

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
Date: December 3rd, 2014

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair, Michael Zullas, Vice Chair, Mary Kelly, Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Becky Padera., Kristan Bagley Jones. Student Reps: Matt McCarthy (arrived at 7:29pm)

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

Call to Order: The Chair called the December 3rd, 2014 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7pm.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Walker rearranged the order of the agenda, moving Finance Subcommittee report up to the first item and re-ordering the remaining items. He added item C to Chairmans Report for a Transportation and Security Subcommittee update. He also added a second item to executive session (MEA and AFSCME.) With those edits, they approved the agenda.

Citizens Speak: No one came forward for Citizen Speak.

Finance Subcommittee

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants: Dr. Pavlicek presented Warrant #23 for \$893,038.15

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Discussion: Mr. Zullas asked how many signatures are on the warrant. There are two.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Kelly abstained)

Dr. Pavlicek explained that there is a transfer necessary for a Full-Day Kindergarten employees' health insurance. He asked for a vote to transfer funds to cover this expense as an "intra-fund transfer."

Move: Ms. Bagley Jones

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones asked how many people this covers. Dr. Pavlicek said some of the additional staff needs insurance. There are about 8 people, 5 of whom are taking the insurance. Mr. Zullas asked if this is a budgeted item. Dr. Pavlicek said yes, and we pay it every year.

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Pavlicek explained the next intrafund transfer is to fund the second School Resource Officer. When we added the second officer, we agreed to pay the salary in the amount of \$60,000.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan asked for clarification on why the funds are needed now. Dr. Pavlicek said we paid \$30K last spring, that was for half a year. Now, we paid the one time fee for the whole year of \$60,000. Ms. Bagley Jones asked for clarification about the officer's assignment and asked if he is assigned to Pierce Middle School. It was explained that the officer divides his time between the high school and the middle school.

Vote: 6-0-0

*Ms. Sheridan asked, for a follow-up, if the finance sub-com could take this under consideration as to when this position gets paid and to a timeline to get some clarity.

Topic Two: FY16 Advancement Budget 3.0 (Attachment) Ms. Gormley and Ms. Sheehan made a PowerPoint presentation to outline the new positions and instructional support that comprise the FY16 Advancement Budget. There are three factors: Emphasizing Early Literacy Achievement (PreK-3); Closing the Proficiency Gaps (PreK-12); and Advancing Science and STEM Initiatives. Each of these initiatives has a budget request itemized for both personnel and instructional support. The resources required were outlined. Ms. Gormley stressed the importance of the reading specialists, who provide targeted instruction. School Committee members asked whether Pierce should also have a reading specialist and Ms. Gormley said she moves personnel to areas where they are needed. Currently, there is a reading specialist at Grade 6 level. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about the Health and PE curriculum. She expressed concern that the STEM offerings are not inclusive, and that some of the outreach programs might inadvertently identify at-risk children to their peers. Matt McCarthy asked about bringing STEM experiences to the high school level? Mr. Zullas asked what would happen if we abandoned the advancement initiatives? Ms. Gormley said it would be devastating — that failure to fund these initiatives would be a huge setback. The chairman entertained a motion to approve. Ms. Padera asked to look at the rest of the budget first and to delay the vote on the advancement budget. This was agreed to.

Topic Three: FY16 Budget Review. Dr. Pavlicek presented the FY16 School Department Budget Proposal. He began with the budget drivers, which include the advancement budget, negotiated wage agreements, SPED tuition and bus increases, facilities costs, etc. At the conclusion of the presentation, School Committee members asked questions.

Ms. Padera noted that the elementary schools populations are growing and they all still have only one principal. She also noted the lack of a Preschool Director at the Collicot classroom.

Mr. Zullas said he would like to explore adding a preschool director and a vice-principal. Chair asked for motion to approve the Advancement Budget.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Chairman's Report

Topic One: MASC Update. Ms. Padera handed out the minutes from the recent MASC conference, noting that all the resolutions passed. She said a major topic was the controversy regarding high stakes testing. Ms. Padera said she met with Ms. Gormley upon her return to discuss some of the topics from the conference.

Topic Two: Five Year Financial Plan Approach (Attachment) Mr. Walker discussed the request from selectmen to talk about a five-year projection and said this has been discussed at Finance Subcommittee meetings. Potential dates were discussed for this meeting. Mr. Zullas asked if we could propose, on January 7th, priorities and assumptions. If there's consensus on the 7th, Ms. Kelly asked, is everyone available on the 14th? Mr. Walker recommended that the committee approve the schedule as proposed. If things go faster and better than anticipated, then it can be changed. The chairman entertained a motion to approve the proposal.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Transportation and Safety Subcommittee: Ms. Bagley Jones suggested a Thursday morning meeting. Ms. Gormley will remind PTO presidents to ask for one representative from each school.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Annual Report (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker asked for edits and none were sent in. Mr. Walker said he will draft a cover letter for the report and submit to the selectmen. The chairman entertained a motion to approve the Annual Report.

Move: Ms. Bagley Jones

Second: Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Student Representative Matt McCarthy talked about the upcoming Best Buddies road race and encouraged the public to attend or to sponsor a runner. He also noted that winter sports started this week. Thanksgiving football team did not win on Thanksgiving, but they had an amazing season.

Facilities Subcommittee

Topic One: Review of Charge (Attachment) Ms. Sheridan had previously asked to revisit the original charge of the facilities subcommittee. Mr. Walker researched this issue and found the original charge. At a September, 2004, School Committee retreat, members voted to establish facilities subcommittee. The charge was not articulated. Ms. Sheridan said that as one of the original members of this subcommittee, her impression is that the charge is to be responsible for the schools -- the buildings and grounds. This committee deals with long-range planning and care of buildings and grounds. She said if the School Committee feels that the needs of the Facilities Subcommittee no longer exist, it should be disbanded. Ms. Kelly asked about the existence of a comprehensive facilities management plan. If one does not exist, she would like for it to be undertaken. Ms. Sheridan said that a comprehensive plan has existed in a different form and that Bill Ritchie has this plan. Mr. Walker agreed that he would like to see a comprehensive Facilities Management plan. Mr. Zullas noted that, beyond the actual plan, it sounds like there were three areas this facilities subcommittee worked on: capital planning, security and funding. Where do those responsibilities sit now? Mr. Zullas guessed that they are now in Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Kelly said that everything comes before finance eventually. Ms. Sheridan asked to continue this discussion at our next meeting. The facilities subcommittee should be validated in terms of whether they still need to be meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Padera suggested looking at space, in terms of room in the schools. Increased numbers, look at broader scope. Enrollment issues. She also suggested looking at numbers in elementary school districts. How districts are growing.

Ms. Sheridan asked about minutes for meetings and noted the committee hasn't approved any since May.

Ms. Kelly asked about the French/English analysis. Mr. Walker said they have been trying to schedule a presentation with Ms. O'Dwyer. Perhaps during the school break, in January.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Contract Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel; and negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining with MEA and AFSCME and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Zullas

Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm