

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High Library
Date: April 13, 2016

Committee Present

Michael Zullas, Chair; Becky Padera, Vice Chair; Kristan Bagley Jones, Sheila Varela, Kevin Donahue.

Not Present:

Mr. Walker (arrived when committee re-convened)

Student Reps: Grace Varela

Staff Present

Mary Gormley, Superintendent; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Human Resources; Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:50pm. The chair immediately moved to go into Executive Session

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The committee moved into Executive Session, to return to open session shortly.

* Executive Session

The committee returned to Open Session and the chair called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Approval of Agenda

The chair moved to change the order of the agenda. He moved the Collective Bargaining Agreement vote from Item 4a to Item 5a, then re-ordered the rest of the items under the Chair's Report. He also removed Item 4b (Preliminary Field Trip Approval) and Item 8a (Second Reading of Security Camera Policy) With no other changes, the agenda was approved.

At this point in the meeting, the MHS marching band gave a brief performance to thank Mr. Zullas and Ms. Padera for their service to the School Committee. Ms. Gormley spoke about Mr. Zullas and Ms. Padera's accomplishments during their terms on the School Committee and other School Committee members also thanked them.

* Mr. Walker arrived at this point in the meeting.

Citizens Speak

There were no speakers

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Glover/Tucker Spelling Bee Teams/Finalists/Coaches. Debra Fidrocki, Kathleen Powers, Melissa Ahern, Heather Morris and Debbie Muse (not present) were the coaches of the elementary spelling bee clubs. Each of the students who were finalists in the spelling bee competition spoke about their experience in the spelling bee. They were all congratulated by the administration and the School Committee.

Happenings: Grace Varela announced the "Putting for Patients," fundraiser to be held in the field house next weekend. Half the funds will go to the Jimmy Fund and the other half to Student Government. Ms. Gormley talked about the success of the Celebration for Education. Ms. Gormley announced that the nomination packets are being sent out by the MFE Teacher of the Year committee. She also announced the resignation of Dr. Sheila Kukstis at Glover Elementary School. Director of Fine and Applied Arts, Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett will be retiring and Curriculum Coordinator Stephanie Nephew will be moving. Ms. Gormley announced that MHS Girls Cross Country Coach Tom Shaw has been named coach of the year; and Eileen Heller has been given the Eastern Mass Swim Coaches' Service Award for Merit.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Mr. Zullas announced that the bargaining units have reached agreements. These teams have been meeting since last October and their efforts resulted in a three year contract. The agreements include 2% increases each year, the addition of an additional step increase for those with 25 years; a change to the health insurance split from an 80/20 split to a 24/76 split; an update to the practice of taking personal days; and several other changes.

Topic Two: Update on Request for School Committee Approval of Wilson-Kindelan School. Regarding the approval of new schools within Milton, Mr. Zullas said it is the School Committee's responsibility to ensure the school meets the minimum time requirements for learning time. At the last meeting, it was suggested this issue be referred to Policy Subcommittee. This school hopes to open in September of 2016. There are 11 factors sent out by DESE and the committee should start there to develop a procedure for a request to approve. Dr. Donahue said the Policy Subcommittee has started the initial steps. Mr. Walker said that a May or June time frame is aggressive and he's not sure if approval will happen that fast. Ms. Varela asked if the school cannot open without School Committee approval. Mr. Zullas said that without approval, the founder cannot offer a school that will meet the minimum requirements of attendance. Dr. Donahue said that in order to be as objective as possible, they have to craft the policy before review of her proposal.

Topic Three: Jerry and Janet Lorden came to discuss the STEM Garden Institute. The couple described a curriculum-based program that introduces agriculture to students. Ms. Bagley Jones asked if they were interested in bringing the program to Milton. Mr. Lorden said, at first glance, it looks like it's only about plants. But as you peel away, you can see all the different

components. They left supporting materials with the School Committee at the conclusion of their presentation.

Topic Three: Non-Employee Security Badges. This discussion was begun at the last meeting. The issue was raised that non-employees who have not had background checks, but who have free access to all schools at all times, poses a security risk. Also, to allow access to all schools appears to be at odds with another policy which requires scheduling building visits through and the building principal.

Mr. Walker moved to maintain the status quo. He said he was deeply involved in this issue from the very beginning. He said the issue of badges was discussed at a prior meeting. At the time, he said the School Committee reached an agreement that those members who wanted access to the school buildings with an all-access security badge could have them, and those who didn't were not required to take them. This doesn't relieve those people of the responsibility of telling the principal or superintendent that they're visiting the building, he said. Mr. Walker made the motion "to maintain the status quo regarding Non-Employee Security Badges."

