

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: February 15, 2017

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

Staff Present: Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources.

Not Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools.

Call to Order: The Chair called the February 15th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:01pm.

Approve Agenda: The committee approved the agenda after switching the order of Items 4a and 4b under Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: MHS Program of Studies (Attachment) (Vote) MHS Principal James Jette, along with Humanities Director Barbara Wright, Guidance Director Karen Cahill and Science Department Director Amy Tom came to discuss changes to the 2017-18 Program of Studies. Each director discussed the changes to their courses. Ms. Wright discussed replacing the current Contemporary Issues full-year course with half-year courses to include the Comparative Cultures Within the African Diaspora, the Sixties, the Relation Between History and the Media, Women's Studies, etc. Ms. Tom discussed adding Astronomy and/or Engineering. School Committee members asked questions about staffing levels, etc.

The chair moved to accept the recommendation for four courses: comparative culture, media, physical science and astronomy. The addition of engineering is contingent on the override, since it requires the addition of a .5 FTE.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Food Service Director Jackie Morgan discussed the new initiative to introduce fresh fish to the cafeteria. She talked about developing the recipes for baked fish and fish chowder. Dr. Craghead asked, will this be expanded beyond the high school? Ms. Morgan said she hopes to expand this in the future to all six schools. Mr. Walker said this is a very important opportunity. He hopes that students embrace this. Ms. Bagley Jones praised Ms. Morgan for her hard work.

Topic Three: Ms. Sheehan spoke about the upcoming field trip. Dr. Spaulding has 170 middle schoolers will be heading to Washington, DC. Ms. Sheehan discussed the cost, the itinerary, etc. Mr. Walker moved for final approval of this field trip.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Craghead

Discussion: Ms. Varela corrected that the dates April 7,8 and 9th. Mr. Walker asked if Rep. Lynch will be giving a tour. He would like Reps Lynch or Capuano to give a tour. Dr. Craghead said the \$5,000 is a great fundraising effort, but is that enough to help those families who need help? She was told that it would.

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Sheehan discussed the upcoming budget presentations to be held at Glover and Tucker. STEM Info night is being held tonight. Family Movie Night will be upcoming. There will be no school next week, during February vacation. Feb 28 is Cunningham Science Fair and March 1st is First Grade info Night.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Mr. Walker gave an FY18 budget update and discussed how to cooperate more effectively with the Board of Selectmen. He would like to see the school “cut” number changed from 1.25 to 1.1. He said the School Committee is getting cooperation we had hoped for and they are moving closer to the recommendation. Regarding the budget presentation, Mr. Walker would like to eliminate the "call to action" slide. Also, he would like to move the budget presentation first and the Prop 2.5 discussion second. He suggested prioritizing the request. Ms. Varela suggested having a more fine-tuned budget presentation. Ms. Eberhardt said the handouts should be in prioritized order. Ms. Bagley Jones would like a clarification of the number of positions being lost. Ms. Varela talked about the FTEs and how they are calculated. Ms. Bagley Jones said there is only one administrative positions on the list, so why is it listed as two? Mr. Walker said it could possibly be two. Ms. Bagley Jones disagreed, and stated that this is one position. Mr. Walker said, to be clear, the Superintendent agreed it could be two. Ms. Bagley Jones reiterated that this is not two positions and she wants to be on record as expressing that opinion. Dr. Pavlicek said, regarding the suggestions on the budget presentation from tonight, please put in writing and send to us. Mr. Walker said comments should be in by 2pm.

Policy Subcommittee

Dr. Donahue gave an update on the work of the Policy Subcommittee. He said they are currently working through Section C. Ms. Bagley Jones said she has feedback on the Substance Abuse policy, which she will forward to Dr. Donahue. Ms. Varela asked if Ms. Bagley Jones would attend an upcoming Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Health & Wellness Subcommittee Report

Ms. Bagley Jones updated the committee on the work of the H&W subcommittee. The focus has been on social emotional health and substance abuse. She talked about the parent events and

forums. Ms. Craghead noted the meetings are Friday at 8am, and would like to get better at posting the times of the subcommittee meetings. Ms. Varela suggested asking Ms. Roche to send the agendas for each meeting to all School Committee members. Mr. Walker noted that these must all be posted as full School Committee meetings.

Transportation Subcommittee Report

Ms. Varela talked about her work with Mass DOT and the Walk to School project. She also discussed reaching out to PTOs and coordinating with them. Noel Vigue has been collaborating with this subcommittee to encourage walking/biking to school. Will be looking at traffic issues at the schools and spoke about snow removal issues. Ms. Eberhardt commended the new drop off/one way change at the Milton High School campus.

Facilities Subcommittee

This subcommittee was formed 15 years ago to develop a comprehensive facilities management plan. They are now almost on the verge of accomplishing that goal. In late summer, they engaged a consultant and before the end of the school year, a report will be presented for review and approval. Ms. Varela asked if this is a school/town committee, or just school? Mr. Walker said it was just school. Ms. Varela asked about space issues.

Town School Consolidation Subcommittee

Dr. Craghead explained that this is a committee which works with the Town Administrator to look at ways to be more efficient, share personnel and streamline operations. This subcommittee has not yet met this year because of the turnover in Town Administrator position.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Dr. Donahue explained that the purpose of this subcommittee is to be the third pillar in the long range planning mission. The group's charge is to map out where we are and where we want to go. This subcommittee meets in working groups. They will continue to meet and welcome input from all School Committee members.

Finance Subcommittee

The chair moved to approve Warrant #31 dated February 2nd in the amount of \$456,688.78

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

The chair moved to approve Warrant #33 dated February 8th, 2017 in the amount of \$508,768.49

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Ms. Bagley Jones asked if the whole committee could be updated on the work of the Finance Subcommittee. She would like to see the minutes and the agendas of the meetings.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The Chair entertained a motion adjourn.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm .