnel and negotiation strategy for non-Union personnel, and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55