

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Access Studio  
Date: April 6th, 2016

**Committee Present:** Michael Zullas, Chair; Becky Padera, Vice Chair; Leroy Walker, Sheila Varela (arrived late); and Kevin Donahue.

Not Present: Ms. Bagley Jones

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Human Resources;

### **Call to Order**

The Chair called the April 6th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03 pm.

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the April 6, 2016 agenda after adding an item under Superintendent's Report (sub part A -- award winning FPS ); and under Chair's Report, Section 5 will be School Committee Schedule. Also, the chair moved to defer the Health and Wellness subcommittee report. Dr. Donahue also noted that this is the second reading for Home Schooling. Section 7a is "second reading" and vote.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: Future Problem Solvers. The students who recently competed at the Future Problem Solvers Competition came to speak to the School Committee. This group recently competed at the State Bowl at Clark University on Saturday. The School Committee congratulated the students for their work.

Topic Two: Milton High School Site Council Presentation (Attachment) James Jette, Milton High School Principal, Benjamin Kelly, Assistant Principal, Greg Pullia, Teacher Representative were in attendance; along with Parent Representatives Mary Scott, Veronica Guerrero-Macia; Community Representative Vicky McCarthy; and Student Representative Thanh Nguyen. The group began with a presentation on assessment data. They talked about issues "beyond the data," which included art awards, the Youth Risk Behavior survey, chemical health awareness night.

Note: Ms. Varela arrived here.

Members of the School Committee commended Mr. Jette and the rest of the site council for the success at Milton High School.

### **Happenings**

Ms. Gormley reminded the public about the MFE celebration on Saturday night and mentioned that staff members with more than 20 years in the MPS will be recognized. This year's Fund a Need will be to complete the Wellness Center outside the Copeland Field House.

### **Chair's Report**

The chair began with a discussion regarding upcoming School Committee meetings. Regarding the meeting on 4/13, it will be needed, especially for executive session. The chair opened the topic for discussion. Mr. Walker moved approval of the additional meeting on 4/13.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Ms. Padera

**Vote:** 4-0-0 (Ms. Varela was temporarily absent)

Topic One: Discussion of School Committee Approval of Wilson-Kindelan School (Attachment) Mr. Zullas said that a new school is opening in Milton and has asked for approval of the School Committee. Under MGL 76, Chapter One, every student has the right to attend public school OR any other day school approved by the school committee. Mr. Zullas said he has done some research on the topic and believes the School Committee needs to review the thoroughness, efficiency and progress of an alternative school. The School Committee currently does not have these policies and procedures in place that lay out the requirements that our School Committee would look at and we should get them in place. There was a request to have this voted on before town elections, but Mr. Zullas does not think this is possible. Mr. Walker said, in addition to some rather large responsibilities on the part of the School Committee, what is the role of DESE? Mr. Zullas said the role is solely ours. This determination and the approval required lies with the School Committee and not DESE. They give suggestions of 11 different criteria. Ms. Padera noted that if we make a policy, we would also then have to periodically review existing schools. Mr. Zullas suggested that the School Committee refer this to Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Walker suggested that a copy be made of the binder for each School Committee member.

Topic Two: Non-employee Security Badges. The issue has been raised about whether non-employees, including School Committee members, should be able to enter into the school without going through normal security procedures. Ms. Padera said that having the badges, while convenient, creates a potential for problems. It can allow us "too much access." No other volunteers have them. Mr. Zullas said this is an operational matter within the purview of the superintendent. Mr. Walker said if we were going to discuss the merits of this, we should do it when the other two members are present, and more importantly, we should wait until the new members come on. Dr. Donahue said the administration should give guidance on this issue. Mr. Zullas said this issue can be on the agenda for next week.

Topic Three: Inclusion Task Force, Mr. Walker informed the committee that this task force is off to a very good start. Lots of excitement about this task force. The first challenge is to define inclusion and identify a mission and a vision. The timing is perfect with the PCG report.

Topic Five: Long Range Strategic Planning Advisory Subcommittee, Dr. Kevin Donahue noted that this committee has met once. Discussed the previous strategic plan process.

### **Finance Subcommittee Report**

Topic One: FY17 Budget: Nothing to report.

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Ms. Sheehan introduced Vendor Warrant #41 for the amount of \$471,852.79 The vote on this warrant was deferred to the next meeting.

Ms. Sheehan introduced Warrant #39 of March 24 in the amount of \$484,606.41.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Mr. Zullas

**Vote:** 4-0-0 (Ms. Varela was temporarily absent)

### **Policy Subcommittee Report (Attachments) (Vote)**

Topic One: Second Reading Home Schooling Policy IHGB. Dr. Donahue introduced the policy. There have been no changes since the first reading.

**Move:** Mr. Walker

**Second:** Dr. Donahue

Discussion: Mr. Zullas asked, is this exactly the same as the last one? Yes.

**Vote:** 4-0-0 (Ms. Varela was temporarily absent.)

Topic Two: First Reading, Security Camera System Policy, Policy ECAF. Dr. Donahue noted that there are several needs. Districts with security cameras have been encouraged to develop policies regarding their use. This has gone before police department and we received their input. He is not sure if it has been reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Zullas suggested we do this before the next meeting. Mr. Walker suggested several edits to the policy. Mr. Zullas said he'd like to think about some of the edits. This topic will be put on the agenda for next week.

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

Ms. Varela reported that the elementary schools are formally starting a safety patrol. AAA partners with schools to help with this. Students wrote essays to "apply" for these positions, which will begin in May. Parents at Pierce are concerned about "School Zone" signage. Dr. Pavlicek had explained to the subcommittee that we could put

signage up on Reedsdale, but it's not enforceable by law. Ms. Varela would also like a crossing guard at the library. At Glover, there is still some concern with the traffic build-up on Canton Ave. At MHS, the concern is texting and driving. They are working with organizations that deal with distracted driving. Dr. Donahue noted that Whitelawn Ave has been a problem.

### **Approval of Minutes (Attachments) (Vote)**

January 6, 2016

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 4-0-0 (Mr. Walker temporarily absent)

*January 20, 2016*

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 4-0-0 (Mr. Walker temporarily absent)

*February 10, 2016*

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 4-0-0 (Mr. Walker temporarily absent)

*February 24, 2016*

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 4-0-0 (Mr. Walker temporarily absent)

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

For the next agenda, it was suggested that the committee add a Second Reading of security camera policy. Also, security badges issue. Add an executive session prior to the main meeting. 6:45pm. Mr. Walker asked if we could do more important agenda items up higher.

The chair moved to adjourn.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.