

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: Wednesday, February 4th, 2015

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair, Michael Zullas, Vice Chair, Mary Kelly, Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Becky Padera., Kristan Bagley Jones, Becky Padera (arrived late.)

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent and Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources.

Call to Order: The Chair called the February 4th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:07 pm.

Approve Agenda: Mr. Walker added an Executive Session Report-Out under the Chairman's Report. With this change, the agenda was approved.

Citizens Speak

Karen Viverios came to speak on behalf of the Milton Foundation for Education's upcoming Celebration for Education. Ms. Viverios encouraged everyone to attend and requested donations. Next, Kristen Brunnick, a Glover parent, came to speak regarding her concerns regarding the Glover second grade English class. She said she came to advocate working together as a team. Next, Chris Heavy came to speak regarding the same classroom. He praised the classroom teacher, but expressed concern about lack of educational support in this class. He said he supports inclusion in the classroom, but needs a certain level of support.

**** Note:** Becky Padera arrived at 7:12pm ******

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Walker presented the minutes from the 11/10/14 School Committee meeting and entertained a motion to approve.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Superintendent's Report

****note:** A group of five Glover students came to talk about the new Glover Lego League. They talked about how to build and code a robot. They described a recent competition where they competed against 50 other teams and how much they enjoyed it.

Topic One: Glover School Site Council Presentation (Attachment). Glover Principal Dr. Sheila Kukstis, along with teacher Mary McCarthy; parents Adrienne Sullivan, James Suppelsa came to make a presentation. To view this presentation, please click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/GloverSchoolImprovementPlan.pdf>

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Sheridan asked about the "JA in a Day" program at Glover. Mr. Suppelsa explained about the Junior Achievement program. Ms. Padera asked about one of the stated goals, which was "to allow the library space to be a well-used media center...." and asked the Council to elaborate. Dr. Kukstis said she would like to open the library to people who might not

have access to technology at home. The library could potentially open on Saturdays, and add a section of parenting books for parents/guardians.

Topic Two: Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Attachment). Milton's SEPAC chairperson Michelle Connolly and members of the council came to talk about SEPAC. They discussed the number of students on IEPs, 504s and Out of District, as well as some of the various disabilities within the MPS community. The group outlined their goals for 2014-15 and how they have met some of those goals. They have increased membership and recently held two workshops for parents. At the end of the presentation, Ms. Bagley Jones asked about what types of social/emotional curriculum is being used. Ms. Padera asked about the workshops, asked how word is getting out to the public. Ms. Connolly said she is still struggling with this piece and is hoping to develop the website. Ms. Padera asked about increasing supports in the classroom. Ms. Connolly discussed the recent SEPAC meeting with Chairman Walker and Ms. Kelly. Mr. Zullas asked about "disagreement in criteria" for extended school day or extended school year. Ms. Sheridan congratulated the group for their work.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley talked about upcoming Grade One Information Night, noted they have re-scheduled School Committee/PTO Budget meetings due to the storms. On Feb 23rd, the district is holding Grade One Info Night. On March 2nd, there will be a system-wide STEM night for rising first graders at the Cunningham/Collicot.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Meeting with SEPAC. Mr. Walker said the January 20th meeting with SEPAC was a success. He identified 14 areas of focus, and said the School Committee will monitor responses to the identified areas of focus. Among the highlights, he said, is that the School Committee can collaborate with SEPAC on grant sources, participating/planning for school district. Mr. Walker said they will make sure that we have best SPED policy and that they are accessible on the website.

Topic Two: School Committee Schedule (Attachment). Mr. Walker discussed the committee's efforts to schedule the joint Warrant Committee/School Committee meeting on financial matters. They plan a meeting on 2/12, which will be posted. Ms. Sheridan asked if the committee could combine the individual PTO presentations into joint presentations. Ms. Gormley said she has combined them.

Topic Three: Executive Session Report-Out. Mr. Walker gave an update on recent votes in Executive Session, regarding approved salaries for FY15 for Consolidated Facilities Director Bill Ritchie (\$106,380.90) and Superintendent Mary Gormley (\$192,208.77). The salaries are effective July 1, 2014.

Finance Subcommittee

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants: Dr. Pavlicek presented Warrant #32 dated February 5th in the amount of \$287,876.23

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 5-0-2 (Ms. Kelly & Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

Topic Two: Second Quarter Report (Attachment) Dr. Pavlicek talked about the report and said the district is in good financial shape.

Policy Subcommittee Committee Report

Topic One: Policy ADDA, Background Checks, Second Reading (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Zullas described a new paragraph in the policy, which is the second paragraph on page 4 of 6. Said it's "duplicative and unnecessary." Ms. Sheridan asked, for the viewing public, to explain the difference between a CORI check and a fingerprint policy. Mr. Zullas explained the difference. The chair entertained a motion to approve background check policy ADDA.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 6-0-0

Old Business

Topic One: Citizen Speak Topic Response. The chair noted that there were a few questions raised at tonight's meeting about the environment in Glover second grade classroom. He noted that the Superintendent has had conversations with parents/guardians, teachers and administrators on this issue and said the Superintendent will reply to this at the next School Committee meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Item: none

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Zullas

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm