

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Milton Access Cable Studio
Milton High School
February 5, 2020
7pm

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

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Karen Spaulding, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources; Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

2. **Approve February 5, 2020 Agenda**

Updated and approved

3. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes)**

None

4. **Superintendent's Report**

a. **Tucker Elementary School - Site Council Presentation**

- Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai, Principal/School Representative
- Mrs. Caitlin Deptula, Assistant Principal/ELA & Math Curriculum Coordinator/School Representative
- Mrs. Lateefah Franck, Parent Representative
- Mrs. Kirsten Driscoll, Teacher/School Representative
- Mrs. Stacey Solomon, Parent Representative
- Mrs. Aatiyah Paulding, Parent Representative
- Mrs. Beverly Ross Denny, Parent Representative
- Mrs. Merry McGrory, Teacher Representative
- Mrs. Emily Speck, Parent Representative
- Mrs. Lisa Gilbert-Smith, Parent Representative

Tucker elementary School

- 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan Review
- 2019-2020 Updates
- Life as a Tucker Tiger!

The mission of the Milton Public Schools is to educate, challenge, and empower all students to be productive, caring, and contributing members of society.

Who we are:

- 460 students in Preschool-Grade Five; in 2019 added a 4th strand to our Kindergarten team
- A student body and faculty, which prides itself on diversity and achievement
- A school that houses district programs including the Half Day Integrated & Full Day Preschool
- Educators who partner with Boston University School of Social Work , Boston University Early Childhood Community Initiatives Program, Historic New England, and the Northeastern University Center for STEM
- A collaborative team working towards removing all barriers to student success!

Tucker School Goal 1 Data:

Goal 1-As part of the district's improvement plan for high academic achievement for all students, we will work to increase the number of students scoring in the meeting and exceeding category on state assessments in all subgroups.

- Progress toward improvement targets
 - 62% substantial progress toward targets
- Accountability percentile
 - 86%

Goal 1-As part of the district's improvement plan for high academic achievement for all students, we will work to increase the number of students scoring in the meeting and exceeding category on state assessments in all subgroups.

Data Highlights

- Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on the 4th Grade ELA MCAS increased from 63% to 70% since last year.
- Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on the 5th Grade ELA MCAS increased from 63% to 70% since last year.
- Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on the 5th Grade Math MCAS increased from 67% to 70% since last year.
- The African-American/Black Subgroup Met the Target on the 5th Grade STE MCAS.
- The Students with Disabilities Subgroup Exceeded the Target for attendance.

Goal 1-As part of the district's improvement plan for high academic achievement for all students, we will work to increase the number of students scoring in the meeting and exceeding category on state assessments in all subgroups.

Data Highlights (Cohort Model)

- Grade 4 Cohort 2019
- More students Met or Exceeded Expectations on the 4th Grade Math MCAS compared to their performance the previous year.
- 58% in 2018 (as 3rd grade students)
- 70% in 2019 (as 4th grade students)

- Grade 5 Cohort 2019
- More students Met or Exceeded Expectations on the 5th Grade ELA MCAS compared to the performance previous years.
- 60% in 2017
- 63% in 2018
- 70% in 2019

Goal 1-As part of the district's improvement plan for high academic achievement for all students, we will work to increase the number of students scoring in the meeting and exceeding category on state assessments in all subgroups.

Areas for Growth

- The percent of students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations is consistently between 60% and 70% for all grades and all areas with Grade 3 not yet making 70% in either subject. Our specific goal is to increase the percent of ALL STUDENTS Meeting or Exceeding Expectations to 75% for all grades and all areas.
- Our subgroup data continues to show disparities across socio-economic, racial, and high needs lines. Our specific goal is to decrease the difference in the percent of students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations to within 10% for all subgroups and their counterparts.

Goal 1-As part of the district's improvement plan for high academic achievement for all students, we will work to increase the number of students scoring in the meeting and exceeding category on state assessments in all subgroups.

2018-2019

- FOSS curriculum fully implemented K-5; Piloting FOSS Pre-K kits
- Social Studies Fair/Science Fair incorporated into 5th grade curriculum
- Training students and families to manage “tricky” math
- Creation of the Rising Stars program to increase math proficiency, confidence and teamwork (Calculus Project) beginning in Grade 4
- Teacher data meetings protocol in place

2019-2020

- Improved assessment platforms-Otus to provide additional online assessments with readily available data to teachers
- District and school based data meetings across content areas
- Response to Intervention (RTI) Block in Grades 1-4
- Leveraging best practices across colleagues through Peer Observation opportunities
- Targeted programming for the lowest performing group

Tucker School Goal 2 Data

Goal 2-We will work towards 85% of our students reading at or above grade level by the end of Grade 3 and all students K-5 will be able to read and respond to text(s) across the curriculum as measured by Reach for Reading Assessments and the MCAS assessments in Grade 3-5.

