

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: July 8, 2015

Committee Present: Michael Zullas, Chair; Becky Padera, Vice Chair; Leroy Walker, Sheila Varela, Kevin Donahue, Kristan Bagley Jones.

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the July 8, 2015 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05pm

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda without changes.

Citizens Speak

*Mr. Zullas updated the committee that the fees for Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) will remain the same, pending approval from the Governor. More than 200 members of the state legislature approved this. If approved, the district is in good shape for FDK. In connection with that, we should recognize the efforts of our representatives in the legislature, Brian Joyce and Walter Timilty, both of whom worked very hard. Also, an additional \$200,000 was approved for a pilot program for early literacy. Mr. Zullas thanked Ms. Padera and Mr. Walker, who went to lobby at State House on this issue. He said he intends to invite the legislators in to tell us how this went.

Second piece of good news in connection with Citizen Speak, is a competitive grant from the Green Communities Division of the DOE. They awarded \$244,248 for the town of Milton for projects proposed in connection with Green Communities grant applications. All of the projects will be for school projects. Lighting, refrigeration controls, etc. Mr. Zullas said this is great news which will help to improve infrastructure. He plans to invite Consolidated Facilities Director Bill Ritchie to the next meeting, who was the driving force behind this application.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: SPED Update -- Ms. Gormley said she discussed a tentative date for a meeting with the SEPAC and to have Ms. Connolly come in and sit down with us and our lawyer who deals with extended year services. There is a plan to go over policy and clarify this issue. Also, we just signed a contract with Public Consulting Group, and there will be a kickoff meeting in late August, with the SEPAC rep, a School Committee rep, and staff reps to map out details of the evaluation. Regarding the importance of the School Committee goal of expanding social/emotional learning, Ms. Gormley reported that in the area of Professional Development, per the last contract, we have an increased amount of time related to Professional Development and there have been many opportunities for SPED teachers to learn. Ms. Gormley noted that PARCC and the new teacher evaluation tool had been competing for Professional Development

time. We are in the midst of hiring an inclusion specialist and will form an inclusion task force. This summer, there will be a new SPED chair at MHS and there have been other personnel changes in the SPED department and at the district preschools. In the area of communication, Ms. Gormley noted that the head of SEPAC will be included at the PTO president's meeting. Ms. Gormley discussed the expansion of the preschool programs in the MPS, and called the NECC program at Collicot "one of the jewels of the system." Dr. Spaulding has implemented "Eye to Eye" program at the middle school for Pierce SPED students, who are being paired with high school and college students. She also talked about how SPED students are being included in the Milton Summer Enrichment programs. Mr. Jette reported that BIDMC gave \$500 grant to MPS adjustment counselors for the wellness room. Finally, Ms. Gormley talked about the "Transitions" post-graduate program.

*Note: Ms. Bagley Jones arrived here.

Ms. Gormley also reported that Ken Aubert, MHS head of guidance, recently pleaded guilty in Norfolk Superior Court to 5 counts of Larceny from the 2009-2013 school years. He was ordered to pay back \$31,607 within 10 days. When this issue first came to the attention of MPS staff, it was immediately reported to local law enforcement. The staff fully cooperated with law enforcement and the administration implemented an audit. We have also implemented a new cash management policy to strengthen our controls. Thirdly, Ms. Gormley noted that no student scores were impacted and every AP test was counted. She said this was "theft from students" - Mr. Aubert did not steal taxpayer money, but "worse than stealing money was the impact he had on students who might not have taken the exams." Ms. Gormley thanked the Milton police department and the District Attorneys office.

Ms. Gormley said that Summer School Day 3 is in full swing. Bridge, Tucker Scholars, Calculus Project.

