

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
Date: March 18, 2015

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

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the March 18, 2015 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:07 pm.

Approve Agenda Mr. Walker added an item to the agenda (Item 6b -- MASC information) under the Chairman's Report. He deferred Item 7b (FDK Cuts-Update) to the next meeting; and removed the Executive Session.

Citizens Speak

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Walker presented the minutes from several prior School Committee meetings and entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

May 13, 2014

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Zullas

Discussion: Ms. Sheridan would like the documents (attached) to be included in the minutes.

Ms. Kelly would like the agenda also included.

Vote: 5-0-0

May 21, 2014

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

June 4, 2014

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

*Ms. Bagley Jones arrived.

December 10, 2014

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-0

January 7, 2015

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Add the word Yes to the AP test issue

Vote: 5-0-0

January 14, 2015

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

February 4th, 2015

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

Superintendent's Report:

Topic One: ELL Presentation. Alysa Buchanan, English Language Education Coordinator and Teacher came to speak about the ELL program. Ms. Gormley introduced Ms. Buchanan as an outstanding educator. Ms. Buchanan began her presentation by showing the various language spoken by Milton's ELL students. She broke down the ELL population by school, which showed a total of 64 students. She explained some of the acronyms used by ELL professionals, and gave an overview of English Language Education. Ms. Gormley noted that the DESE evaluates all programs regularly. Ms. Buchanan continued to explained how ELL students are assessed, and then reviewed MCAS data. Ms. Gormley also noted that all teachers will have to be certified by July 2016. Ms. Buchanan noted that there will be two SEI courses offered, either the full course or a partial course for those who completed a prior course. Administrators are also required to take the course. Ms. Buchanan concluded by reviewing the program successes and some photographs of ELL students. Ms. Padera said she would like to see the data follow the same students. Are the successful students involved in music, art, sports? Do those activities help? Ms. Buchanan said it is difficult to track students over a period of years because these students' families tend to be more transient and hard to document. Ms. Padera noted that the increase in staffing has helped the ELL program a great deal. Ms. Kelly asked, for those students who are categorized Level One or Level Two, are those two hours spent out of the classroom? Ms. Buchanan said they either "pull out or push in," meaning either the student leaves the classroom for services, or the ELL teacher comes into the classroom to work with the student. The two hours are services in general. Ms Kelly asked, how do you do this with only four teachers? Ms. Buchanan said the teacher will sometimes move from school to school. For example, Tucker had two ELL teachers -- one full time and one part-time. This year, they had to switch one of those teachers to Collicot because the

need was greater there. Ms. Kelly asked about the summer program. Ms. Buchanan said it was held at MHS for several hours a day, led by an ELL teacher. It was called "Camp Can-Do," and they held in-house field trips, where different speakers came in to talk to the students. They met with a beekeeper, drama teacher, farmer, etc. The MPS provided transportation to students. Ms. Sheridan complimented Ms. Buchanan for her presentation. Ms. Bagley Jones said she was interested in the MCAS data on the ELL students. Ms. Bagley Jones asked how long the grant lasted and Ms. Buchanan said it would end in August. She asked how the staff communicates with parents/guardians. Ms. Buchanan said they use interpreters, although her staff does speak some of these languages. Mr. Walker commended Ms. Buchanan for her work. Mr. Zullas asked how the modified curriculum differs from the Sheltered English Immersion model and Ms. Buchanan explained how SEI teachers may still need support.

Topic Two: Personnel Update. Ms. Gormley talked about two MPS positions, Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services and Data Analyst. Ms. Gormley spoke about the pending retirement of Ms. Clasby and about the formation of the search committee to hire a new director. This committee is made up of Ms. Sheehan, Dr. Spaulding, Mr. Jette, Ms. Padera, Ms. Brooks, Ms. Leahy, Ms. Cahill, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Connolly and Ms. Gallagher. The group met and came up with three finalists. A second committee of Sheehan, Dr. Pavlicek, Ms. Padera, Ms. Tom and four elementary principals met again and conducted a second round of interviews. Also, the most recent advancement budget funded a Data Specialist. There were many interviews for this position. Mr. Redden worked hard on this search. Ms. Vi Vu was hired for this position and will come to School Committee on April 1.

Topic Three: FY16 Cut/Reduction List Update and Recommendations (Attachment)
Ms. Gormley said the School Committee held Open Budget meetings, as well as PTO meetings. Mr Walker noted that, based on feedback from various audiences, they looked at what cuts should be restored and in what order. Dr. Pavlicek described the Cut List Restoration Priorities. The first item, to restructure the STEP program can be accomplished even without additional funds. The first restoration would be avoiding cuts in Gr 4-5 Art and music. The second restoration would be avoiding the cutting of electives at middle- and high school. The middle school history teacher would be another restoration. Dr. Pavlicek went through the rest of the list item by item. Ms. Padera asked if we know, for those teachers who might be reduced or cut, when will they be notified, and when will we know if the funds are there? Dr. Pavlicek said there are several steps in the process and there is no definite timeline. The governor's budget, the House and Senate budgets, etc. are all factors. There is a reasonable expectation that the first week in May is the idea. Mr. Walker clarified that funds allocated to Milton does not necessarily mean that money goes to the school. Ms. Kelly asked that the order be changed to move the World Language restoration to number 4 and the HS/MS electives move up a spot. Ms. Bagley Jones expressed desire for art and music restorations. Ms. Kelly moved to amend the list, making the middle school art/music/computer electives up higher; and the world language teacher down one spot. Re-prioritize the list.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 4-0-2 (Mr. Walker and Mr. Zullas voted no)