- This year in addition we have added an additional district assessment-Lexia Rapid Literacy Assessment.
- This research-based, computer-adaptive reading and language assessment allows educators to gather predictive, norm-referenced data up to three times a year, with **immediate scoring** and reports.
- RAPID for Grades K–2 measures students’ foundational skills in the key reading and language domains of Word Recognition, Academic Language, and Reading Comprehension.
- RAPID for Grades 3–12 measures complex knowledge, understanding, and application of skills within these domains.
- Students K-5 completed the assessment in the Fall and completed the Winter Assessment in January 2020. Key data findings show:
 - In Grade 3 there was improvement in every area of skill development
 - Word Recognition 66% to 70%
 - Vocabulary Knowledge 83% to 91%
 - Syntactic Knowledge 73% to 77%
 - Reading Comprehension 69% to 79%

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2018-2019

- Year two of Reach implementation with a focus on drilling deeper
- Teacher Professional Learning Community around small group learning and literacy instruction
- Providing high quality literacy opportunities through book clubs in grades 3-5
- Author visits
- Increasing our Tucker library catalog

2019-2020

- Lexia Rapid
- RTI
- Reading and Writing across the curriculum
- Non-fiction Science, Math and Social Studies texts in all curricula
- Math & Science journals
- Literacy Enrichment opportunities
- Beyond the Bell
- Gr. 3 Saturday Academy
- Gr. 4/5 Mentoring
- Gr. 5 Rising Stars

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Goal 3-Tucker School will develop a community of respect, collaboration and achievement amongst all stakeholders to ensure the optimal learning environment for student success.

- Engagement
 - 51.5% - Enjoy quite a bit
 - 34% - Enjoy a tremendous amount
 - 11.3% - Enjoy somewhat
- Belonging
 - 46.4% - Quite a bit of belonging
 - 41.2% - Tremendous belonging
 - 10.3% - Some belonging
- Respect
 - 41.7% - Quite a bit of respect
 - 49% - A tremendous amount of respect

Tucker School Goal 3 Strategies:

Goal 3-Tucker School will develop a community of respect, collaboration and achievement amongst all stakeholders to ensure the optimal learning environment for student success.

2018-2019

- Social Studies Fair Enhancements
- Teacher Leadership Team
- PBIS
- Tucker MLK Service Day
- Tucker Talks!
- Celebrating Our Differences Curriculum Grade 4
- Tucker Raffle & Movement Day leading to increased field trip opportunities
- Community Supper Expansion
- 5th Grade Transition Groups
- 2 social work interns from Boston University School of Social Work

2019-2020

- Behavioral Health team established
- School Climate Survey distributed to families
- Tucker Talks in Year 2-Wee the People session in Dec. 2019 focused on “How to Talk to kids about Racism”
- Tucker Cares community service program in full implementation
- Grade 5 Safety Patrol
- Transition activities for Grade 5
- Pen Pal Picnic
- Girls and Boys Groups
- Tucker Site Council Initiatives

- Community Awareness
- Indoor Recess Opportunities
- RAD Expansion

Tucker School Goal 3 – In action

Goal 3-Tucker School will develop a community of respect, collaboration and achievement amongst all stakeholders to ensure the optimal learning environment for student success.

Ms. White commented great presentation, the goals are remarkable and the survey was amazing. Ms. White had a budget question, can you talk about the Technology Teacher position we are trying to restore, how would adding the teacher back be helpful to Tucker? Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai replied we saw a difference when we had integrated technology in the curriculum, getting everyone to utilize and use different aspects of the online platform. We felt change, it's a tight schedule, we plan three months in advance, have no flexibility. Two technology teachers would make a difference, students need the support and staff with the curriculum.

Dr. Donahue commented that the Tucker Presentation was excellent. Dr. Donahue asked if Tucker could talk about the importance of common planning space for faculty. Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai replied all space is utilized and tight at Tucker, every space is used for planning, meeting and educating. We need space to collaborate.

Chair Varela asked about Lexia Rapid Literacy Assessment and how it is different from Reach for Reading. Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai replied Lexia is new and provides great data, ton of software with real time results.

Chair Varela commented that between the Lexia and Otus it really must be helpful to personalize where students are; it's very exciting and great to see the results.

Superintendent Gormley stated that the elementary teachers have to be given a tremendous amount of credit for embracing the new programs. Dr. Craghead agreed and stated that the programs are clearly working.

Chair Varela asked about recess and the small outdoor space? Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai replied 60-80 students are allowed out at a time with ratio of 1 to 40. It is difficult; we try to stagger the times to allow time to get in and out of the building quietly without disrupting other classes.

Ms. Eberhardt commented that Tucker Community is amazing. Believes that the Tucker Faculty does not waste a minute of their day and all of their efforts are commendable.

Chair Varela agreed that Tucker is a great community; it's a small jewel in our district. It continues to grow, great to see so much joy and support. Thanked the Site Council for all of their time and effort.

Superintendent Gormley asked about the Activity Fair taking place at Tucker. Dr. Elaine McNeil-Girmai replied the Activity Fair gives the community the opportunity to sign up for sports, music, clubs and library programs. It has been a huge success.

b. Milton High School Program of Studies

- Principal James Jette

Superintendent Gormley invited James Jette to speak about the MHS Program of Studies.

James Jette reported that there has been a request to change the Speech requirement. Currently have 231 seniors and 305 8th graders. Our enrollment has grown and our classes are overcrowded. Instead of making Speech a requirement, it would be changed to an elective class but still incorporating Speech into the English, History and World Language. MHS values Speech but we need the teachers in other core classes at this time.

Dr. Craghead supported Mr. Jette in regards to the course change but had concerns that students need this course and students that have issues with public speaking would avoid the speech elective.

Mr. Jette agreed with Dr. Craghead but assured The School Committee that Speech would be inserted into English, History and World Language. And with the new block schedule it would allow teachers more time to give opportunities for students to give speech presentations.

Chair Varela commented that she was concerned with the class sizes in the core classes. Honor classes are also growing and we need more teachers but also have budget issues. Glad to hear that Speech would be incorporated into other classes. If we could get an additional 3 English/History classes that would be a huge improvement to lower class sizes.

Mr. Jette commented that all classes at MHS, core or electives are all valued.

Ms. White asked about the other classes (Culinary, Wood, and Automotive). How are the class sizes? Mr. Jette replied the classes are also flooded but still allowing students to have a safe and positive experience in classes.

Ms. Eberhardt stated she was hesitant with the change in the Speech requirement, understanding there is a budget issue but still wants to make sure the students receive the skills needed.

Ms. Rosmarin asked about the Speech expectations once inserted in classes, how much opportunity would be given to the students? Will clear expectations be set so Speech is not forgotten? Mr. Jette replied that Barbara Wright has done a great job working with teachers in all departments, preparing them for all the skill set needed. The expectation is that Speech will continue in English, History and World Language.

Dr. Donahue commented that this is a difficult job assembling the course offerings, core program with various high interest electives and high values electives. He commended Mr. Jette for doing all the work and for coming to School Committee.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve Milton High School Program of Studies 2020-2021 with the noted changes.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

c. South Shore Educational Collaborative

Superintendent Gormley asked the School Committee to Vote to allow Whitman Hanson Regional School District to join the South Shore Education Collaborative.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve Whitman Hanson Regional School District to join the South Shore Education Collaborative.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

d. Happenings

Teen Center Opening – Ms. White reported that the space is beautiful, bright and the furniture looks comfortable. There are homework areas, air hockey and different activities/games available.

Superintendent Gormley reported:

- 2 Act Plays were a success
- Kindergarten Registration will take place at the Cunningham Gym (wee of February 10-14)
- First Grade Information Night – February 25th – MHS Auditorium
- Stem Information Night – March 2nd – MHS Auditorium

5. Chair's Report

a. Update on FY21 Budget Meetings

Chair Varela reported on February 12, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Milton High School Auditorium there will be a brief presentation of the FY21 budget. Ms. Rosmarin has organized Milton Access TV to attend to video the presentation so it will be available to view if you are unable to attend. All parents/guardians and community members are welcome to attend.

6. Finance Subcommittee Report

a. FY21 Budget Update

Dr. Craghead reported that the Finance Subcommittee continue to meet and look at the budget issues.

b. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #31 payable January 30, 2020 in the amount of \$184,058.72.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-1

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #32 payable February 6, 2020 in the amount of \$223,681.31.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

7. School Building Committee Update

Ms. Rosmarin reported that the School Building Committee is preparing a statement of interest that is due on April 8, 2020. The decision will be based on urgency and cost, it will be competitive.

- Continue to look at possible sites
- Beginning plans for public info session
- Going forward at Town Meeting
- Study of space needs

8. Old Business

None

9. Citizen Speak Topic Response

None

10. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Next meeting agenda was edited and updated to be provided at the next meeting.

11. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes)

None

12. Executive Session

Chair Varela moved to adjourn to go into Executive Session not to return to the open session for the purpose of discussion of Negotiation Strategy for Union Personnel, AFSCME, MEA and discussion regarding MEA Unit D Grievance.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm