

**Minutes of the School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Milton High School Cable Access Studio**  
**Date: Wednesday, April 12th, 2017**

**Committee Present:** Leroy Walker, Chair, Dr. Kevin Donahue, Vice Chair, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead.

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

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the April 12th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:20pm.

**Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda after removing Item D, Field Trip Approval for trip to Italy.

**Citizens Speak:** Laura Kessler came to speak about a proposed resolution to protect immigrant students. She spoke about other districts who have passed such a resolution. The School Committee thanked her and she left a packet for them to review.

**Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: The Future Problem Solving Coach, Lori Henry, came to speak about the Saturday, April 8th Future Problem Solver's Bowl. Cunningham students won second place for their action plan; and a Glover Team took third place. Individuals will find out in a few weeks if they will advance. The students gave an overview of the topic from this year's Bowl, which was Identity Theft.

Topic Two: BoomWriters Program. Amy Gale, along with students from the BoomWriters programs, came to update the School Committee on this program. The finalists from the "bee" came to the meeting. Mr. Twyman, a co-founder of BoomWriters, came to the presentation as well.

Topic Three: Milton High School Debate Team Field Trip Final Approval (Attachment) (Vote) The debate team qualified for a National Meet in Louisville, Kentucky and are now asking for approval for this trip. Debate Coach Kacy Dotoli provided the itinerary and the team is now in the process of purchasing the plane tickets. There is a fundraising plan in place. The chair moved approval for this trip, to take place May 26-28.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Dr. Craghead asked what is the ratio of students to chaperones and was told there are two students to each chaperone.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Four: Athletic Update. MHS Principal James Jette and Athletic Director Eric Karjel, along with Tucker Elementary School Curriculum Coordinator Cat DesRoche, came to speak about minority participation in athletic events. Ms. DesRoche spoke about an event in January where Citizens for a Diverse Milton (CDM) brought together diversity committees, town sports coaches and citizens to discuss diversity issues within school sports and performing arts programs. In February, an Activities and Athletics Fair was held at Tucker to promote town programming for families. Mr. Jette spoke about the various ways that Milton High School reaches out to minority students to encourage participation in sports, drama, music and clubs.

Ms. Bagley Jones commended the three educators for their progress on this initiative. She noted that some sports require that students get their progress reports signed and encouraged all sports to do this. Although the MIAA has a lower bar for student academics, MHS requires students to be passing 6 or 7 classes. There was discussion about starting an intramural sports program. Ms. Varela asked Mr. Karjel if he has reached out to the heads of youth sports programs and asked if they would share their signup dates. She said it is the ADs responsibility to work in the community. She would like him to visit the principals of the schools and reach out to all the sports leagues. She noted the success of the soccer program pilot at Pierce Middle School. She said she would also like to see the AD work closely with guidance. Let's follow each of the top athletes and see how they're doing on their college search. If kids know that if their grades stay up, they will be more "sell-able" to colleges.

Mr. Karjel said he has spoken with students about college plans. Mr. Karjel agreed that some coaches could have more of an impact on academics, but also noted that, nationally, high school coaches have more pressure, more drama. Mr. Karjel said that his philosophy is that younger students don't need more organized soccer leagues. He is not an advocate of pushing organized sports into lower ages. Ms. Varela said we lose boys in middle school because we don't have organized sports in middle school. Mr. Jette said, regarding hosting an "all-sports" signup night at MHS, we can invite these leagues, but they need to come. Dr. Donahue noted that this is going to be a long term project. He suggested contacting districts with large minority populations to see how they engage families and increase athletic participation. Ms. Desroche said this is starting at Tucker, but will be shared with the other elementary schools.

Ms. Eberhardt said the goal should be that sports should be part of the big picture. You don't have to be a potential D1 athlete. She said it's also important to remember that there are some students who participate because they enjoy the sport, and it's the parents' attitudes that can ruin it. Ms. Bagley Jones said you can't underestimate the influence of coaches. She said that every student athlete should have someone talk to them about college and their potential to go to college.

