

Milton School Committee Meeting
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
Date: June 11, 2014

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair, Michael Zullas, Vice Chair, Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Becky Padera (arrived late) Student Reps: Audrey Erickson, Matt McCarthy.

Not Present: Mary Kelly

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the June 11th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:08pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after deleting Item 7b.

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Walker entertained a motion to approve the March 12, 2014 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 4-0-0

Mr. Walker entertained a motion to approve the March 26, 2014 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 4-0-0

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Citizens for a Diverse Milton. Patricia Latimore, Chris Navin, Karen Horan, Cynthia Guise and Claudia Green were in attendance. The group came to follow up at the School Committee's request after the last meeting, to talk about local diversity committees, sports and diversity in the upper level courses. Mr. Navin talked about the individual schools' diversity committee. The group discussed what strategies might be

effective in helping the committees in each of the schools become and stay effective. The group met recently to make suggestions for action steps and talked about a focus on hiring, as well as data, particularly on performance gap, broken by subgroups, male/female, African American, Asian and white. Ms. Lattimore said the group was recently invited to give an update on our committees and one focus was on access to sports and participation in honors courses.

Ms. Gormley explained the history of Site Councils and Diversity Committees. She noted that the administration meets once a month with CDM for literature review, to have parents and staff members share articles and research. Mr. Zullas asked about the challenge of stability, sustaining members, etc. Chris Navin said the basic idea is for there to be a clear mission. Teachers, etc. are the repository for this mission.

*note: Becky Padera arrived at 7:21pm

Chris Navin noted that students serve on these committees at the high school and Ms. Gormley noted that not all members of CDM are present tonight. Mr. Walker asked if they are having a problem operationalizing the group or does the charter need work? she is looking forward to Ms. Gormley sharing data on higher level courses. Ms. Lattimore said the reason why they think the charter is so important is because when a parent signs up for a Diversity Committee, they have an idea of what they want to do. We have found that people say they're not quite sure how they can help and what can be effective.

Next, Communications Specialist Moira Downes and Milton High School Math, Technology and Business Department Head Courtney Walsh presented data on the ethnic/racial demographics of students in higher level courses and athletic teams. To view this data, visit the following link:

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

Topic Two: PARCC. Pierce Middle School Humanities Department Head and Glover School Math & ELA Curriculum Coordinator Amy Gale, along with Milton High School Math, Technology and Business Department Head Courtney Walsh came to discuss the PARCC exam and the Superintendent's Recommendation.

Ms. Gormley recommended that students in Grades 3-8 take the PARCC. Grade 9 take math, grade 11 take English PARCC exam. Students in Milton have participated in this experience with no risk. It is possible to calibrate the scores so that the district can still calculate and chart Student Growth Percentiles. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if students will take only the PARCC test, not MCAS and Ms. Gormley said it would be PARCC only except for science. Ms. Gormley said we get PARCC data back faster than MCAS data. Ms. Padera asked why doesn't PARCC offer science? Ms. Gale explained that Grade 9 will be tested in Science, Gr. 10 is Math and English. This is an additional assessment.

The long-term goal of PARCC is to test 9, 10 and 11 in both Math and English. Also, PARCC is timed, whereas MCAS is un-timed.

It was also explained that the 10th Grade MCAS exam will be the graduation requirement. The PARCC exam for 9th and 11th will not be a graduation requirement. Mr. Phelan noted that even if some students have difficulty navigating the technology, this is still a plus for the district, because we will be one year ahead of those taking it on paper. More time to learn the technology. The questions are more authentic.

Ms. Bagley Jones said she really appreciates the prep work and asked who gets extra time. Would like to see a timetable (chart). Mr. Walker said his only concern is that Milton has thought more about this than the state. We have a "measures matrix" on how we measure success, which plays a role in the superintendent evaluation. Much of our district relies on MCAS data for success. He said he is concerned that there may be a 12 to 18 month period where we're not exactly sure what is being measured. Particularly on ELA and math, despite the "equal percentile conversions."

Ms. Bagley Jones said when this is rolled out to parents, we want them to understand and support it.

Ms. Gormley recognized Amy Gale, Courtney Walsh and John Phelan for their work on this topic. The DESE has never given so much support to public schools as on this issue.

The chair entertained a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation on PARCC.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Science Achievement: Timeline for Science initiative. John Phelan talked about this handout. It included a chart of each level (elementary middle, high school) and what materials have been purchased, along with implementation/distribution of materials. It also gives a timeline of Professional Development.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley reported that Kindergarten screening is underway. 319 K students with their families will be starting K in the fall. This is the beginning of a 13-year relationship. Very successful first-grade orientation. 35-40 families came into the schools. Successful orientation programs. Tucker will be holding move-up night, and there will be a movie night. On June 8th, Milton Crew took home bronze at the Nationals. Also, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Pierce Players presented Tom Sawyer. Congrats to cast and crew. Pierce Middle School track team sent 72 athletes to the State Track Meet in Fitchburg.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Mr. Walker noted that several raises were approved during the June 4th executive session. A three-year collective bargaining agreement with MEA units C and D through August 31, 2016, was approved, with the same economic package that Units A and B received. (2%, 2%, and 1-and-1) Employees of Community Schools received a 2% raise effective July 1, 2013. Also, the committee voted to increase the salary of the director of Community Schools from \$62,038 to 63,279 effective July 1, 2013 with an annual stipend of \$3,000 for cash management. The Superintendent's salary was increased from 180,300 to 186,611 effective July 1st, 2013; the Director of Consolidated Facilities' salary was increased from \$104,295 to \$106,381 effective July 1st, 2013; and the Secretary of the School Committee received an increase from \$35 to \$35.70 effective July 1, 2013 and was offered a \$5,400 annual stipend going forward instead of hourly rate for fiscal 2015.

Topic Two: Retreat format and scheduling. School Committee members discussed the upcoming School Committee meetings and the idea of engaging a facilitator from MASCC was discussed for the summer retreat. Ms. Padera asked to start the 3-hour meeting before 7pm. Ms. Sheridan said she's worried about using embargoed MCAS data during the retreat.

Topic Three: Draft School Committee Calendar. Ms. Padera asked to change the November 19th to Nov. 12th. Mr. Zullas asked for student discipline policy. Ms. Gormley said this would have to be done early before the student handbooks are printed. Perhaps a first reading on June 25th?

The chair entertained motion to approve the calendar as amended.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Four: Prior Year's Water Bill: Mr. Zullas said it was to be negotiated and asked to approve the bill as part of the warrant. He is hoping for a fair and reasonable resolution. Ms. Sheridan asked if he could detail the financial picture? Mr. Zullas explained that in FY 11 and 12, the MPS received and paid its water bills. Last spring, it was revealed that the water meter was broken. DPW did an analysis and found out that it had been broken for some time. They came up with an estimate and gave us a bill for \$46,000, as an "estimate" of the correct, additional amount owed. Members of the School Committee went to the board of selectmen and gave proposal to split the bill 50/50. Town and School pay half each. Support from the DPW as well. The board has not acted on the proposal as yet. Goal is to get a resolution. Ms. Sheridan noted that it needs to be paid by the end of this fiscal year.

Move for School Committee to delegate to Finance Subcommittee the authority to resolve this issue with the Board of Selectmen with the idea that that resolution end up in the warrant.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: there has been much of discussion of water bills in town this year. Fair offer to pay half, for a bill that has already been paid. Dr. Pavlicek noted only part of the meter was broken.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Five: MASC nomination (attachment). Last year, we nominated Dr. Pavlicek. This year, for Community Partner, we would like to put forth nomination. Ms. Sheridan would like to nominate the MFE for the annual MASC community partner award. "Friend of the Public Education/Community Builder Outstanding School Partner."

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: BP

Discussion: Mr. Zullas said he'd like to thank Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Padera for working on this. Important.

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Sheridan: Ten days until We are Milton is having celebration on June 21st. On Sunday is Celtic Sunday. We have lawn signs available.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: approval of Warrant #50 for \$270,856.96.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 5-0-0

Policy Subcommittee:

Topic One: Second Reading of Amended Bullying/Peer Aggression Policy (Vote)
Mr. Zulla Move to remove the existing policy ACH and replace with this one

Move: MZ

Second: BP

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Second Reading of Policy ADDA, Background Checks (Vote) This is two policies. The background check and the CORI policy. marked versions of the two policies

regarding the discussion from last week. Suggested edit to the first page: don't put the actual amounts for the cost of the test, just "as mandated..." and we changed other non-substantive changes to define CHRIS and SAFIS . Those are only changes. Move to delete existing ADDA and replace with amended ADDA

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 5-0-0

Also, the model CORI policy is an adjunct to this, ADDR. They were reviewed last week, they were together last week, but this is a new policy, technically, but covered by ADDA. now it's ADDA-R. Model CORI policy. Outside council has approved. Move to adopt ADDA-R.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 5-0-0

Mr. Walker added an agenda item "of sorts" by noting that this is Mr. Phelan's last meeting with us. All school committee members, along with Dr. Pavlicek and Ms. Gormley, spoke about Mr. Phelan's long and successful career in the Milton Public Schools, thanked him and wished him well.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with non-union personnel and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The regular session meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