Vice Chair Report:

Topic One: Ms. Padera introduced Mike Lynch, the executive director of MPEG. Mr. Lynch made a presentation in which he talked about MPEG's current home at Pierce Middle School, and the "black box theater." He then talked about the creation of a new studio at Milton High School. This would be housed in the current computer room, where he would install 15 new Macs, which are essential for video production and editing. He said that MPEG has participated in Pierce After-School Sessions (PASS) classes for several years. They have offered a video production, 6-8 week program. He showed a slide show of the new studio -- with green screen, more microphones, live replay, etc. and talked about having a before-school news program. Mr. Lynch discussed MPEG's involvement with Iron Chef, the Milliken awards, the Boomwriter finale, etc. The cost of the new studio is \$140,000, plus the cost of the Mac Lab, a mobile unit (\$15,000) for a grand total of \$210,000 for a total installation. This has been approved by the MPEG board of directors. Mr. Walker asked for a tour of Room 245. Ms. Padera asked how many people could sit in the audience. Mr. Lynch said 30 audience members, but maybe more. Ms. Padera noted that Mr. Lynch would be available to both students and teachers. Ms. Varela asked Mr. Lynch to say where the funding would come from. He explained that MPEG is a non profit. They have a contract with the Board of Selectmen. MPEG is funded through cable

subscriptions and it is MPEG's mission to try to spread the funding out evenly across town. For example, they have "built out" meeting rooms at the COA and town hall, and now they are going to spend some of the funding at Milton High School. He named the members of the MPEG board of directors: Bernard J. Lynch III, Marvin Gordon, Frank Giuliano, Rebecca Padera and James G. Mullen, Jr. Ms. Gormley noted that the teacher in that classroom sees this as an unbelievable opportunity for MPS. There was some discussion about whether future school committee meetings would be held in the library or in the new studio at Milton High. Mr. Walker said this is a great idea. He did not want to make a decision about whether we do School Committee meetings "here" or "there" at this point. Mr. Zullas agreed, and said the committee would vote about the location sometime in the future. Ms. Gormley said she would like for new teachers to see this resource.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: MASC Nominations (Vote) Every year, the MASC solicits nominations for groups. Mr. Zullas said he is seeking approval to make nominations for awards in November. He moved to authorize the chair to make nominations to MASC.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: MASC Annual Conference Delegate Appointment. Mr. Zullas noted that the committee appoints one delegate, but we send as many as wish to attend. Mr. Zullas moved to name Ms. Padera as the delegate to MASC.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Zullas asked if anyone else is interested to let him know.

Topic Three: Facilities Subcommittee Nominations: Mr. Zullas nominated a "slate" of candidates. First, he would like to reappoint Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Bill Ritchie, Consolidated Facilities Director, Joseph Murphy, former member of the School Building Committee and Rick Malmstrom, who runs the facilities for a hospital district. He also nominated two other individuals, Lynda Lee Sheridan, who previously served as a School Committee representative to this subcommittee and Tony Cichello, former chair of the School Building Committee.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Four: Summer Planning Session. Mr. Zullas noted that we are on target for this summer's retreat on Friday, August 7th from 2-4pm. The committee will have the assistance of the president-elect of MASC as facilitator. This will be retreat and planning session.

Review of Milton School Committee FY14-15 District Goals (Attachment)

Mr. Zullas said this was part of the process, to assess the School Committee's success on these goals in the last year. Ms. Gormley talked about the goals to develop and execute mathematics and science internal assessment capabilities. Ms. Sheehan spoke about the goal to develop and execute a comprehensive plan for all students in grades 6-12 to monitor, assess and support the social/emotional well-being and life skill preparation. Dr. Pavlicek talked about the goal of developing and executing elementary school marketing plans that document program offerings, communicate academic success and generate and sustain demand by year-end. Ms. Gormley noted that Ms. Vu, the data analyst, is working with the administration on providing data for these goals. Ms. Gormley spoke about the digital technology strategy for academic achievement. Ms. Sheehan discussed the rolling three-year financial/academic operations and capital plan. Ms. Gormley also talked about narrowing academic proficiency and participation gaps including by sub groups and by French/English programs by year end FY17.

