

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Library
September 18th, 2013

Committee Present: Glenn Pavlicek, Chair; Lynda-Lee Sheridan, Vice Chair; Mary Kelly, Leroy Walker, Becky Padera.

Not Present: Kristen Bagley Jones

Staff Present: John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel, Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Not Present: Mary Gormley

Call to Order

The Chair called the September 18th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 pm. She asked for a moment of silence for Evan Jones and for the victims of the Washington, DC shootings this week.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after a few small changes. Mr. Phelan will be delivering the Superintendent's Report, rather than Ms. Gormley. Under the Enrollment Presentation, Mr. Phelan will give an update on residency. It was agreed to also remove Item 6a (School Committee goals.)

Citizens Speak

No one came forward for Citizen Speak.

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the *May 15th* Milton School Committee.

Move: Ms. Padera

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 3-0-2 (Ms. Kelly, Mr. Walker abstained)

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the *May 30th* School Committee meeting

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 3-0-2 (Mr. Walker & Ms. Kelly abstained)

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the *June 5th* School Committee meeting.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 3-0-2 (Mr. Walker & Ms. Kelly abstained)

Ms. Sheridan entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the *June 12th* School Committee meeting.

Move: Ms. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Edits: Mr. Zullas made some suggestions. Under "Chairman's Report," he would like to change the word "us" to "election campaigns." Also, on that same page, three lines from bottom of the paragraph, he says "the "us" refers to the committee, not the individuals.

Vote: 3-0-2 (Mr. Walker and Ms. Kelly abstained.)

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Administrative Appointments (Attachments) Mr. Phelan introduced the newest administrators in the Milton Public Schools. The first group included:

Brian Mackinaw: Milton High School Vice Principal

Larry Rooney: Athletic Director/K-12 Physical Education/Health/Wellness Director

Karen Cahill: Milton High School Guidance Department Head

Ed Mulvey: Milton High School Secondary Science Coordinator

Each of the new administrators thanked the School Committee for their warm welcome and offered a few words about their experience so far.

The next group included:

Christine Chiapetta: Pierce Middle School Secondary Science Coordinator

Russ Wilson: Pierce Middle School Assistant Principal

Mr. Wilson called himself "the happiest administrator in the Milton Public Schools." Ms. Sheridan thanked and welcomed the new educators.

Next, Mr. Phelan introduced:

Dr. Elaine McNeil Girmai, Tucker Principal

Dr. Sheila Kukstis, Glover Principal

Bernadette Moonan, Elementary Science Coordinator

Mr. Phelan said they all spent a great deal of time this summer preparing for the opening of school. Mr. Walker welcomed all the elementary administrators and reminded them that the advancement agenda will be won or lost in the elementary schools. He urged them to be sure the agenda is a success.

Topic Two: Enrollment (Attachment)

Mr. Phelan made a presentation on school enrollment. He said the Milton Public Schools has 4,004 students in total. He then went on to explain how each school's populations are broken down and how class sizes look in each school. At the conclusion, School Committee members asked several questions. Ms. Padera asked if

SPED students are listed here, does this include students on IEPs? Mr. Phelan explained that the students in yellow highlight described as Special Ed are in substantially separate classes because they warrant a higher level of services. Ms. Padera also asked if the English classroom that is combined Cu/Co students is physically located at both schools. He said they “belong” to both schools and it’s gone smoothly. Mr. Zullas noted that because of the formatting of the document, it appears there are Kindergarten classes in Glover and Tucker that are listed under French Immersion. Mr. Phelan confirmed that all K classes are taught in English.

Ms. Kelly said the goal of the new assignment plan was to create educationally balanced classrooms. Mr. Phelan reported that in Fall of 2013, 52% of families chose French and 48% chose English, which is a better balance. He said the cap is a successful new feature that allows the administration to organize the district in a more consistent way. It did not result in anyone being denied their program of choice. For class size balance, there are between 24 and 26 students in first grade French and 21 and 22 in English classes. Ms. Sheridan asked for grade level caps and Mr. Phelan said that there is not a policy that outlines class size limits. The guideline is to cap English classrooms at 22 and French Immersion at 26.

Topic Three: Residency Mr. Phelan gave an update on the Milton Public Schools residency policy. To view this presentation, click here:

<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/residencypowerpoint91813SchoolCommitte.pdf>

His update included information on which Milton Public Schools employees work on the registration and residency issues and what their work entails. He explained that we have tightened up the enrollment process and we have a rigorous registration packet. From July 1, 2012 to July 1 2013, the Milton Public Schools has excluded 57 students. An additional 79 students were investigated and resolved without exclusion and 217 students had to re-establish residency. So far this year, since July 2013, we have excluded 8 and 11 more are being investigated. This is a complicated and unique process that deals with many sensitive issues. Ms. Kelly commended Mr. Phelan for being the driving force behind this issue. She said Milton is building the template that other districts want to follow. Mr. Walker agreed and said it is clear that the Milton Public Schools are taking this seriously. There was some debate as to the cost savings of this initiative, since some members estimated each student represented \$12,500 per year in cost, but others disagreed with that figure. Ms. Sheridan noted that this residency update is proof that not only do the Milton Public Schools look out for our children, but also for the taxpayers and members of the community.

Happenings: Mr. Phelan announced the first home football game, the upcoming Open Houses, the PTFSO Financial Aid Night and the upcoming Japanese Exchange. He also encouraged parents to activate their Edline accounts.

Chairman’s Report

Topic One: School Committee Calendar. Mr. Walker handed out two sheets containing the calendar of upcoming School Committee meetings. On the last page, there are a

few additions. He proposed developing a structure where the School Committee does planning, Superintendent evaluation and district goals. All changes, he said, are in red highlight. He wants to build in discussion of the Superintendent's "end of the year report." He went through the document, and then made a motion to include these items as part of the School Committee schedule. Ms. Padera asked if School Committee members wanted to add to the list of data points, should they do it before the next meeting? Mr. Walker said yes. There was discussion as to which data points should and should not be included. Ms. Sheridan said she'd like to reflect more on that list and suggested the School Committee approve the calendar, but not the list of data points. She entertained a motion to approve the schedule and put the data points on the agenda for next meeting.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: MASC Lifetime Achievement Award 2013 (Attachment) Ms. Sheridan said that last year, when Dr. Pavlcek was stepping down from the School Committee, the school committee decided to nominate him for this award. Recently, he received the notification that he had won. Ms. Sheridan commended Dr. Pavlcek for his contribution to the children of the Milton Public Schools. The award will be presented at the annual MASC meeting in November.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

Ms. Kelly said the committee needs to create a calendar to come up with the budget for FY15. She feels there isn't enough time to meet the December 1st Warrant Committee deadline and want to ask for an extension until December 16th. She thinks last year's method for producing the budget was a useful and productive process and would like to use the same method this year. She requested adding another meeting to the December schedule. Ms. Padera asked if this could take place at the Finance Subcommittee meeting, but Ms. Kelly said she thinks there's a benefit to having it televised. School Committee members agreed to the Dec 4th meeting. Ms. Kelly also reminded members that the end-of-the-year report is due October 1st to the state and it needs to be voted at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Items: Mr. Walker asked to add the Capital Requests; Ms. Kelly asked for the FY13 end-of-year report vote and asked for a security update.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations strategy with AFSCME, MEA, and the deployment of security personnel and adjourn directly from Executive Session, not to return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