Move: Mr. Walker

Ms. Varela said she thought that everyone who had a badge had been CORId and is surprised this is not the case. Mr. Zullas said that School Committee members are not CORId. Ms. Varela asked, other than School Committee members, what other non-employees get badges? Ms. Gormley said there are no others. Mr. Walker said the policy that was agreed on at the time stated that no non-employees, other than School Committee members, should have badges. Ms. Varela said she has no objection to having a CORI requirement Ms. Padera said she does not remember voting on a policy which authorized badges for School Committee members. She said that even if we haven't had a problem in the past, that doesn't mean we won't have one in the future. Other volunteers, such as PTO presidents could make the case that they should have them. Also, she pointed out that all Milton Public Schools employees are not only CORId, but also fingerprinted and supervised. She said having this badges certainly could create the potential for going into schools unannounced, unsupervised.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Dr. Donahue said this matter should be referred back to the Policy Subcommittee. There are merits on both sides. Ms. Bagley Jones said she has never had a badge and supports the idea that all School Committee members should be CORId. Mr. Zullas noted that when School Committee members show up at school, we have no authority as individuals. During the day in a school, we have zero authority over anyone or anything. We have authority only when we act as a body. It's overstepping our authority to have free access to get into schools without security. He said he does not remember the executive session discussion which created a policy and/or authorized School Committee badges. He said if Dr. Donahue's friendly amendment to refer to Policy Subcommittee and Ms. Varela's friendly amendment to require CORIs from School Committee members were part of the motion, he could get behind it.

Mr. Walker amended the motion to maintain status quo regarding security badges, but to require School Committee members to submit to a CORI check and to refer the issue to Policy Subcommittee.

Move: Mr. Walker

Ms. Bagley Jones suggested programming the badges to only allow access to certain schools during certain hours. Mr. Zullas asked if there any need to have access to any school other than the high school? Ms. Padera would like everything looked at and the CORI checks done before we go back to having badges. There are many things that need to be figured out before we go back to status quo. Dr. Donahue said we are micromanaging the discussion at the moment. It would be “cleaner” to refer to Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Zullas said there is no need to access any other schools beside MHS. Mr. Zullas made a friendly amendment to restrict the badges to the Milton High School campus only. Mr. Walker did not accept the friendly amendment.

Mr. Zullas noted that the current motion is to preserve status quo, refer to policy subcommittee and consent to CORI.

Vote: 4 in favor; 2 opposed (Ms. Padera and Mr. Zullas against)

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY17 Budget - Town Meeting Presentation. The subcommittee is working on the presentation. They will circulate to all members by the end of the week. Ms. Gormley said that Monday the 25th would work.

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Dr. Pavlicek introduced two warrants. Vendor Warrant #41 (deferred from last meeting) in the amount of \$471,852.95 dated April 7th, 2016 and Vendor Warrant #42 dated April 14th, 2016 in the amount of \$304,799.88. This warrant needs signatures.

Dr. Pavlicek noted there is a payment to Milton Police Department for \$70,000 for a second School Resource Officer. This is Intra-fund transfer. Mr. Walker suggested the payment request be referred to the Finance Subcommittee.

Mr. Walker moved to approve Warrant #41

Move: Mr. Walker

Second Mr. Zullas

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker asked to defer Warrant #42

Mr. Walker asked to add another item to the agenda regarding Community Schools.

Mr. Zullas moved to add "pay raises for communities school staff" to the agenda as Item 6c.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Walker explained the discussion of pay raises for Community Schools. They will receive the same 2% raise as the bargaining units received. Another matter had to do with the recommendation to equalize the pay rates for camp staff over 18 and under 18; and the After School Enrichment Program. He said the recommendation to equalize the pay is warranted. Camp staff over 18 and under 18 pay rates should be equal to the ASE pay rates. The ASE supervisor should get at Step 1 rate and a Step 2 rate. Moved both of those items. NEED TO CLARIFY. REVIEW BACKUP WITH PAM HERE

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Mr. Zullas

Vote: 5-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones out of the room)

Approval of Minutes

The chair entertained a motion to approve the March 16, 2016 minutes of the Milton School Committee. Mr. Walker made an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of March 2, March 16 and April 6 minutes.

Move: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0 (Ms. Bagley Jones out of room)

Health & Wellness Subcommittee:

Ms. Bagley Jones announced there will be a forum in October with the Milton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition -- "Hidden in Plain Sight," with details to follow. They are finishing up the work of the committee. She told a story about an MHS student who was helped by a Health class. She reported that she is looking forward to her work on the Social Emotional Learning Committee. Ms. Varela asked, will the survey results (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) from the parents be the next step? Ms. Bagley Jones said the Youth Risk Behavior survey is a statewide survey, but the parents survey is coming from the Milton Coalition.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Organizational meeting on 4/27

The chair moved to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing Negotiation Strategy for Collective Bargaining with non union personnel and approval of minutes, and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Mr. Zullas

Second: Mr. Walker

Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for 4/27/16.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

MD