

Minutes of the School Committee

Regular Meeting

Milton High Library

Date: February 25, 2014

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

Not Present: Mary Kelly

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent, John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent (arrived late.)

Call to Order

The Chair called the February 25th, 2014 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:06pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after moving Item 7c (Offsite Solar Power Purchase) and item 8 (Health & Wellness report) off the agenda. With those edits, the chair declared the agenda approved.

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting of December 16, 2013. (Attachment) (Vote)

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: Mr. Walker asked about the phrase "great advancement budget sheet," on the final page of the minutes. It was confirmed that was correct.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones was not present)

Happenings: Ms. Gormley asked the drama club to speak about the Rabbit Hole, an upcoming production. The rest of the Happenings will be presented after the Site Council.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Cunningham School Site Council Presentation (Attachment)

Principal Jonathan Redden presented the School Improvement Plan, along with Teacher Representatives Ms. Janis Gordon, Ms. Roberta Williams, Ms. Kathy Mulligan, Ms. Nicole Young; Parent Representatives Ms. Stephanie O'Keefe, Ms. Franc Graham and Ms. Sara Callahan. To view the entire presentation, click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/CunninghamSiteCouncilPresentation-2.pdf>

Throughout the presentation, Mr. Redden referenced how generous donors have helped to get the technology needs funded. Ms. Gordon, spoke about the use of Chromebooks in her Spanish classes and how the clickers allow for immediate feedback. There was also discussion about the on-line plan books. Mr. Redden talked about developing student success plans, which mirror those in the Pierce Middle School. By using the data and, common assessments, he is able to make classes that benefit all. There was discussion about developing common grade level rubrics implementing existing math common assessments as scheduled, targeting PD to develop expertise in specific strategies, using Study Island data to target support, and providing extended learning opportunities for ELA and Math.

Mr. Redden also discussed how they use Readers' and Writers' Workshops to develop expertise. He also talked about recognizing individual student achievement through Continental Math, Future Problem Solvers, Science Fair, etc.

Mr. Walker said the presentation was exciting and said it was good to see how the Cunningham team collaborates. Mr. Walker asked questions about the learning walks and the student blogs. Ms. Padera commended the group for their presentation. She said that Cunningham has consistently reached out to parents, using Facebook and other means.

*Note: John Phelan arrived at 7:41 pm.

Ms. Padera also talked about the Cunningham Computer Club and said she thinks these activities draw students into school and get them to participate in activities they might not try otherwise. Ms. Bagley Jones thanked the site council. She said she enjoyed sharing the best practices they got from Learning Walks and the before-school Computer Club. Ms. Gormley said the support the School Committee and the Warrant Committee gave to the advancement budget has made a real difference, and to hear Mr. Redden talk about the reading specialist, assessments, etc. was very rewarding to her.

Mr. Zullas asked about the substantial improvement in fifth-grade scores and Mr. Redden said he attributes this to the focus on writing. Both the responses and long comprehension sections look very different in 4th grade than 5th grade. Ms. Sheridan said "risk taking and innovation," was the theme of this report and said there is a tremendous amount of pride. At this point, it was noted that Roberta Williams, a member of the Cunningham Site Council, has announced her retirement. Ms. Williams was Ms. Gormley's assistant, a guidance counselor, a SPED chair and an elementary librarian. Committee members thanked her.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley congratulated the ski team, the girl's hockey team and the boys hockey team for their recent wins. Mr. Phelan gave a full athletic update. Also, walk-in registration for adult ed will be held tomorrow night. Tonight, the high school is hosting Program of Studies Night and AP Info night. There is also a play tomorrow night. Thursday night is PAC meeting at PMS at 7 pm. Also, parents and guardians should watch flyers, since March 6th will be teacher conferences. Also, a reminder that the last day of school is currently June 24th. There was an appeal to make donations to MPACE. This Friday night is Wildcat Fun Night at Glover School. Also, on Saturday night, the Teens in Need fundraiser will be held.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Facilities Update (Attachment). Consolidated Facilities Director William Ritchie and Operations Manager Robert Mayhew came to present an update. Mr. Ritchie discussed ongoing preventative maintenance measures, as well as ongoing energy conservation efforts. Mr. Zullas asked about succession planning for Mr. Ritchie's position. Mr. Walker said this presentation is important info for the taxpayers to see. This department is saving money by using in-house project management and our own staff. He said the quality of our capital planning has improved immeasurably. Mr. Walker said this should send the message to the warrant committee, that part of what we need to do is build out this organization. Ms. Gormley agreed, saying that Consolidated Facilities is the only answer. This is an investment for the town.

Topic Two: Student Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement
Ms. Sheridan informed the committee that this is an update. This issue was voted in executive session, the hiring is underway and an agreement has been signed.

Topic Three: Town/School Consolidation Committee Charge (Attachment) (Vote).
Mr. Zullas reported that the committee to which he and Dr. Pavlicek were appointed has met twice. This committee, which meets every two weeks, is comprised of Amy Dexter, Jim McAulliffe, Mike Blanchard, Annemarie Fagan and one community member. The charge (approved by BOS) is as follows: "*The goal of the Committee is to explore opportunities for efficiencies in processes, operations, and/or personnel by consolidating and/or integrating certain functions of the Town with those of the School Department, including but not limited to the areas of business office and information technology, and to advise the Board of Selectman and the School Committee of the results of such work.*" The chair entertained a motion to approve the charge.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: Mr. Walker said at the same time the School Committee commissioned the creation of this committee, we asked to review the charge and has a proposed modification to make it clearer as to what we want the committee to do. Mr. Walker read the following: "The charge to the Committee is to explore opportunities for efficiencies in

processes, operations, and/or personnel by consolidating and/or integrating certain functions of the Town with those of the School Department, including but not limited to the areas of business office and information technology, ***and to make recommendations based on the results of such work for the consideration of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee.***"

Mr. Walker explained that he would like some recommendations from this committee and Mr. Zullas said this has been the intention all along. Mr. Zullas said he has no problem with this language. He said he envisions a written product on this topic by the end of the school year. He said that he hopes to see paperless payroll, bi-weekly payments, and to create efficiencies and cost-savings. Mr. Zullas moved to make a friendly amendment to accept the language Mr. Walker articulated.

Ms. Bagley Jones asked why the areas of the business office and Information Technology were singled out. Why those two? Mr. Zullas explained that they are looking at software integration and human resource integration. For example, when there is a new MPS hire, these individuals have to go back and forth from Town Hall to the Business Office to complete their paperwork. Ms. Sheridan noted that some of these ideas came out of DOR report. Dr. Pavlicek clarified that our issues with integrated software are well-documented. None of these offices are highly staffed. We're not overflowing with people, but would like to use our people more efficiently. The chair asked for a vote of those in favor of the amendment.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Four: Master Planning Committee. Assistant Superintendent Glenn Pavlicek explained that last year, they held "visioning forums" as to how residents would like the town of Milton to look in the next decades. Recently, this committee went out to bid on consultants. The next event is Saturday, March 1st at Fuller Village from 9 to noon. They will display maps of where potential properties for development might be. Other issues include traffic, recreation, historical features, etc. In the coming weeks, there will be targeted discussion on issues. These will be round-table discussions. There will be another big forum in September. The goal of committee is to have recommendations in August.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY14 Budget Revisions (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Pavlicek drafted a memo and discussed the adjustments to the FY14 budget that involved moving some money around following ratification of collective bargaining agreement. The chair moved to approve the budget revisions.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: FY15 Rental Fee Increases (Attachment) (Vote). Dr. Pavlicek explained there would be a small increase in adult ed fees and a small increase in rental fees. These increased should cover the cost we incur, and also contribute to the revolving fund for the wear and tear from these rentals. Ms. Sheridan said the increase will affect the hourly rates from \$1 to \$20 per hour. Ms. Bagley Jones said that while athletic fees were not increased this year, she still feels that they are too high. She said she understands the need for these fees, but wanted to be clear that we should pay attention to this. The chair entertained a motion to approve the rental fee increases.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 5-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items: Mr. Walker asked to add three items to the next meeting agenda. #1 Restitution for residency. He said that if the policy committee wishes to weigh in on this issue, please do it between this meeting and next meeting, because he wants to discuss this residency issue. #2 Mr. Walker asked to put in a tracking list and would like to report on some items from that list, especially performance indicators for students who are new to the district. #3 He would also like to know how we are doing against the "School Committee District Goals." He said there were a number of things that he and Ms. Padera put on there and he'd like to check up on. Ms. Sheridan asked to put the Tucker Site Council on the agenda. Ms. Gormley noted that the PAC and Karen Clasby will come with the offerings in our SPED programs for next year.

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Deployment of Security Personnel and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.