

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Cable Access Studio  
Date: Wednesday, February 1st, 2017

**Committee Present:** Leroy Walker, Chair, 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.

**Not Present:** Dr. Kevin Donahue

### **Call to Order**

The Chair called the Feb 1, 2017 meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:02pm.

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda. Ms. Bagley Jones asked to defer Item 5b to the next meeting.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: FY18 Budget. Ms. Gormley talked about the upcoming budget presentations and urged parents to attend any one of them. Dates, time and locations will be posted on the front of the Milton Public Schools homepage.

### **Chairman's Report**

Topic One: Mr. Walker updated the School Committee on the budget process. He noted that this is the first year in which new "strong town administrator" is involved in the process. On January 3rd, Mr. Walker and Dr. Pavlicek met with the new Town Administrator and the former Town Administrator to work on the budget spreadsheet. At this meeting, it was estimated that the town's shortfall this year would be \$1.5 million, and of that figure, the school's share of the shortfall would be \$1.2 million. At the time, both Mr. Walker and Dr. Pavlicek pointed out that estimates for local aid was conservative and deep cuts in local aid were unlikely. The revenue projections for local aid was later estimated to be higher than initially thought. The group met again on January 26th for a second meeting. The school's proposed cut was still \$1.2 million, which was difficult to fathom, since the revenue projection was conservative and there was \$400,000 more than projected. The explanation for this was that there were new expenses which had not been included on the original estimates, so any additional revenue was eaten up by the additional expenses. Mr. Walker said this was disappointing. He noted that this process is the first one for the new Town Administrator and he was charged with submitting a balanced budget. Normally, the process where you build the spreadsheet is collaborative. Usually, the process includes town accountant, the Assistant Superintendent for Business and the chair of Warrant Committee. The Warrant Committee has always been involved in the discussion, but was not

included this year. Mr. Walker said this is a cut that the School Committee cannot accept. A \$1.2 million cut would do damage to the district, the programs, etc. The School Committee must now rely on the Warrant Committee and the Board of Selectmen to make other cuts. Mr. Walker said the important step for the School Committee tonight is to be briefed by the Superintendent on the proposed reductions of \$762,000.

Ms. Varela noted that the Warrant Committee still has work to do on this and recommendations to make, moving forward. She said it's important to note that the school department is always going to have the biggest budget. Mr. Walker noted that the School Department has obligations and expectations that no other department has.

Ms. Bagley Jones said the process is really concerning, since the schools are taking 80% of the cut. We need to add the Chapter 70 money to come back into our account. There is a requirement that that town spend a certain amount on the schools. Discussion ensued. We have a \$1.2 million cut, which translates to 22 positions. No other town departments are taking any other personnel cuts.

Ms. Gormley then presented the cut reduction list:

- Instructional Technology Teacher
- Return music, art and PE to 30 minutes (not 45)
- Reorganize Grade 5 French Instruction
- Second co-taught Grade 3
- Regular Ed STEP teacher
- Eliminate band, strings, ACE
- Eliminate STEM elective/iSTEM
- Middle School Electives (chorus, computer)
- Math Investigations/iSTEM
- High School Math
- HS Social Studies
- HS English Teacher
- HS Fine Arts Teacher
- HS Business Teacher
- Eliminate building subs
- Eliminate inclusion specialist

Ms. Varela and Dr. Craghead voiced their opposition to having to make these cuts. Ms. Gormley said this is a total of 18.4 positions. Mr. Walker moved approval of the FY18 cut list to include of 18.4 positions and a total of \$762,400.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Dr. Craghead

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Mr. Walker moved to suspend the current meeting and reconvene at town hall with the Town Administrator and perhaps the Board of Selectmen.

Move: Mr. Walker  
Second: Ms. Varela  
Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.