

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: June 8th, 2016

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair; Kevin Donahue, Vice Chair; Kristan Bagley-Jones, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Elaine Craghead.

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the June 8th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:01pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as is.

Citizens Speak

Karen Vivieros, representative of the PTO at Pierce Middle School came to talk about the school supply project. Parent Michelle Cardoza volunteered to help and they launched a pilot program. The cost of back-to-school supplies will be approximately \$65-\$75 per student for those who participate in this program. Orders can be placed over the summer for fall supplies. There have been 212 orders so far. Ms. Varela noted that this is a big undertaking and is a cost-savings for parents. Ms. Vivieros was thanked by the Committee.

Lynda-Lee Sheridan came to talk about the We Are Milton's annual music fest and fireworks. The event will be held on June 25th and 26th and she encouraged members of the community to attend. She also asked for volunteers to help out.

Health & Wellness Subcommittee Report

Mr. Walker introduced Laurie Stillman, with the Milton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. Ms. Bagley Jones presented a PowerPoint on the work of the Health & Wellness Subcommittee. She mentioned the data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, as well as Nutritional Services, Bullying Education, etc. She said the subcommittee focuses on K-12 issues and outlined their work over the past year and the goals for the upcoming year. Ms. Varela said the behavioral health piece is especially important for the middle and high school students. Dr. Craghead asked about community involvement and Ms. Bagley Jones said this would be a goal for the fall of 2016. Ms. Gormley spoke about the position of Social Emotional Wellness and a grant from the Milton Women's Club. Mr. Walker asked Ms. Stillman to speak about the activities of the Coalition regarding the Youth Risk Survey. He would like to develop an action plan. Ms. Stillman commended the school district for conducting the YRBS. She said the three biggest issues affecting our youth are binge drinking, marijuana use and prescription drugs. She talked about how they are analyzing the data and will report on that in the future. Ms. Varela asked

about substance abuse behavior and prevention and asked how to get parents more involved. Ms. Bagley Jones talked about the upcoming event in October, "Hidden in Plain Sight."

Superintendent's Report

Happenings: Ms. Gormley noted the appointment of the new Glover Principal, Karen McDevitt. She recognized and thanked the members of the Screening Committee. She also noted that many of the Pierce students won medals at the Great East Music Competition. She also mentioned the spring play taking place at Pierce. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about Dawn Sykes filling three jobs -- music, art and family/consumer science department head positions. Discussion ensued. Ms. Gormley reported that both graduation and prom were very successful, as were Boosters Banquet and Senior Awards Night. Ms. Gormley recognized Smith Charles of the Boys Track Team and the Girls Track Team for their successful seasons.

Chair's Report

Topic One: Revised FY17 School Committee Calendar (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker said this is now ready for approval.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Mr. Walker surveyed members as to availability for the proposed meeting date. Ms. Varela and Dr. Craghead were not available on one date. Mr. Walker recommended approval and said he would take one more look at dates when everyone might be available.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Athletic Director and PE/Health Department Head Positions (Attachments) This is a budget-neutral change to create two positions. The AD position has been reduced for number of days. The savings will create a stipend to pay an existing staff member to assume the responsibilities of PE Director.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: New Kindergarten Section. Mr. Walker reported that Collicot will require an additional kindergarten section. Ms. Varela asked, how is the district doing on space? Ms. Gormley explained that there are still enough classrooms, even keeping the art and music rooms. Collicot has the only available elementary classroom in the district. The preschool programs are growing, with five classes currently. Ms. Bagley Jones asked what our current enrollment is, and Ms. Gormley said she will update the Committee at the next meeting. Dr. Donahue asked, are there 16 strands now? Ms. Gormley said yes, and noted that 20-22 students is the recommended maximum of students.

Topic Four: FY17 Subcommittees (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker reviewed the list of School Committee members who will be serving on FY17 subcommittees. He added Ms. Eberhardt to

the Policy and Transportation Subcommittees. With those revisions, he moved to approve the list.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Second Reading, Security Camera System Policy, ECAF (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Donahue noted that cameras in the classrooms was an issue at the last meeting. He explained that legal counsel has recommended preserving the language from the last reading.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: First Reading, School Approval Policy (Attachment) Dr. Donahue explained there is a proposal to open a new school in town. There are guidelines from DESE and he included a sample policy from DESE. He researched peer districts to see how their policies were written, and used that information to craft the recommended policy. Dr. Craghead asked if it were possible to quote/paraphrase the section from the DESE document that states “School Committee approval is neither an evaluation of program quality nor an endorsement of any particular school.” Discussion ensued. Ms. Bagley Jones said she is uncomfortable with the responsibility of approving a new school. Dr. Craghead would like to see some sort of time limit/constraint should be included. It was decided that this would be referred to legal counsel and MASC legal counsel.

Topic Three: First Reading, Commemoration Policy (Attachment) Dr. Donahue noted that this was a difficult year for the Milton Public Schools in terms of trauma and loss. It was noted that it would be helpful to have a unified policy on how to deal with the death of a community member. Ms. Gormley worked with Maria Trozzi to develop a policy. Ms. Eberhardt said some of the policy seemed stringent. She would like more time to review it and react. Ms. Gormley said that Ms. Trozzi could come in to answer specific questions. Ms. Bagley Jones said she also found some of these too restrictive. It was agreed that before any further action, Ms. Trozzi would attend a Policy Subcommittee meeting to answer any questions.

Topic Four: Wellness Policy IHBG (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Donahue noted that this policy was last re-approved in 2012. Some of the language regarding federal dietary requirements was outdated and has been updated. He recommended this policy for the “rapid” approval policy.

Mr. Walker moved to invoke the accelerated policy process.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Donahue moved to approve the amended Milton Public Schools Wellness Policy IHBG

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker commended the Policy Subcommittee for their work. He asked the Policy Subcommittee to review the employment policy regarding family of School Committee members. If it is discussed, he asked for himself and Ms. Varela to be recused from both discussions and any subsequent vote because of their potential interest in and benefit from a policy change.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Dr. Craghead would like the School Committee to consider a resolution regarding the cap on charter school. Mr. Walker said he would check with MASC on this topic. Ms. Gormley asked for the track team to be invited; and for Blue Hills Bank to do a financial literacy presentation.

Mr. Walker noted that Chief Richard Wells, Sgt. Jack Richman and Bill Ritchie were all there for Executive Session, but he wanted to thank the Chief for the work on the Safety and Security work with the Milton Public Schools.

The chair entertained a motion to move to Executive Session, not to return to public session, for the purpose of discussing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Milton Police Department and the deployment of security devices, the discussion of which in open session would be detrimental to our overall security program.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.