

Minutes of the School Committee
Open Budget Hearing
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: March 29, 2017

Committee Present: Dr. Kevin Donahue, Vice Chair, Kristan Bagley-Jones, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, (Leroy Walker arrived late)

Not Present: 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 Vice Chair called the March 29th, 2017 Annual Budget Meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:43pm. He noted that this meeting is Open Budget Hearing.

Citizens Speak: Pierce Middle Schooler Baron Clancy came to speak to the School Committee about his enthusiasm for the music program in the Milton Public Schools. Members of the School Committee commended him for his comments.

The chair moved to continue to the Regular Meeting of the School Committee.

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: March 29, 2017

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

Not Present: 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 March 29, 2017 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02pm.

Citizens Speak: Bernadette Butler, Elementary Science Coordinator, came to speak about Science for Scientists and their upcoming fundraiser, Chip in Fore Science.

Next, Denise Queally came to speak about the Milton Foundation for Education and their upcoming fundraiser, Celebration for Education. School Committee members thanked Ms. Queally for her work on behalf with the MFE.

Next, Dominique Thomas came to speak about Project 351 and her Spring Service project for Cradles to Crayons. She is the Milton Ambassador to Project 351. Bins are out in every one of the Milton Public Schools. She thanked Dr. Spaulding and those who have helped her along the way.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda. The chair removed Item 4c and add Item 7e, under Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Bagley Jones moved to add Item 5d to discuss support of immigrant and transgendered students.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: The Boys Indoor Track Coach Chuck Ajemien came to the table, along with MHS sophomore Smith Charles. Coach Ajemien talked about Smith's achievements. Ms. Varela commended Smith and said she was happy to hear that Mr. Charles is “a better person than he is an athlete.”

Next, Tom Shaw spoke on behalf of the Girls Indoor Track Team. He talked about work ethic, confidence, and their recent success at Nationals, where two girls’ teams earned All American status. Ms. Varela talked about the pride they've brought to the town.

Ms. Gormley talked about how the town is proud of this team and thanked Tom Shaw for his successful season.

Topic Two: Pierce Middle School Grants (Attachments) -- Principal Karen Spaulding and Science Coordinator Christie Chiappetta came to speak about the FUSE grant for the Greater Boston Area, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (to support a Clean Energy Activity Day); and Safe and Supportive Schools Grant.

Topic Three: Milton High School music department trip to NYC, Final Approval. The chair moved to approve the upcoming spring field trip.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Revised 2017-18 School Year Calendar (Attachment) (Vote)

Dr. Pavlicek explained that there were two changes. They moved the half day on October 11 to October 18th. The teacher conference/PD Day on November 8th will be moved to November 9th, with the approval of the MTA. The final one was the PD day in January. It was originally

Jan 10th, but had to be moved one day up. The original calendar resulted in three consecutive four-day weeks. This was moved to January 31st. Overall, three PD days were moved. Mr. Walker moved approval of the revised calendar.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley announced that Program of Studies Night was tonight. Tomorrow night will be BoomWriters celebration. Also, asked if Dr. Pavlicek and Ms. Sheehan could give a summary of First Grade English/French choice selection and K numbers.

Dr. Pavlicek said that First Grade Course Selection has been made and there are 189 rising first graders chose English/STEM and 157 for French Immersion. The breakdown was 55% English, 45% French. Of the 16 Kindergarten classes, 10 will be English first graders, 6 in French. Lotteries were held at two schools. Twelve students did not get French who asked for it. Ms. Bagley Jones asked about class sizes and was told that French Immersion classes are capped at 26; English cap is 22.

Ms. Sheehan talked about the kindergarten process. Families of incoming K students will be sent school assignment and screening appointment by April 20th. Currently, there are 208 fully registered K students and 27 more in the works. Our schools were built for 14 K classrooms, we've had 15 for 6 years and this current year, 16 classrooms. Our numbers today require 15 classrooms, but we are anticipating at last 16 classes. We remind families that they will be notified in early May, date and time for screening appointment. Ms. Bagley Jones asked do we have enough space? Where would we put them if we need more classrooms? Mr. Walker said we can accommodate 16. At 17, we would have to take other rooms.

Ms. Gormley noted that the school just finished this years' very popular and successful musical concerts. This month, they are celebrating the Passport to the Arts Program. Ms. Gormley also noted that on Saturday morning, she received an email from Sgt. Jack Richman of the Milton PD regarding a parking situation near the Pierce Middle School. On that day, we had rented out the Pierce to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to administer the Civil Service exam. Ms. Gormley apologized for the excessive amount of cars in the residential neighborhoods around the Pierce Middle School and outlined her plan to prevent such parking issues in the future.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: FY18 Budget Update

Topic Two: Revised FY18 Non-Contingent Reductions (Attachment) (Vote)

The chair chose to take Topic One and Topic Two together. He has seen one draft of the warrant, and said the action they need to take are included in the warrant. He said the budget amount for Blue Hills Regional was lower than anticipated, so \$73,000 will be coming back to the schools. Due to this, it was agreed the Incision Specialist be removed from the reduction list. The chair moved to accept this revised cut reduction list.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Ms. Bagley Jones said she's upset about these cuts. Eliminating band, strings and ACE is discouraging. Mr. Walker agreed.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Ms. Bagley Jones noted that after the President Trump's executive order regarding immigration and transgender students, some school districts have passed resolutions of support for those students. DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester came out against these two policies. She would like to draft a letter of support from the Milton School Committee and send to legal counsel, and ultimately approve, then sign it. Mr. Walker has a slightly different recommendation. He suggested that the School Committee gather those letters from other School Committees and we'll read them and discuss on April 12th. The Superintendent has some guidance from our legal counsel about this issue. Ms. Bagley Jones said she's already collected some letters. Ms. Varela said she's great that we take a step forward.

Topic Three: Powers & Sullivan End-of-Year Report, June 30, 2016 (Attachment) The chair asked the members of the School Committee to review this document.

Finance Subcommittee:

The chair made an omnibus motion to approve three warrants.

Warrant #35 dated March 2 in the amount of \$314,151.62

Warrant # 36 of dated March 9 in the amount of \$365,886.56

Warrant # 37 dated March 16 in \$581,436.27

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Second Quarter Report (Attachment) (Vote)

Mr. Walker moved to approve the second quarter report.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Security System Redundancy (Attachment) (Vote) Mr. Walker said the current security system does not have a backup system. The cost would be funded out of the facilities reserve fund. Move to approve \$25,750.00

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Four: Special Education Software (Attachment) (Vote) This new system has the ability to check for errors, etc. This software is necessary to move the SPED department data into the 21st century. The cost is to come out of Medicare fund.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Discussion: Ms. Eberhardt said this is a technology tool. There is a continuing expense for this software, which is \$16,293 in the second year. Dr. Donahue asked, will this fix the problem, or is this a step towards fixing the problem? Ms. Gormley said this is not the perfect answer, but Ms. Grandeau did a great deal of research on this topic. KBJj asked if this will make it easier for teachers to access IEPs and was told that yes, it would.

Vote: 5-0-0

Policy Subcommittee Report

Dr. Donahue noted that DESE has recommended that Milton Public Schools add certain language to our policies to include “protected groups.” There are four policies in the packet where these additions have been made. He moved to invoke the expedited approval policy.

Move: Dr. Donahue

The chair approved.

Dr. Donahue made omnibus motion to approve all four policies to make the changes suggested by DESE.

Policy ACH, Bullying Prevention (Attachment) (Vote)

Policy JG, Admission to Course Study (Attachment) (Vote)

Policy JLD, Guidance Program (Attachment) (Vote)

Policy JMA, Student Awards and Scholarships (Attachment) (Vote)

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Five: Medication Administration Policy. Dr. Donahue spoke about the edits to this policy, including the addition of a paragraph break. This is the first reading.

Approval of Minutes

The chair made an omnibus motion to approve all three sets of minutes.

October 26, 2016

November 6, 2016

December 7, 2016

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Edits: None

Vote: 4-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones left room)

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Dr. Donahue requested adding Policy to next meeting. Ms. Varela asked if the Pierce Players could come and perform at the June meeting.

Mr. Walker asked for Eric Karjel and James Jette to speak about the outreach plans to improve the distribution of students of color.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel and Collective Bargaining Strategy for MEA, the discussion of which in public session could compromise negotiation strategy; and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: 4-0-0

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for April 12

The meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.