

Milton School Committee Meeting
School Choice Open Public Hearing
Milton High School Library
April 24, 2013

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

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel.

Call to Order: The Chairman called the Open Hearing on School Choice to order at 7:14 pm.

The chair explained how the school choice system works. Districts who do not want to participate need to take a vote to opt out. This vote is required before June 15th and a public hearing is required.

Because no speakers came to discuss the issue, the chairman closed the Open Hearing and moved onto regular meeting.

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Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent; John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Personnel.

Call to Order: The chair called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 pm

Approve Agenda: The chair suggested moving the approval of minutes until after the Superintendent's Report. Also, under the Finance Subcommittee report, there is a new item on Synthetic Turf replacement, which was added at the last minute. Mr. Walker requested a few minutes to speak during the Policy Subcommittee Report and proposed the addition of Item A, "Policy Subcommittee Operational Procedures." Ms. Bagley Jones asked if she could speak about Mr. Pavlicek's final meeting. With those additions, the chair declared the agenda approved.

Citizen Speak – (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes) No speakers

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Recognize Milton High School Sports Teams. Steve Traister came and introduced the following coaches and teams:

Boys Hockey, Coach Paul Noonan and Athletes, MIAA Division 1 South Tournament
Girls Hockey, Coach Bob Allen and Athletes, MIAA Division 2 State Tournament
Wrestling, Coach Ted Carroll and Athletes
Ski Team, Coach Paul Ajemian and Athletes
Boys Indoor Track, Coach Chuck Ajemian and Athletes
Girls Indoor Track, Coach Dale Snyder and Athletes

Each coach introduced his team and spoke about the highlights of their season. Some of the athletes also spoke. School Committee members asked questions of the coaches and athletes and congratulated them on the winter season.

Topic Two: Glover Site Council (Attachment) Co-Principals Stephanie Nephew and Holly Concannon, along with Teacher Representative Kristen Palatt, came to present the School Improvement Plan. Ms. Nephew began by thanking Drew Echelson, with whom she began the school year. Ms. Nephew and Ms. Concannon began by reviewing MCAS data. As part of the data presentation, they pointed out where the school's strengths lie and described potential weaknesses.

To view the presentation, visit this site:<http://www.miltonps.org/documents/GloverSchoolSiteCouncilPresentation.pdf>

The group explained that the heart of the improvement plan is threefold: a data-driven instruction, engaging all students and empowering students.

The first part includes MCAS data analysis, unit assessments, targeted reading assessment and instruction. Ms. Concannon talked about PD and evaluating what work gets put in front of the children. Next, the pair talked about opening the computer lab before school so that all Glover students are exposed to technology, do Study Island, etc. The principals said they have made it a point to increase communication, and talked about the use of Google Docs for learning, etc. Ms. Palatt talked about the new clickers to be used with the SmartBoards. School Committee members got a demonstration on the clickers from some of the Glover fifth-graders at the meeting. Ms. Concannon spoke more about Chromebooks, which are cloud-based notebooks. She said this technology is turning classrooms into computer labs. She also talked about the positive experiences since the school got wifi. It is Ms. Concannon's hope that 1st and 2nd graders learn to type effectively on these Chromebooks.

Ms. Nephew talked about how much of the technology came from PTO fundraisers, etc, Donors Choose. Their goal is to have technology centers in each classroom. She then talked about ways they empower students, including a student-run newspaper, a "no-bullying club," and the Glover Diversity Committee initiatives.

Several fifth-grade students came back up to talk about Fifth-Grade Community Service Project, which is School On Wheels. The students talked about how they raised money doing Study Island for a Cause.

School Committee members congratulated them on presentation and asked questions. They were also commended for their peer mentoring program.

Topic Three: Milton Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Jerry Vitti, PAC Chairman, came to remind the public what the PAC does. He spoke about the French Immersion Cap issue, during which the PAC was the voice of kids with special needs. He noted that the PAC has gotten away from doing joint presentations with the administration and would like to resume that program. He asked for members of the public to join the PAC, and possibly consider board membership. Mr. Vitti also spoke about the new Challenger League, which is part of Little League in Milton. He thanked JP Plunkett, who he called “the engine who started this.”

Happenings: Ms. Gormley announced the appointment of Dr. Elaine McNeil Girmai as principal of the Tucker School. Dr. McNeil Girmai is a former Milton resident who attended Milton Public Schools. Also, the Glover Search Committee is still working on the process of the principal search. They are screening applicants and have brainstormed what they're looking for. Ms. Gormley reported that, regarding the Assistant Superintendent for Business Search, the first round was unsuccessful. She is optimistic about the candidates for Round Two. Ms. Gormley also reported that more than 125 students have signed up for the new Pierce Middle School Track Team. She announced the date for the upcoming Art Fair and reported that Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mitchell D. Chester, will visit MPS on May 10th to observe our Full Day Kindergarten program and tour Milton High. Next, Mr. Phelan talked about the Summer Enrichment program. Mr. Redden will direct this program. Email going out tomorrow about course listings. It will run July 1 through August 1, four days a week from 8 am to noon. Also, the Extended Year Services for students with special needs will be held this summer.

Approval of Minutes (Attachments)

The chairman moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Kelly

Edits: none

Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

The chairman moved to approve the minutes of March 27, 2013

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Edits: none

Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. Kelly abstained)

Chairman's Report:

Topic One: There have been some Committee Appointments, since Mr. Pavlicek is leaving, he needs to be replaced on some. For the Master Plan Committee, it was

decided that Mr. Pavlicek should stay through the end. For the DOR Fiscal Management Review, Mr. Walker expressed interest and was appointed. For the School Building Committee, Mr. Pavlicek currently serves, but there is only one meeting left. Ms. Sheridan moved to recommend that he remain on this for the final meeting.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Pavlicek abstained.)

Regarding the MEA Negotiations Committee Appointment, Mr. Pavlicek currently serves on this committee. Mr. Walker moved to recommend that Mr. Pavlicek serve as a non-voting member of the bargaining committee, which leaves room for another School Committee member to sign on.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Pavlicek abstained)

Regarding the AFSCME Negotiations Committee Appointments, this needs to begin. School Committee members agreed to wait to appoint to this committee until after the reorganizational meeting. Mr. Walker expressed interest.

Topic Two: School Choice (Attachment) (Vote) The chairman explained that this tends to be more popular in Western Massachusetts. Unless we opt out, we are a school choice district. The chair entertained a motion to opt out of School Choice.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Discussion: We studied this issue. Does not fit with Milton.

Vote: 6-0-0

At this point, Ms. Bagley Jones asked for a moment to thank Mr. Pavlicek for his hard work on the School Committee and wish him luck as he steps down. Other School Committee members also thanked the chairman.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

Topic One: First Amendment Net Metering Power Purchase Agreement (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Gormley explained that the School Committee has been involved in developing an on-site solar panel project in the past few years, with panels on our schools. We are currently in negotiations for off-site project. She is asking the School Committee to sign an amendment which will state that we need to wait for the project to be complete before receiving any revenue from this project. We will not get an up-front check, but we will get the rate adjustment later (when project is done.) On behalf of the school district and the town, we have been advised that this is the appropriate way to proceed. The chair entertained a motion to authorize an amendment in the contract with Wildcat Solar LLC.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Ms. Kelly

Discussion: Mr. Walker made, then withdrew a friendly amendment regarding the language of the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones was absent for the vote)

Topic Two: Turf Replacement

The chair explained that the Copeland Family Foundation offered to fund \$300,000 of the cost of turf replacement at Brooks Field. The cost is \$451,000. We requested \$100,000 to contribute from Capital Funds committee and the remaining \$51,000 will come from the fund set up to pay for this (through user fees.) It is hoped that the money will come from Capital Funds. We need to vote, because if TM doesn't authorize this, we will need funds available to fund this contract. The chair entertained a motion for the chair to sign a contract for synthetic field, with the understanding that it will cost either \$51,000 or \$151,000. Mr. Walker said this may also involve the head of the Consolidated Facilities department.

Move: Ms. Sheridan

Second: Mr. Walker (with amendment on Consolidated Facilities)

Vote: 6-0-0

Ms. Kelly reported that the Finance Subcommittee is still working on a presentation for town meeting. After next week's finance subcommittee meeting, she would like feedback.

Policy Subcommittee Report

(Mr Walker had previously moved to insert an item, "Review of Policy Subcommittee" here)

Mr. Walker began by saying he had reflected on the discussion at the last meeting. He understands the need for each School Committee member to have all the information they need, but at the same time, he said, there should be a focus on "executive level review," not details. He then read the copy aloud (see handout)

Mr. Walker then made a motion to adopt his proposal.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Padera

Discussion: Ms. Kelly noted that Mr. Walker is proposing a policy change. She said it appears the School Committee needs an overarching goal when it comes to policies. She stated that she hoped there would be a discussion tonight, but no vote. Ms. Sheridan said they are reviewing all School Committee policies because they all have both an adoption date and a proposed re-approval rate. Some of them "expired" in

2010. So far this year, they have managed to review the A and B policies. Although the School Committee has hired a consultant in the past to assist with the compilation of the book, there is no money to hire a consultant this year. She also noted they get updates from MASC and act on those recommendations.

Ms. Kelly agreed that the process has been both thoughtful and time-consuming. But she does not agree that going through every policy is the best use of the subcommittee's time. She added that she is concerned that some policies are being deleted. Ms. Bagley Jones suggested it might make more sense to target the policies that need to be dealt with. Ms. Sheridan asked what is the will of the committee? Mr. Walker reiterated that he will be asking for a vote on this issue tonight. Ms. Kelly pointed out that Mr. Walker's document was not provided beforehand for thoughtful consideration, to which Mr. Walker replied that the issue has been discussed four times already. Ms. Kelly said it should have been put on the agenda. She also noted that the committee membership will be changing in a few days and thinks the vote should be put off until the new member joins the board. Mr. Walker disagreed, saying they should not burden a new member with this.

The chair reminded the committee that there was a motion on the floor to approve the PSC Operation Procedures and called for a vote.

Vote: 4-1-1 (Ms. Kelly against; Ms. Bagley Jones abstained)

It was also noted that Ms. Padera's term is expiring tonight.

Mr. Pavlicek then addressed the committee. He said that he has spent 10 years on the school committee and it has been a privilege. He thanked his colleagues and Ms. Gormley. School Committee members spoke about Mr. Pavlicek's service to the community and thanked him for his service.

Next Meeting Agenda Items: The next meeting will take place after town elections and will be a re-organizational meeting. It will take place in the Milton Public Access cable studio at the Pierce Middle School.

The chairman entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining with the MEA and the AFSCME. Not to return to open session

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Sheridan

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.