

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: May 6th, 2015

* note: this meeting was preceded by the School Choice Open Public Hearing

Committee Present: Mike Zullas, Chair; Becky Padera, Vice Chair, Leroy Walker, Kristan Bagley Jones (arrived late), Sheila Varela, Kevin Donahue.

Student Reps: Matt McCarthy, Audrey Erickson, Spencer Torres.

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

Call to Order: The Chair called the May 6th, 2015 meeting School Committee to order at 7:08 pm.

Approve Agenda: The chair moved Items 4 a, b, c and d (Approval of Minutes) to the last item of the Chairman's Report. He deleted Item 6c (Town Meeting Update) and deleted Item 7 (Health & Wellness Subcommittee Report), which was later reinstated.

Citizens Speak: There were no speakers for Citizens Speak.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: The Milton High School Life Smarts Team was invited to attend, along with Club Advisor Nancy Mikels. Team Captain Nolan Carvalho introduced the team. Each student, Liam Chase, Albert Ednedy and Sindhu Banerjee all spoke about their recent competition in Seattle. Each of the school committee members congratulated the team on their performance at States and Nationals. Next year's competition is in Denver.

** Mr. Zullas took a moment to introduce the Student Reps to the new School Committee members.

Topic Two: The Milton High School Future Business Leaders, along with Club Advisor Allen Melanson, were invited to speak at School Committee about their recent win at the state competition, which qualified them to go to Nationals in Chicago this June. Mr. Melanson noted that FBLA is a national organization comprised of students interested in careers in business. Brandon Musto described the work of the chapter. In the last year, they have

doubled membership, collected candy to send to the troops, raised money for the club by sending bandanas, sunglasses, lollipops. They attended the State Leadership Conference in April and placed in the top four teams. The team is going to Chicago for National Conference. Mr. Zullas and other School Committee members congratulated Mr. Melanson and the rest of the team.

* note: Ms. Bagley Jones arrived at 7:31pm

Mr. Melanson talked about the ties they sell as a fundraiser and mentioned the May 30th, car wash at Cunningham School.

Topic Three: Milton High School Swim Team Proposal (Attachment) (Vote) Larry Rooney, John Zitz and Eileen Heller came before the committee to speak about the proposal to create a Varsity Swim Team at Milton High School. There has been a Swim Club for the past three years. Under guidance of Eileen Heller, the swim club was formed three years ago. The club received great support from parents and students. There are 12 schools in Bay State Conference, all of whom have Varsity Swim except for Milton. By becoming a co-ed, team we would be 7th Winter Co-ed Swim team in the Bay State, and the MIAA will now recognize this as a league. This would make our swim program more legitimate. It would also help us to be in line with MIAA and Bay State Conference. We had three very strong swimmers this past season who would have qualified for post-season play if we had been a varsity sport. The first year, there were 14 swimmers, then 22, then 27. They hope to have 30 moving forward. Mr. Zitz said it's his first year coaching high school. He used to coach a national team and is enjoying this experience. Ms. Heller said it's important to achieve varsity status. Right now, we have to call coaches to ask if they'll compete against us. If we're varsity, we can automatically get a schedule. Mr. Rooney said this club will be self-sustaining moving forward and will not require money from athletic budget. Mr. Walker thanked the team for the work they've done so far. Ms. Padera said this is the kind of sport that so all-inclusive and said she'd love for it to move forward. Dr. Donahue asked about the benefit in terms of college/university recruiting when the team is classified as club sport vs. varsity sport and Mr. Rooney confirmed this. Mr. Zitz added that not only will colleges look more favorably on the varsity status of the team, but now the top swimmers will be exposed to recruiting opportunities at state level competitions. Ms. Varela asked how co-ed teams work and whether the girls race against the boys. She was told that they do. Ms. Bagley Jones noted that the fee is \$400 and it will stay the higher fee. What if people can't afford it? How do they get on the team? Mr. Rooney explained the rental fee for Egan Center is one reason why the fee is high. He said that students on free & reduced lunch will not pay. Ms. Bagley Jones said this is part of her concern. Hockey is \$600 and is not self-sustaining. Ms. Gormley said that other sports have gone through this process and have continued to be self-sustaining. The chair entertained a motion to approve swimming as a varsity sport. Mr. Walker moved to designate swimming as a self-sustaining varsity sport with the flexibility to set fees at a level sufficient to cover their expense.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Four: FY16 State Budget Update, Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs. Dr. Pavlicek said that legislature has voted a little bit more money for Chapter 70, which is for Full Day Kindergarten.