Mr Zullas thanked the administration for the report. He said it is helpful information. He pointed out that some of the goals are long term. He said the committee can discuss these at a future meeting. Ms. Padera asked about new teachers receiving iPads -- how are the decisions made? Ms. Gormley said that teachers who commit to professional development will receive them. Ms. Varela asked Ms. Gormley to speak about the 4th grade science program. Will all lessons be done on Chromebooks? Will student work be done on them? Ms. Gormley said that Ms. Moonan will come to School Committee to provide detail on this. Ms. Gormley noted that the Advancement Budget purchased FOSS kits. All students have these science units. Within these, there are STEM strains. Mr. Walker said he does not think these goals are as specific as the ones that the School Committee came up with. He has a copy of those. Also, the new members should be familiarized with the Superintendent Evaluation and goals. Mr. Walker said he would take some issue with the fact that the Strategic Issues committee will "take" the academic operations plan. He hopes that the SIS will enhance that plan.

Mr. Zullas said this discussion can be continued at the retreat on August 4th.

Policy Subcommittee Report

Second Reading, Policy JFAA Residency Policy (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Zullas noted that this is a "clean" copy. At last meeting, they requested a red line. That is on the second page. He read the changes to the existing policy.

Mr. Zullas moved to approve the revised residency policy.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Edit: Ms. Bagley Jones found a typo (the word “re-establish was misspelled.) Then, she asked if other communities do this type of re-registration. She would like names of those communities. Ms. Gormley said she would take care of this. Ms. Gormley also noted that there are evening hours for community members who need to re-establish residency after working hours. Dr. Donahue noted that someone asked for the verbiage of Mass General Law, which he printed and handed out. Mr. Zullas suggested that the policy subcommittee may review this and make other suggestions, if they desire. He asked if there are any other changes suggested. Dr. Donahue reiterated his support for the amended policy and said that he wants to be sure our policy is concordant with Mass General Law and he thinks that it is. Ms. Bagley Jones asked, where does the grade 6 and 9 language come from? Ms. Varela said that this came from the PTO presidents meeting. Previously, there had been no re-visiting of the residency issue after people enter K. Some parents are worried about this being an override year and it would be a good idea to guarantee that everyone K-12 is a resident of this town. Ms. Gormley said some Milton students attend Norfolk Agricultural and Blue Hills Regional schools. This is to ensure that Milton tuitions are being paid for students who live in Milton.

Vote: 6-0-0

Finance Subcommittee

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrant #53 of July 2 for \$373,306.03.

Also, there is another warrant from today’s — #54 of July 9th for \$152,349.51. Mr. Zullas moved to approve #53.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Zullas asked, regarding approval of Warrant #54, can we vote on this at the next meeting? Dr. Pavlicek said yes, as long as we get signatures, we can hold off on the vote. Dr. Pavlicek said the July 9th warrant, #55 will be ready on Friday morning and must be processed by Monday morning. He noted that 4 signatures are need on this warrant. Mr. Zullas said he would sign it, but the committee will wait on #54. Dr. Pavlicek also reported there is about \$150,000 in encumbered expenditures and \$150,000 left in the budget, which means we will close out the year without an issue.

Approval of Minutes

The chair entertained a motion to approve the September 10, 2014 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 4-0-2 (Dr. Donahue and Ms. Varela)

April 23, 2014

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Edit: add word "not"

Vote: 4-0-2 (Dr. Donahue and Ms. Varela)

April 29, 2015

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second :Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

May 20, 2015

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 6-0-0

June 10, 2015

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

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

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Moonan should come to give a Science update. Mr. Walker asked to close out discussion of Edline and have something in place by September.

Ms. Gormley said that Ms. Kelly had asked to list all grants quarterly. She will provide details, just like Vendor Warrants. Acceptance of grants.

Mr. Zullas said that in connection with new cash management policy, we should review the regulations and review how things are proceeding. For the next agenda.

Dr. Donahue noted that we need to schedule a vote regarding the MPEG. Ms. Padera noted that they would like to be ready for fall classes. We should accept the donation.

Ms. Bagley Jones asked if we could build in time around budget aspect, we have two new members, looking at maybe override issues. Would it be helpful to discuss how the budget gets developed. Mr. Walker said the finance subcommittee could do something on the 29th.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of consideration of minutes. Move to go into Executive Session not to return to Open for purpose of considering prior Executive Session minutes.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for July 29th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.