

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High Library  
Date: July 29th, 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 29th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7pm.

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda after moving Item 4b (SEPAC Update) to the Chairman's Report.

**Citizens Speak:** There were no speakers for Citizens Speak.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: Introduce New Administrators. (Attachment) Ms. Michelle Kreuzer, Mr. Ben Kelly, Dr. Nicholas Fitzgerald and Mr. Alex Campea were all introduced. Ms. Kreuzer has been appointed K-12 Math Coordinator for MPS, Mr. Kelly has been appointed as the new Vice Principal of Pierce Middle School; Dr. Fitzgerald has been appointed Dean of Students for the Pierce Middle School; and Mr. Campea has been appointed the new Athletic Director and Director of Health and Physical Education. Ms. Padera and Ms. Varela welcomed Mr. Campea. Ms. Varela noted that middle school parents have been advocating for expanding athletics in the middle school. Mr. Walker congratulated Dr. Fitzgerald on his new appointment as Dean of Students at Pierce Middle School. Ms. Gormley pointed out Dr. Fitzgerald's work on AP courses and professional development for AP teachers. Next, Mr. Kelly was introduced, and Mr. Walker said he is looking forward to working with him. Ms. Gormley said that Ms. Kreuzer will be K-12 math coordinator. Mr. Zullas said he had worked with Ms. Kreuzer on the Site Council and was impressed by her ability. Ms. Padera congratulated Ms. Kreuzer on her new position. Mr. Walker also said it has been a pleasure to work with her and noted her ability to work a range of different roles.

Topic Two: Update on Implementation of Cash Management Procedures (Attachment) Dr. Pavlicek mentioned that he has met with department heads staff and those who handle money on procedures how to handle money. He reiterated that whoever handles the registration for school events should not handle money. The system in place now allows for better documentation, etc. Overall, there are fewer cash transactions, more online payments and check payments. Ms. Varela asked if a staff member is required to be present for any situation where money is handled. Would this apply to a car wash, for example? Dr. Pavlicek said the Boosters have their own policy, as do FAME, since these are separate groups. He suggested that for MPS event, a

staff person (coach) should be available. Dr. Donahue asked if there has been any feedback from parents about these procedures due to field trips, etc. Dr. Pavlicek said it hasn't been much of a change for parents/guardians. Ms. Bagley Jones agreed that 501C 3s are separate, but they are seen by members of the public as part of the Milton Public Schools. Also, she asked for a clarification of what is an acceptable fundraiser, and what can they sell? What is the criteria for fundraisers? Dr. Pavlicek talked about how the inventory is matched against the cash flow.

Topic Three: Edline Update. Mr. Walker asked to defer this discussion. He asked the chair if he would be willing to do defer, since this requires a lengthy discussion offline. The chair agreed and the topic was deferred to the next meeting.

### **Chairman's Report**

Topic One: Full Day Kindergarten Grant Funding. State Senator Brian Joyce arrived at the meeting to give an overview on the state budget, including funding for Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK).. Sen. Joyce noted that Milton will get \$10 million in local aid. Chapter 70 is just over \$6 million. Regarding additional FDK funding, Sen. Joyce noted the importance of early childhood education as pertains to the achievement gaps. The Senate restored that funding. For Milton, \$119,600 will be restored. Also, Sen. Joyce put in separate funding for an early literacy program. That was vetoed by the Governor. The House has not yet acted on this. Hopefully, as early as tomorrow, we will get the news about the additional \$200,000. Mr. Zullas mentioned that Rep. Timilty worked on these issues as well, and will attend a meeting next month. Mr. Zullas noted that Milton families pay \$3,700 for FDK, and this is an academic starting point. Milton is one of only 65 communities who pay for this. As we develop a budget for next year, we should include FDK as part of the program of public education. This will not come without a cost. Ms. Padera thanked Sen. Joyce for his support of this and talked about the need for fully subsidized FDK. Mr. Walker also thanked Sen. Joyce for his support for the town. He thinks that mandating FDK is a great idea, but an unfunded mandate is not a good idea. Going to free tuition would cost approximately \$600,000 in the first year. Ms. Gormley thanked Sen. Joyce, Timilty and Cullinane. She said that Milton has 340 families in FDK and only 4 choose the half-day program. Finally, Ms. Gormley recognized Ada Rosmarin for her work on the FDK issue. She said our FDK program would not look the same without Ms. Rosmarin.