Happenings: Chairman Zullas gave a summary of the Walk to School Day. Massachusetts Walk and Ride to School Day was this morning. It was a successful day with many students, parents, guardians and dogs walking to school. Ms. Gormley credited Glover parent Erik Ask, who has championed this project. Matt McCarthy said the Boosters are preparing for the upcoming Boosters Banquet. Ms. Gormley noted that the Milton SEPAC will be holding a Roundtable event on Monday, May 11th with presentations and a Q&A. Matt McCarthy said that Best Buddies group is working with parents to provide Day Care for this meeting.

Chairman's Report

**** Mr. Zullas noted that it is Teacher Appreciation Week *****

Topic One: School Choice (Attachment). Mr. Zullas opened the discussion. The chair moved to NOT accept school choice for the Milton Public Schools for the FY16 school year.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Discussion: The chair asked Ms. Gormley for her recommendation. She recommended that Milton does not participate in School Choice as a receiving school district. Ms. Varela asked if the receiving district has received any funding from the incoming student in the past. Ms. Gormley said the receiving district does receive funds from the student's home district, but she said we have never participated in School Choice.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: School Committee Subcommittee (Attachment) Mr. Zullas said he thought there would be nominations, but there are still some decisions to be made, so he will add this to the next meeting. There were no objections.

Topic Three: Third Quarter Report (Attachment) (Vote). Dr. Pavlicek referred to the packet and noted that as of April 1st, the numbers haven't changed. The district is on track with the budget and projecting out costs for staffing. We should finish the year on target and in good shape. With two months left, we are in the process of cleaning up purchase orders, tracking down any outstanding expenditures. Mr. Zullas asked Dr. Pavlicek to explain to the new members what the vote for approval means. Dr. Pavlicek said that a vote is simply the committee accepting the report.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

Topic Four: Approval of Vendor Warrants.

Mr. Zullas explained that two vendor warrants were signed and submitted for payment since the last School Committee meeting. Pro forma vote to approve "for the record"

#44 on April 30th for \$471,464.68

Mr. Zullas asked Dr. Pavlicek to explain why the School Committee votes on the warrant. Dr. Pavlicek said the vote is a formal motion for the record that the committee has signed and approved this.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

#45 of May 7th for \$236,939.38

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Walker abstained)

*Mr. Walker said when the committee signs the warrant, they are approving payments to vendor shown and the amount shown. They are also confirming that there is sufficient amount in the line item to cover them. Mr. Zullas said the cover sheet now has this information.

Approval of Minutes:

November 24, 2014 (this is a Finance Subcommittee meeting, which became an official School Committee meeting because four School Committee members attended)

Mr. Zullas advocated that members vote to approve these minutes because they accurately reflect what occurred at the meeting. Mr. Walker and Mr. Zullas discussed the points of Roberts Rules about whether the members need to be present to be counted. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if this issue could be dealt with at the School Committee retreat this summer. Ms. Padera clarified for the new members, that usually, if you're not at a meeting, you abstain from the vote, but you can also vote if you want to. There was a suggestion to table these minutes until the next meeting. Mr. Zullas chose to proceed with a vote and reiterated that these minutes accurately reflect what happened at the meeting.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 4 yes, 2 abstentions (KBJ and KD)

March 18, 2015

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Bagley Jones

Vote: 4-0-2 (KD and SV)

April 1, 2015

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Vote: 4-0-2 (KD and SV)

April 15, 2015

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Edit: Ms. Bagley Jones was omitted from "Members Present"

Vote: 4-0-2 (KD and SV)

* Ms. Gormley said this is a huge job and thanked Ms. Downes and Mr. Zullas for bringing them up to date.

The chair moved to reinstate the Health and Wellness Subcommittee report back on the agenda

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Padera

Vote: 6-0-0

Health & Wellness Subcommittee:

Ms. Bagley Jones gave an update on the work of this committee. They recently heard from BPAC and said they are doing an incredible job. Ms. Gormley is a fan of Chemical Awareness Night. Also, would like to find ways on how to get other students who don't play sports involved. The subcommittee talked about bullying issues and health education. Jackie Morgan was praised for the breakfast cart. Ms. Sheehan talked about the curricula on core social and emotional learning and said they would make a recommendation to the Superintendent as to what will be a good curriculum.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

For the May 20th meeting: Subcommittee nominations. Also, be sure the meeting is posted for tomorrow night before TM. Mr. Walker asked for the Parent Outreach Liaison goals for FY 15-16. Also, requested report on whether all first graders have library cards. Ms. Bagley Jones asked for date of summer retreat. Mr. Zullas explained how this retreat about spending time to develop goals and objectives.

The chair moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

