

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: September 9th, 2015

Committee Present: Michael Zullas, Chair; Becky Padera, Vice Chair; Sheila Varela, Kevin Donahue, Kristan Bagley Jones (arrived late)

Not Present: Leroy Walker

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 September 9th, 2015 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:07pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing the Chairman's Report and reversing the order of the executive session agenda items.

Citizens Speak: none

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Happenings: Ms. Gormley reported a smooth beginning of school. There were some heat issues. Also, the new Innovative preschool began.

Topic Two: Public Consulting Group, Inc. -- SPED Review Update. Ms. Gormley said the district has signed a contract with this group and there will be an aggressive schedule. The PCG plans to see 30 different focus groups. Ms. Gormley described the initial public meeting with PCG. Mr. Zullas added that this was a well-attended meeting.

Note: On Sept 15th, family sign up for Applied Music Lessons from 7-8:30. Ms. Gormley also noted that traffic issues at each of our schools have been a problem. Sheila Varela worked with the MPD and Dr. Spaulding all summer to evaluate the situation and make a change. The response at Pierce has been phenomenal. Traffic adjustment at the Glover has also helped.

Ms. Gormley announced that the MHS Marching Band has fundraised and gotten new uniforms. Thanks to a "Go Fund Me" site and the generosity of the Copeland Family, the "gently used" uniforms arrived yesterday, just in time for Friday night's football game.

Finally, Ms. Gormley announced that for the first two days of school which were professional development days for teachers, the district invited Dr. Thomas Hehir from Harvard to talk about inclusion. The MHS Marching Band came in during the all-staff meeting, making this year's the best opening we've ever had. The next day, Ms. Gormley presented the district data, which made for a very positive start.

Vice Chair Report:

MPEG Studio Tour: Ms. Padera gave an update on the MPEG studio tour. They are waiting for a curtain and to address some sound issues, but expect to be ready by end of September for a tour.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Dr. Pavlicek presented Warrant #10 for 238,789.72.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 4-0-0

Policy Subcommittee Report

Dr. Donahue introduced each policy, with the original version and the "red lined" or "blue lined" version of each.

First Reading, Student Discipline Policy JK

First Reading, Disciplining Students with Special Needs, Policy JKF

First Reading, Superintendent's Evaluation Policy, Policy CBI

First Reading, Hazing, Policy JICFA-R

First Reading, Sexual Harassment, Policy ACAA

Members read through each of the original policies and the revised version of the policies.

Next, Dr. Donahue presented the second reading for Domestic Leave Policy GCCD. He noted that the substantive change is highlighted in the second paragraph. This represents a departure from the spring policy, which was proposed as an unpaid leave. The revision would make this a paid leave. Mr. Zullas said that we are aware that the Town has gone a different way -- they are offering this as an unpaid leave. Mr. Zullas said the likelihood of abuse is extremely low. The cost of this is negligible. We do not want employees to avoid seeking help or attending court hearings because they don't have vacation or vacation days. He thinks this is the right thing to do. Ms. Gormley said she supports this policy. Ms. Padera said this encourages victims to get help. She supports it. Dr. Donahue moved to adopt the newly edited Domestic Leave Policy.

*Note: Ms. Bagley Jones arrived here

Second Reading, Domestic Violence Leave Policy, Policy GCCD (Vote)

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Approval of Minutes

The chair entertained a motion to approve the August 7th, 2015 minutes of the Milton School Committee.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Edits: Ms. Padera changed the wording in the second-last paragraph to read "many of our meetings have data." Ms. Bagley Jones would like to be clear that she objected to the first goal at the time of the retreat.

Vote: 5-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Varela requested an item to discuss the idea of mainstreaming school supplies to be put on the next agenda. Dr. Donahue would like a discussion of the strategic issues committee. Ms. Padera would like to report out on studio space.

Ms. Gormley said transportation, wellness subcommittees could report out. Ms. Bagley Jones said we ought to stagger the subcommittee reports. Ms. Gormley said as part of the wellness report, we could do the Youth Risk Survey report. It was agreed that transportation should be next, and perhaps Facilities.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of review of minutes and discussing strategy of collective bargaining strategy for MEA. Motion to go into Executive Session and not to return to Open Session for the purpose of consideration of prior minutes of Executive Session because to do so in Open Session would defeat the purpose of Executive Session, and for the purpose of collective bargaining strategy for MEA, the discussion of which in open session would be detrimental to the District's negotiating position.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for September 30th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.