Topic Two: Consolidated Facilities Director William Ritchie (Attachment). Mr. Ritchie came to speak to the committee regarding a grant his department recently received from Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The grant is for \$244,248 as part of the Green Communities Competitive Grant. This money will be used to make energy improvements in all six schools. He is now in the process of looking for grants for next year. Mr. Zullas congratulated Mr. Ritchie on this grant. Ms. Varela asked about improving lighting at the schools. She mentioned the area outside the Copeland Field House. Very dimly lit. Can this be improved? Mr. Ritchie said that LED will make a big difference, but it will not solve it. Cannot over-light it because of the neighbors on Gulliver. Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Ritchie for his work in energy conservation.

Topic Three: SEPAC Update

Mr. Walker updated the committee on a recent meeting with the SEPAC. This is now quarterly meetings with the SEPAC, the purpose of which is to identify and articulate issues and then work with the Superintendent and her team to respond to these. The ultimate objective is to have SEPAC come back and say they're resolved. He handed out a list of critical issues. A number of these issues are getting checked off -- inclusion task force, included in PTO presidents meeting. Ms. Bagley Jones asked, what is the SPED directors role in all of this? Will she be involved in this? Ms. Gormley said that yes, she will be involved in resolving all existing issues. Ms. Bagley Jones asked, the meeting with Ms. Kelly, what is this formal aspect of this? Mr. Walker said that in December, the SEPAC emailed them, asked for a School Committee subcommittee. He was chair at the time and decided not to have a formal subcommittee, but requested regular meetings with the SEPAC. Ms. Bagley Jones thinks that this should be voted on and noted that the committee never voted on this. Mr. Zullas noted that this is an informal process, and as the new Director of Pupil Personnel takes over, this will not be an issue. Ms. Varela suggested, for the time being, there should be a formal liaison to meet with them, for example, Mr. Walker. She thinks that the SEPAC is too "big" a group in the MPS community not to have a more formal representative. Ms. Varela asked, since the SEPAC president would like to go to PTO meetings, what are the implications? Mr. Walker said they would like a rep there to take advantage of the info being presented. Ms. Gormley noted that the PTO presidents meet monthly and having the SEPAC chair there is an excellent idea. Ms. Varela said she thinks a better line of communication would be if a SEPAC rep could attend meetings at each individual school, not necessarily at the PTO Presidents meeting. In her experience, they've never reached out to express concerns. Ms. Gormley said that it's more difficult for SEPAC to get six different people to come to each meeting. The PTO president's meeting is a "captive audience." Ms. Varela noted that these meetings cover a lot of ground -- not just talking about children with Special Needs. Ms. Padera said she thinks this is a great idea, and that a representative from SEPAC should be at the table with PTO. Ms. Bagley Jones supported the idea of including SEPAC at the PTO president's meeting. Ms. Bagley Jones asked for Ms. Grandeau to give a presentation on what is a SEPAC and why do we have one? Ms. Gormley said this will be a big year, because we are going into an evaluation of the program. Dr. Donahue reminded folks that in the late spring there was an informational Open House for parents/guardians. He said he will forward the issues that were brought up at this Open House to the Superintendent.

Topic Four: Draft FY15-16 School Committee Calendar (Attachment) Mr. Walker asked if we could have budget approval before Dec. 16th. Also, he asked to move the item on Oct. 7th to the August 26 meeting. Ms. Bagley Jones asked to be careful about not adding too many data requests. Ms. Varela mentioned that one meeting could be just presentations, another meeting to do issues and have votes. Mr. Zullas said this is the intention, and they will do their best.

### **Finance Subcommittee:**

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Dr. Pavlicek introduced Warrant #55 for 7/14/15 in the amount of \$28,516.01

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 6-0-0

ALSO, Dr. Pavlicek introduced the first warrant of FY16, dated 7/30 in the amount of \$129,296.77

Move: Mr. Walker  
Second: Ms. Varela  
Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Zullas)

Acceptance of Grants: Mr. Walker referred to the quarterly grants reports. Mr. Walker moved for approval of grants, including the July 17, 2015 grant.

Move: Mr. Walker  
Second: Ms. Padera  
Discussion: Ms. Padera asked to include \$210,000 in MPEG grant. Mr. Walker moved to amend minutes to include the MPEG grant.  
Vote: 6-0-0

### **Approval of Minutes**

The chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Milton School Committee.

*June 24, 2015*

Move: Mr. Zullas  
Second: Ms. Varela  
Edits: None  
Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

*July 8, 2015*

Move: Mr. Zullas  
Second: Ms. Padera  
Edits: None  
Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker)

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

There will be a SC retreat on August 7th and the next regular meeting will be on August 26th. Ms. Gormley mentioned that Ms. Moonan will be presenting on 4th Grade STEM. Mr. Walker asked for Edline to be included in next meeting on Aug. 26th.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Approval of Minutes for Executive Session, not to return to Public Session.

Mr. Walker said the detail on the executive session minutes is extensive and they need quite a bit of work. He would like to defer until the next meeting on August 26th.

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:  
Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.