

**Minutes of the School Committee
School Choice Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: Wednesday, May 17th, 2017**

Committee Present: Vice Chair Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Betty White, Ada Rosmarin.

Not Present: Dr. Kevin Donahue

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 Ms. Varela, acting as Chair, called the May 17th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05pm.

Dr. Glenn Pavlicek explained how School Choice works. He showed the percentage of towns in each of the 14 counties who participate in school choice. Participation is highest in the western part of the state. Norfolk County has the lowest percentage of participation in the state, with only 21.2% taking part in School Choice.

Ms. Varela asked if anyone would like to speak on this. Nobody in audience spoke and there were no comments from School Committee members. Ms. Varela closed the public hearing.

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Approve Agenda: Ms. Varela removed Item 8 (Approval of Minutes) from the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Special Education Program Guide (Attachment.) Tracy Grandeau, Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services came to speak about the changes to the guide. They have added an

additional Grade 2 co-taught in Cunningham. At Pierce, they have a self-management support class, and they have also added a Language-Based English class at Pierce. Ms. Grandeau went on to explain all the changes in the Special Education Program and Supports. She noted that all edits are highlighted in yellow. Ms. Varela asked about the STEP program. Ms. Grandeau explained how it has evolved into a self-management class. They will no longer be using the term “STEP” to refer to this class. Ms. Varela asked about the co-taught classes at PMS and MHS. She asked if there are two teachers in these classrooms and was told that yes, there are.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley congratulated Collicot School administrators, who recently ran a successful Junior Achievement program. Dr. Craghead announced the hatching of the Glover ducklings. Next, Ms. Gormley announced this year’s recipients of the Teacher of the Year award from the MFE. Also upcoming is the Music Awards and the Boosters Banquet. Kindergarten registration is underway and for the fall of 2017, there will be 16 Kindergarten classrooms. The district buildings were designed to accommodate 14 Kindergarten classrooms. Class sizes are high. Also, for French Immersion program, entering first grade, there are currently wait lists at Glover and Tucker. Dr. Pavlicek said that by the end of summer, it is hoped that everyone will get into their program of choice. Ms. Rosmarin noted that six French Immersion classes, located at Tucker and Cunningham, have single strand. Ms. Gormley announced that several Pierce students will be attending the State Science Fair at Worcester Tech. Also upcoming is the Retiree Reception. Pierce Players will be performing “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” on June 8th and 9th. The Milton Road Race will be held on June 13th.

Ms. Varelea entertained a motion to approve the revisions to the handbook.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Chairman's Report

Topic One: School Choice. Ms. Varela entertained a motion on School Choice. Dr. Craghead moved that Milton not be a School Choice District for the FY18 School Year.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Ethics Disclosure. Ms. White’s sister, Jacqueline Morgan, is the Food Service Director for the Milton Public Schools. As a newly-elected School Committee member, Ms. White said she has filled out a disclosure forms with the Ethics Commission. She will also recuse herself from any discussion about payroll or reimbursements from the Food Service Department. Ms. Varela moved to accept Ms. White’s disclosure.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Vote: 4-0-1 (Ms. White abstained)

Topic Three: Summer Schedule. Dr. Pavlicek said that the School Committee policy is to meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Ms. Varela would like to have one meeting in July, either the 12th or the 19th. This would be a regular meeting.

The committee also tentatively set the date of the retreat for 8/23. It was suggested that the committee hold the retreat earlier in the day, with a regular School Committee meeting that same evening.

Finance Subcommittee

Topic One: Budget Update. Dr. Craghead said the Finance Subcommittee met for the first time with the new formation on May 8th. Dr. Craghead has been voted the new chair. The topic at the most recent meeting was how to disburse funds added to the non-contingent budget with state funds. The total is \$149,000. The committee discussed the fact that the expected reorganization of the technology staff could not be done without the additional funds. That \$75,000 would have to be restored to the budget, which leaves only \$74,000 left to distribute. The positions in question are a suggested a .5 elective teacher at MHS; a .5 ISTEM teacher; and a .5 instructional technology at all schools. Dr. Pavlicek outlined some cost savings due to an anticipated administrative departure. The finance subcommittee decided these are worthy expenditures. The finance subcommittee also discussed moving to a single signature for vendor warrants. A year ago, a new measure passed which allows one member to sign the vendor warrants. It was agreed that this would work well with current committee. Dr. Craghead will be the member to sign the warrants. This change was seconded and approved in finance subcommittee. Ms. Varela moved to make the aforementioned restorations to the FY18 budget.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Third Quarter Report: Dr. Pavlicek reviewed the report with the committee. He talked about the implementation of a new payroll system. Overall, for the third quarter, some budgets are a little high, some are a little low, but the district is mostly on target. Dr. Pavlicek will continue to monitor the budget. Ms. Eberhardt noted that finance subcommittee did not meet this week and therefore will review the third quarter report at next meeting. Ms. Varela moved to approve the Third Quarter Report.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Dr. Craghead

Discussion: Ms. White asked about the circuit breaker money. Dr. Pavlicek reported that the district received \$1.4 this year. Next year is based on this year and the funds come in quarterly.

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Revised Process for Signing Vendor Warrants. Ms. Varela moved to approve the revised process for vendor warrants. She read the following: "Pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 56, as amended, effective Nov 7, 2016 by Section 58, of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 -- an

act to modernize municipal finance and government, the Milton School Committee authorizes Dr. Craghead to approve draft vendor warrants to be submitted to the town accountant for examination approval and inclusion on a town warrant for payment.”

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Vote: 4-0-1 (Dr. Craghead abstained)

Topic Four: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Ms. Varela moved to approve Vendor Warrants #44, dated May 4, 2017 in the amount of \$215,322.30 and also approve Vendor Warrant #45 dated May 11, 2017 in the amount of \$305,475.06

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Next, Ms. Varela to approve Vendor Warrant #46 dated May 18, 2017 in the amount of \$527,759.27

Move: Ms. Varela \$527,759.27

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 4-0-1 (Ms. White recused herself)

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee

Ms. Varela said the principals have all forwarded the information needed to get to Mass DOT to put together the best routes to school. The report on 5th grade safety patrol has been very successful. There was discussion about Lee Toma on the bike advisory committee and the committee discussed the new speed limits voted on at town meeting. Ms. Varela reported that at Glover School, the Turner's Pond lot will be closed from 8:30-9:30 and from 2:30 to 3:30pm. Ms. Gormley said they are looking to solve the Glover problem. They will meet at Glover on Friday morning to come up with more plans.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Dr. Craghead asked for Jackie Morgan to speak about the ways in which school charges for lunch and deals with low balances. The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn from regular session and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategy for AFSCME and approval of Executive Session minutes.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm