

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: December 2nd, 2015

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

Student Reps: Grace Varela and Mike Sullivan

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 December 2nd, 2015 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing approval of Vendor Warrants (Item 7b)

Citizens Speak:

Michelle Connolly, president of the Milton SEPAC noted that today is Special Education Awareness Day and spoke about the challenges and accomplishments of special education in Milton Public Schools.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Girls Cross Country Team. Athletic Director Alex Campea and MHS Girls Cross Country Coach Tom Shaw introduced his team, who recently won the MIAA Division II State Championship. The team discussed the season, noting that two of their members were named Boston Globe All-Scholastics. School Committee members asked questions about the season and congratulated the team.

Topic Two: Preliminary Field Trip Approval. Ms. Sheehan reported on the MHS Debate Team's upcoming field trip to Texas to compete in a tournament. School Committee members asked about the budget and chaperones. The general nature of the trip was approved.

Topic Three: CHARMS Update. Ms. Gormley introduced a proposal that the district would like to withdraw from the CHARMS collaborative for special education, and join another local special education collaborative. At the next meeting, she will formally present this and take questions from School Committee members.

Happenings: The Debate team is going to Lexington this weekend to participate in a tournament. The Pierce has formed a Model UN club and recently competed at Northeastern University. The FAA will be holding a public hearing regarding airplane noise at the Charles C. Winchester Auditorium tomorrow night. Ms. Padera encouraged any interested volunteers to attend the upcoming MFE meeting. Grace Varela reported that the recent Homecoming Dance and Pep Rally were very successful.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Zullas mention the FAA meeting as well.

Health and Wellness Subcommittee Report

Ms. Bagley Jones reported that the subcommittee is working on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results and has come up with an action plan. She pointed out some of the positive aspects of the report. She noted that they are working with the high school administration and community groups on some of the areas of concern.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

Topic One: FY17 Budget (Attachment) (Vote) Before beginning on this topic, Mr. Zullas reminded the committee that he will be recusing himself from the second vote on this topic because of the Full Day Kindergarten issue, which might affect his family. Mr. Walker and Dr. Pavlicek discussed the FY16-17 budget numbers. The committee voted to approve the first budget number of \$42,436,500, which reflects the contractual and legal obligations of the district.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Discussion: Mr. Zullas asked the administration to describe the increase and what that increase consists of. Dr. Pavlicek said the increase is 4.1% increase. The factors involved are several non-recurring expenses, the cost of steps, lanes and cost-of-living increases for all employees, the additional expenses for SPED, especially out-of-district placements. There are two positions funded by one-time money (reading specialist for SPED and) and there are two new SPED positions mandated by IEPs. Ms. Gormley discussed the need for these positions. Mr. Zullas described the number as a “bare-bones” number that satisfies the legal obligations of the district.

Vote: 6-0-0

There was then discussion of the second issue. Mr. Zullas recused himself and left the room at this point, and Ms. Padera took over as chair. Ms. Bagley Jones asked, if there was a wish list, what other positions would be added in the SPED department? Mr. Walker said the next figure is the contingent budget number. He spoke about the process used to arrive at this number. Mr. Walker went through the second needs-based budget number of \$42,978,200, which is a 5.5% increase. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about the prior reductions to the physical education director. This used to be its own position and now it is combined with the Athletic Director position. She would like it to be restored. She also asked if grant money was available for the Saturday program. Ms. Gormley said we used to get funding from the “Math is a Slam Dunk” program. Dr. Pavlicek also mentioned the BOKS money from Reebok, and Ms. Gormley mentioned the Title One funding for Tucker. Ms. Bagley Jones also asked about the math specialist coaches. Dr. Donahue commented that a 4% increase is within the margin of what has been done in the past several years. Mr. Walker said the contingent budget can likely only be funded if there is an override.

Vote: 6-0-0

*Mr. Zullas returned to the room at this point.

Ms. Bagley Jones asked about Finance Subcommittee meetings. She would like to see if there are other times they can meet. Mr. Zullas said there will be dates in January, but would like to take the scheduling “off line.” Ms. Bagley Jones would like to do this in open session. Mr. Walker said they are doing their best to schedule additional meetings. The difficulty in trying to schedule a meeting is significant and they will try to schedule additional meetings, as needed. Ms. Varela asked about what the joint meeting with the warrant committee will cover. Mr. Walker talked about a revised schedule.

Approval of Minutes

The chair entertained a motion to approve the October 21st minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Gormley said the Collicot Site Council will be on the next agenda. Mr. Zullas said there would also be budget discussion. Ms. Gormley asked if Mr. Zullas would like Facilities for the December 16th. Also, there will be a Policy Subcommittee update. Ms. Gormley said there would also be a discussion of CHARMS.

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 approval of minutes, 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 December 17th

The meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.