

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: June 15, 2016

Committee Present: Leroy Walker, Chair; Kevin Donahue, Vice Chair; Kristen Bagley Jones, Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Elaine Craghead

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

Not Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools

Call to Order

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

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after adding Item 4d (“Release Schedule for PARCC and MCAS Data”) to the Superintendent’s Report (moving Item D to Item E.) Also, under the Chair’s Report, the Chair requested the description be changed to “Athletic Director and Director of K-12 Physical Education/Health Director Screening Committee.” The Chair also removed Items 8a, b and c (Approval of Minutes.)

Citizens Speak

none

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Boys Outdoor Track Coach Chuck Ajemien and Girls Outdoor Track Coach Tom Shaw, and their teams, came to be congratulated on their spring season. Each coach reviewed the season highlights of the team as well as some individual achievements. School Committee members said their accomplishments brought excitement and pride to the town.

Topic Two: Financial Literacy Program, Blue Hills Bank. Community Relations Manager Julie Beckham came to discuss the interactive musical, "Miss Money and the Coins." The bank also brings a “game show” to the schools to teach financial literacy. She described the variety of programs offered by the Blue Hills Bank, including programs for senior citizens, as well as “life skills” for students in grades K-12. Ms. Beckham said that roughly 48% of tenth-graders in MPS are exposed to one of these programs. Mr. Walker said that 48% participation in these programs is not good enough. He would like 100% participation.

Topic Three: Final Approval for Milton High School 2017 European Trip (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Sheehan outlined the provisions of the trip and the itinerary. Ms. Craghead asked if they need another chaperone. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if there are any other trips to Europe planned and was told there are not. She also noted that this trip seems very expensive at \$3,500 and asked if there was any fundraising opportunities. Ms. Sheehan said this has been the practice. Mr. Walker said he also has an issue with the cost. He noted that it would be helpful to have this

opportunity open to all students and that students who could most benefit might not be able to afford it. Ms. Varela asked for the timeline for payments and Ms. Eberhardt asked how many trips have been approved in the past and was told that usually there is an overseas trip bi-annually since 2003. The Chair suggested tabling approval of this field trip request.

Happenings: Ms. Sheehan said that Superintendent Gormley would like families to check the websites for upcoming concerts, field trips and summer reading requirements. Dr. Pavlicek talked about WAM, “We Are Milton,” the fourth annual music and fireworks festival. Fireworks will be at 10pm and Sunday will be Celtic Music Day. Ms. Sheehan noted that this year’s summer enrichment begins on June 27. Transportation registration for the coming school year will be open until June 30th. It was also noted that families of students entering Grades 6 and 9 are required to re-establish residency this summer.

Chair's Report

Topic One: Resolution on Charter Schools Ballot Program Initiative (Attachment) (Vote) This was brought to our attention by Dr. Craghead. She said there will be a question on the ballot in November regarding increasing the cap on charter schools. There is a proposal supported by Governor Baker, which would increase the cap by 12 per year. Every year, 12 more charter schools could be built. 144 more after 12 years. Right now, charter schools are taking \$400M from public schools. Milton could be losing as much as \$100,000 per year. Mr. Walker said that the MASC position is, before we support any legislation that would increase the number of charter schools, there a number of key legislative initiatives which should precede that. Dr. Craghead said there are 50 school districts in the Commonwealth who have taken a negative stance on this and 27 School Committees have approved a resolution against this.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the resolution as written with the noted modification on the third bullet to read “Reform Financing so that charter school appropriations from local Chapter 70 funding does not severely damage the sending districts.”

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Approval of July and August School Committee Meetings (Attachment) Mr. Walker talked with Dr. Donahue and Ms. Gormley about what a reasonable summer schedule might be. The dates are: June 29, July 27, Aug 10th and Aug 22 for the Retreat.

Mr. Walker moved for tentative approval of the summer schedule. There was discussion of dates, and Mr. Walker said he will ask Ms. Roche to see if an early or late July meeting might work for everyone.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Athletic Director and Director of K-12 Physical Education/Health Screening Committee. Mr. Walker noted that normally, School Committee members don't sit on Unit B screening committees, but we have done this for the AD, so if any member is interested, they may volunteer now. Ms. Bagley Jones and Ms. Varela would like to sit on the Athletic Director's screening committee.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrant (Vote) Mr. Walker noted that the new Finance Subcommittee had their first meeting. Dr. Pavlicek introduced four warrants. Before the vote, Ms. Bagley Jones asked if minutes would be available for finance subcommittee meetings. Dr. Pavlicek read four warrants:

#47 of May 19 in the amount of \$420,986.15

#48 of May 26 in the amount of \$296,401.55

#49 of June 2 in the amount of \$636,249.84

#51 of June 16 in the amount of \$602,367.34

Mr. Walker made an omnibus motion to approve all four warrants.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Transportation Subcommittee Report

Ms. Varela talked about the "Safe Routes to School Community Collaboration Award," which this subcommittee recently won. She said this was achieved by working with MPD, DPW, and the Chair of the Town Bike Advisory Committee. Ms. Varela noted that the work of the subcommittee also includes a weekly "Wednesday is Walk to School Day," and they have reached out to PTOs to give "incentive-type" prizes. She talked about getting more crossing guards and generating a better substitute list. Ms. Bagley Jones talked about how the transportation subcommittee was born and said she is very impressed with how far it has come.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Walker said that Ms. Varela asked for a tutorial on Roberts Rules of Order and the MASC is willing to do a packet on this topic, along with ethics and conflict of interest laws. Ms. Bagley Jones asked to add it to the retreat, but Mr. Walker said there may not be enough time. Ms. Varela asked about adding it at 6pm before a summer meeting and Mr. Walker said this will depend on whether the facilitator is available. The Chair then moved to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing MOU with MPD and negotiation strategy with non union personnel, the discussion of which in open session could compromise their position.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.