Ms. Varela said she would like to see the weekly update of what teams are playing and where. Student Rep Mike Sullivan said all MHS students are grateful for the work behind the scenes and thanked members of the School Committee for their work. Mr. Walker said this was a good presentation. He said there are lots of great things going on at the high school; and the Middle School program has paid dividends. The focus is on the "pipeline" and building the pipeline.

There might be some benefit to having specific strategies, for example, how to get more kids involved in baseball at an earlier age. There should be communication between the director of Park & Rec and our Athletic Director

Happenings: Ms. Gormley noted the successful reception recently held for the outgoing School Committee members. She said that more than 100 people came to honor Ms. Bagley Jones and Mr. Walker.

### **Chairman's Report**

Topic One: FY18 Budget. Mr. Walker said there may be some revenue improvements to our budgets and said it's important to hold selectmen to 70/30 split. Finally, after the vote on the override, the School Committee will have to take the final vote before FY18. Ms. Varela asked when the vote would take place and Mr. Walker said it would be after Town Meeting and the Override Vote, but before the start of the year.

Topic Two: Statement Regarding Immigration and Transgender Students. Ms. Bagley Jones said she wasn't able to get all the documentation on the two issues, but urged the committee to be aware of these issues. She hopes they will take it up and discuss it in the near future.

Topic Three: Executive Session Report Out (Vote) Mr. Walker said the committee will affirm three votes taken in Executive Session.

First: FY17 Director of Consolidation Facilities. Mr. Walker said the committee voted to approve a 4% increase to Mr. Ritchie's base pay and increase his annuity from 3K and 4K. Mr. Walker noted that this must also be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Second: Effective July 1, 2016, the Superintendent will receive a 4% merit raise to her base pay.

Third: Assistant Superintendents Dr. Pavlieck and Ms. Sheehan will receive equity adjustments of \$2,500 to their base pay effective July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017 and a merit increase of 3% for FY17. The FY18 merit increase is to be determined at a later date.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Dr. Donahue

**Vote:** 6-0-0

**Finance Subcommittee:** Mr. Walker confirmed that Warrant #39 has four signatures, then moved to approve Warrant #39, dated March 30, 2017 in the amount of \$427,817.42.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Dr. Craghead

**Vote:** 6-0-0

### **Approval of Minutes:**

July 6, 2016

August 22, 2016

August 24, 2016

September 7, 2016

November 16, 2016

Mr. Walker made omnibus motion to approve all with no edits.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 6-0-0

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Topic One: Second Reading of Policy JLCCA-R administering medicines to students

Mr. Walker made a friendly amendment to insert the words "as modified."

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second;** Dr. Craghead

Amendment: add words "as modified."

**Vote:** 6-0-0

### **Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee**

Ms. Varela said the walk to school routes are not yet complete. However, the Grade 5 Safety Patrol is up and running and have been trained by AAA. Lee Toma, Chair of the Bike Advisory Committee spoke about the reduction of speed limit in town and mentioned that this will be a warrant article at Town Meeting. Mr. Walker asked if the School Committee should have a position on this article. Ms. Varela said no, she does not think the subcommittee should take a position. She also noted that the schools will have a representative on the townwide Traffic Commission. She said the subcommittee's next big goal on the agenda is the Glover School pickup and drop off. They will be proposing minor changes to this.

## Health & Wellness Subcommittee

Ms. Bagley Jones talked about her work on the committee and thanked all the members who have served.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Dr. Donahue asked for the Immigration and Transgender issue to be put on the agenda, as well as the Organization of the MPS Website.

Ms. Varela asked to add something to the May or June agendas regarding the 5th grade safety patrol.

Also, PMS will be performing an upcoming play, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!

The committee thanked Mike Sullivan for his time as a student rep.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of approval of executive session minutes and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Roll Call Vote:** 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.