

Minutes of the School Committee
Open Budget Hearing
Milton High Library
March 26, 2014

Committee Present: Lynda Lee Sheridan, Chair; Leroy Walker, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Becky Padera, Kristan Bagley Jones, Mike Zullas. Student Rep Amanda Delconte.

Not Present:

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Call to Order

The Chair called the March 26, 2014 Open Budget Hearing of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm

The chair asked if there were any members of the community who wished to speak. There being none, Mr. Pavlicek outlined the budget priorities and potential cuts for the FY14-15 budget. There was a motion to close the Open Budget Hearing and proceed to the regular meeting.

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
March 26, 2014

Committee Present: Lynda Lee Sheridan, Chair; Leroy Walker, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Becky Padera, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Michael Zullas

Not Present:

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Approve Agenda

The chair entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the March 26th School Committee Meeting, with the addition of Negotiation Strategy for the MEA to be added to Executive Session. The agenda was approved.

Citizens Speak

Jay Fundling, came to speak about the French Immersion lottery. He suggested the administration promote the English program more actively. He proposed holding a hands-on STEM Night for those families who are still deciding.

Approval of Minutes Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the January 29th minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

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

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: An Introduction of Milton High School Student Athletes
Coach Bob Dwan of the Milton High School Girls Hockey team allowed each player to introduce herself and summarized their very successful season.

Coach Sean LoPresti, of the Milton High Boys Basketball team, gave a recap of the team's run towards the state title and the tournament games at UMass Boston and the Boston Garden.

Coach Ted Carroll of the Milton High Wrestling Team talked about his season and congratulated not only the 40 wrestlers who make up the team, but also complimented the two who made it to post-season. School Committee members congratulated the coach on his season and on the successful launch of the youth wrestling program.

Coach Jessica Parsons of the Milton High Cheerleading Team said her girls had a great season and two of her cheerleaders were invited to cheer at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

Ms. Gormley congratulated Larry Rooney for having such a great year as his first year as AD. Mr. Rooney was appreciative and said that 423 athletes have participated on 25 teams since the school year began, which is an increase. Ms. Bagley-Jones said that the communication to parents and to the community from the ADs office has been outstanding.

Topic Two: Ms. Gormley introduced National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Milton High School Senior John Caljouw. She said the community is very proud of his accomplishment. Mr. Caljouw will be attending Northwestern University this fall.

Topic Three: Glover School Site Council Presentation (Attachment)
Principal Dr. Sheila Kukstis arrived to speak to the School Committee, along with Teacher Representatives Mary McCarthy, Margaret Turner and Janis Powell, Parent Representatives Adrienne Sullivan and James Suppelsa. First, Dr. Kukstis reviewed the data, focusing on risk taking and innovation. The Site Council showed a video and talked about the proficiency gap and data-driven instruction. Ms. McCarthy talked about how they "benchmark" students for early literacy. She referred to the pie charts to show how proficiency has improved. Mr. Walker asked a question about the data, wondering why are some of the Needs Improvement categories going up? What are we doing about it? Dr. Kukstis said that Study Island is one way to help these students. Also, she said there is a teacher facilitator who will focus specifically on Grades 3-5 Math. They

are looking at data and seeing where we should put the work in. Mr. Walker asked if there are individual action plans for each student and was told the Glover just completed a six-week session for ELA assessment and they will be doing the same thing for math. Ms. Kelly asked what "hour of code" day is and was told this is computer coding instruction.

Topic Four: Food Service Report (Attachment) Food Service Director Jacqueline Morgan gave an update on her department. She has provided choke training for staff in cooperation with Fallon Ambulance. She has implemented a farm-to-school initiative. She talked about children with allergies and how the point-of-sales system identifies the child and the allergy. Gluten-free meals are now available. Ms. Morgan talked about the new Nutrition for the Athlete event at the Copeland Field House, where 350 students showed up voluntarily. She described the breakfast cart and participation. She also talked about the Iron Chef Jr. Ms. Padera thanked the Food service employees for their help during Iron Chef. She also asked what time the children can get breakfast and Ms. Morgan gave the times for each school. Mr. Phelan added that the breakfast initiative helps with student achievement. Ms. Kelly asked about how students can eat between breakfast and a late lunch and developing a healthy habit of getting meals at good intervals. Mr. Phelan said that Mr. Jette is looking into this. There was discussion about changing the snack policy and Ms. Kelly asked if food service could provide a healthy snack. School Committee members thanked Ms. Morgan for her work running the Food Services department.

Happenings

Mr. Phelan gave an update on Grade One assignment process. He noted that a lottery was held at Glover and Cunningham and described the timeline and process. He acknowledged that this is a difficult time for parents. Ms. Bagley-Jones asked when was STEM Exploration Night held and Mr. Phelan said it was last year. Ms. Gormley noted the upcoming PAC meeting and movie night at Tucker. She also noted that the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel screening committee met for the first time. She noted the upcoming art fairs and the Master Planning Committee in April.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote) The chair entertained a motion to approve the most recent vendor warrant #39.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Discussion: Ms. Kelly requested the total dollar amount. Mr. Phelan looked up the number and it was in the amount of \$455,829.19

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

Topic Two: School Committee Goals (Attachment) Ms. Gormley began by stating that the School Committee spent time brainstorming goals last summer. In addition, they

prioritized the top five goals. Mr. Waker read through and discussed each of the goals. They are as follows:

Goal One: Develop & Implement an integrated annual plan model (strategic, student achievement, budget, collective bargaining.)

Goal Two: Initiate digital literacy and computer coding programs of study for the MPS

Goal Three: Successful execution of the FY14 Advancement Initiatives (closing the proficiency gap, advancing Science and STEM initiatives, early literacy achievement)

Goal Four: Develop a plan for full funding of clubs, athletics, music and art programs

Goal Five: Increase outreach to families with Pre-K age children and increase early literacy skills of those children.

The School Committee members discussed each of the goals. Regarding goal #2, there was some discussion on PARCC. Ms. Gormley said she wants to assure the School Committee and the public that Mr. Phelan has led the district in all aspects of PARCC. Today, the PARCC began at the high school and everybody was ready. Also, she thanked MFE for the funding for the Chromebooks, etc. Mr. Walker said he hopes that the outcomes might mean adding digital literacy and at MHS, to have a sequence of computer coding classes that a student could choose to take. Mr. Phelan said we have coding and programming at MHS right now and there is national discussion about creating a coding AP exam. We are hoping to have a pre-requisite at PMS, which will lead into an AP class.

Regarding Goal #3, Ms. Gormley went through the timeline of how the advancement budget and advancement initiatives have been implemented. She said there have been extensive discussions about this. These advancement initiatives are prioritized, teachers understand them. This year's budget had more than \$500,000 in advancement initiatives.

Regarding Goal #4, Ms. Gormley said she personally would like to address this issue. Mr. Walker said we should acknowledge that this is an "aspirational" goal. Mr. Walker said a lot of things would have to come into place fiscally for this to happen. "Big, audacious goal." Ms. Bagley-Jones reminded the community that Run for Red Nation is happening next weekend.

Topic Three: Superintendent's Evaluation. Mr. Walker said he and the Superintendent made some small changes to the goals. There was a correction to the 2014 student achievement targets. Also, a 5% decrease in proficiency gap each year was continued. Secondly, we added elementary and middle school science to the district STEM goal. Other goals added were to improve student instruction and the development of community partnerships. Ms. Sheridan asked Mr. Walker if he could email these goals to the rest of the School Committee. Ms. Gormley said she has one more edit and will

send out a new packet with new goals. Mr. Walker noted that he thought two additional goals recognizing additional work by Ms. Gormley should be included, but Ms. Gormley did not agree. Those goals were: work on safety and security, collective bargaining planning and execution.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: Compliance Report: DESE's End of Year Report (Attachment) Mr. Pavlicek explained that as part of the town audit process, they will spend two days in the Business Office and later, issue a report. They will look at the procedures we invoke to create the DESE report. No instances of non-compliance were reported. He thanked Lisa McDonough for her work.

Topic Two: Statement Regarding New Housing Impact on Schools (Attachment) Ms. Kelly explained that the document was non-partisan and was a tool for town planners to have at their disposal. Mr. Walker said it might be helpful to encourage the selectmen to engage someone with expertise to evaluate the impact of enrollment increases in the schools.

Topic Three: Approval of Revolving Funds – Advanced Placements, Special Education Tuition, BOKS (a Reebok-sponsored fitness program.) (Vote)
Mr. Pavlicek said it was necessary to add three Revolving Funds. One is for the AP fees for MHS students to the College Board. The second is for SPED students who pay tuition to MPS. The third is the BOKS grants for various elementary schools for a before-school fitness program. He wants to set up one account for BOKS so schools can access the funds. Rather than do six different grant funds, he said it is more effective to do one account with six line items. Ms. Kelly moved approval.

Move: Ms. Kelly

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Four: Power Purchase Agreement (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Pavlicek talked about an amendment to the agreement. This would allow the schools to buy 4 megawatts of power, and the town will buy the remaining power. He got final approval through legal counsel yesterday. This should save between town and school \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Ms. Kelly said the Administration should be commended. The amount of work that has gone into Energy Project Conservation deserves kudos. Mr. Walker commended Dr. Pavlicek for bringing this to fruition. It should save the schools a considerable amount of money.

Vote 6-0-0

Old Business: Citizens Speak Topic Response. Mr. Walker said a STEM Night seems like a good idea and he would suggest that the administration plan to do it.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Health and Wellness Subcommittee report should be added. Ms. Kelly would like an update on the remaining calendar for School Committee meetings.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategy for Collective Bargaining with AFSCME and MEA and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Ms. Bagley-Jones

Second: Ms. Kelly

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 pm.