

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: September 21, 2016

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

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

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7pm

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after the chair moved Item 5a (FY18 Budget Process) down one spot on the agenda (to 5b) and adding Item 5a (Cemetery Vigil.) He also removed Item 12a under Executive Session (Negotiation Strategy for Non Union Personnel) and added Item 12b (Negotiation Strategy for AFSCME)

Citizens Speak

none

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Update on Edline Status and Milton High School Pilot. Assistant Superintendent Janet Sheehan, along with MHS Vice Principal Ben Kelly, discussed Student Information Systems. They presented information about the current system, Edline, and GradeQuick. Mr. Kelly talked about the Edline system, and how it works. Another tool being used is ClassDojo. Mr. Kelly talked about using the TeacherPlus program, which is a standards-based reporting system. Dr. Craghead asked whether there is currently a Mass Notification System. Ms. Gormley said there is a rep from the MEA who is piloting this. Ms. Eberhardt asked how to manage the piece for families are not tech savvy. Ms. Bagley Jones asked what the contract says about teacher participation. Ms. Sheehan said the contract sets minimal standards for teachers to comply. They are expected to post homework requirements, syllabus, information, links to resources, as well as to post an overview of the curriculum, programs/events/special projects. Information should be updated regularly. It is noted in the contract that we should be innovative and leave things open for a pilot such as this. Mr. Kelly said this is a new product from a new vendor. Mr. Kelly noted that some teachers do not maintain an active "Edline" page, but they go above and beyond with a link to their Google Classroom. Ms. Varela said she noticed that the parent portal would be Admin Plus and the PTO page would be Edline. She asked about the timeline for implementation. Mr. Kelly said they would try to do it within two years. Dr. Donahue asked that high school students be given their passwords on the first day. Mr. Walker asked about progress reports. Mr. Kelly said that all parents get progress reports every 5 weeks. If a grade goes below a C-, teachers contact the parents directly (within 2 weeks) -- many teachers go above and beyond and send progress reports to Edline. Ms. Gormley noted, when the pilot is fully implemented and the parent

portal is open, parents and students will be able to see the grades. This will eliminate the need for progress reports. This will not replace report cards. Ms. Bagley Jones said it's important that homework is also posted. Mr. Walker asked if homework and/or test results are available to parents and was told no, not in real time. He noted that five weeks is a long time, a student could take a downward spiral. Ms. Gormley said the communication is there when a student is failing. Mr. Walker said he wants a way for parents to know what the homework is and he wanted to know what the policy was at the middle school if a student's grade drops below a C-. Mr. Walker requested a report that listed, by school and by level, the percentage of teachers who are meeting the minimum Edline requirements. Ms. Gormley said that by mid-year, all teachers will have grades the parents can see. Mr. Walker said that parents would like the information to support their children in real time. Ms. Eberhardt said she has a senior in high school and she gets real time info on tests they took today. Ms. Bagley Jones said the homework should be on Edline. Homework is pretty basic and should be the bare minimum.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley talked about the upcoming Open Houses. Sept 22nd is Tucker, next week is Cunningham. Ms. Bagley Jones talked about the Oct 4th event with MSAPC. There will be a Tucker playground event reception on September 28th. Celebrate Milton will be held on Oct 2nd between 12 and 4. Next Friday is the Japanese exchange. Swing for Sports will be held at Wollaston GC. The Monster Dash will be held on Oct 30th.

Chair's Report

Topic One: A Cemetery Vigil will be held on Thursday night from 5:45 to 6:30. This is to show support for the Jewish community in Milton after the cemetery vandalism incident. The Chair moved to allow the Milton School Committee to co-sponsor this event.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker noted that the matter has been referred to MPD. He urged all citizens to attend the vigil. Ms. Gormley thanked Mr. Walker for this.

Topic Two: FY18 Budget Process. Mr. Walker said Ms. Fagan and Ms. Dexter would have responsibility for constructing the budget with the input of School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. They are trying to accomplish this, along with discussion about an override. The School Committee Chair and the Warrant Committee Chair have proposed a joint Warrant Committee/School Committee/Board of Selectmen meeting in October or November. They would like to take a look at the free cash situation, the five year financial forecast and the case for an override.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY18-22 Capital Needs Requests (Attachment) (Vote)

Mr. Walker moved approval of this request.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Craghead

Discussion: For the technology capital request, Dr. Craghead moved to add a friendly amendment to invert #3 and #4. Mr. Walker agreed with Dr. Craghead and accepted the amendment.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Budget Line Item Adjustments. Mr. Walker noted, except for the \$1,000,000 the Town Meeting appropriated, there have been adjustments of line items. He referred to the handout and moved to approve as is.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Approval of Vendor Warrants

Mr. Walker introduced the warrants and moved to approve Warrant #10 in the amount of \$90,319.29.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker moved to approve Warrant #11 in the amount of \$499,629.61

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee

Ms. Varela noted that Wednesday, Oct 5th is Walk/Bike to School Day. It is also International Walk to School Day. She is working to try to have a big celebration of walking/biking.

Also, she discussed Glover School's drop off and pick up times and the various issues going on there. The next steps are to have a site visit with Chief King, principals, etc to review the plan, look at it, and have good discussion about options.

Approval of Minutes

The chair moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2016

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Craghead

Edit: Change Ker to Walker on last page

Vote: 6-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Walker requested further info on Edline and an update at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

Ms. Gormley said in October there would be a PCG update

Ms. Eberhardt asked if there was any progress on Site Councils changing presentations? Mr. Walker said he asked for the high school and middle school to present first.

Ms. Bagley Jones asked about School Committee goals. Mr. Walker said, at the October 5th meeting, Glenn Koocher will be joining us again. Mr. Walker will send out rough drafts. He asked School Committee members to look over the 14-16 goals.

The chair moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiation Strategy for AFSCME.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.