Topic Four: Family Outreach Liaison Initiatives and Update (Attachment)

Ms. Gormley referred to the attachment, a memo from Ms. O'Keefe McKenna, which is a listing of her responsibilities, including events, new families, teacher referrals, registration, and youth sports. Her report supports the Advancement Initiatives. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if we could track the referrals for grant purposes.

Topic Five: Revised FY 15-16 Calendar (Attachment) Ms. Gormley discussed the possible edits to the 2015-16 school year calendar. In an upcoming E-blast, we will survey the community regarding religious holidays. Next year, we begin school before Labor Day, which is much later this year, so we should look at calendars. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if we could reiterate the 180 day requirement.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley said thank you to the MFE for the recent Celebration for Education. Ms. Padera said the event was fantastic and they raised money for the Star Lab. Ms. Padera also commended the student performance, led by Dr. Burdett. Ms. Sheridan commended the student representatives at the event. Ms. Gormley updated the School Committee on PARCC testing that took place this week. Tomorrow night is Grade 5 Info Night at Pierce. This Friday, MFE Teacher of the Year award nomination forms are due. SEPAC is having a presentation on Student Anxiety this week. On March 25, MHS Program of Studies Night taking place. Globe Scholastic Art & Music students will attend the next meeting. Three students in Future Problem Solvers at PMS are going to State Bowl. Ms. Kelly asked if PARCC results would come in faster since it's on line and Ms. Gormley said she would get the answer for the next meeting.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Mr. Walkers said it is necessary to designate a MASC as a representative to receive arbitration decisions. The unions are either statewide or national organizations, and have access to a larger library of arbitration decisions. MASC is proposing this as a way to broaden the library for MASC. Ms. Kelly asked why wouldn't we do this? Mr. Walker said there's no good reason. He moved to designate MASC Inc. as one of Milton School Committee's representatives for the purpose of selecting an arbitrator and receiving arbitration decisions.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Vote: 6-0-0

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Dr. Pavlicek introduced Warrant #38 from March 19, 2015 in the amount of \$428,452.61

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 4-0-2 (Mr. Zullas and Ms. Kelly abstained)

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee Report

Mr. Zullas gave an update on traffic, etc. He said that Transportation Director Jake Smith has updated how alerts are sent if a bus is late, etc. Mr. Zullas and the committee are working with Safe Routes to School organization, looking at reviewing enhancements for walking and biking. This would help relieve congestion around the schools. The goal is to identify safe routes for students and parent/guardians to walk to school. Mr. Zullas discussed the work of the committee. They plan to conduct a parent survey to help develop safe walking routes. Ms. Kelly asked if Safe Routes to School coordinates with the police department. Will the product of this process produce safe routes for everybody? Mr. Zullas said yes, the goal is to have a page on the MPS website that outlines the safe routes and lists the "walking school buses," for each school. Mr. Zullas also noted that there is a Safe Routes grant pending for \$875,000 to make the intersection near the Glover school more biker/walker friendly. There will be a meeting on Thursday, March 26th at 6:30 at the Glover Elementary School. This is a Mass DOT hearing.

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Domestic Violence Policy. Mr. Zullas handed out a draft, recommended by Policy Subcommittee. They are recommending that the policy before them be reviewed, subject to review by labor council. There will be a first read tonight. By next meeting, hopefully, labor council will have signed off, and we can do a second reading. The policy arose from a new statute in Mass. that was enacted last August. Created a policy that gives employee 15 days of domestic violence leave. He would like the committee to review the second paragraph, which reads "an employee shall exhaust all paid leave before requesting Domestic Violence leave." It is the recommendation of the policy subcommittee that we go that route. The alternative is to give the Superintendent the discretion as to whether the leave is paid or unpaid. The second alternative is to give the employer (the schools) the opportunity to waive the requirement that all paid leave be exhausted. These are two issues that have been pointed out — paid or unpaid; and waive or not waive? Ms. Bagley Jones commented that if someone is in this situation, she would like the paid/unpaid aspect to be something they don't have to worry about. Ms. Sheridan asked, do we have a sick bank that a teacher can donate to, and if so, could teachers use sick bank for this? Ms. Kelly asked how this might impact teachers in the classroom. Mr. Zullas said he would look into these questions. The committee members discussed the different options. Dr. Pavlicek pointed out that collective bargaining says sick days must be used for sick time.

The chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

MD