

Milton School Committee Meeting
Via Remote Access
May 6, 2020
7pm

Committee Present: Sheila Varela, Chair; Dr. Elaine 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

(Conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.)

School Choice Open Public Hearing

1. Call to Order the School Choice Open Public Hearing - 7pm
 - Chair Varela explained the rules and guidelines of the Open School Choice.
 - Dr. Pavlicek also commented that School Choice would allow students from other towns to attend Milton Public Schools and would need to vote by June 1st or schools are automatically enrolled.

SCHOOL CHOICE

It is the policy of the Milton Public Schools to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Interdistrict School Choice Law (M.G.L. 76: 12B) and under the following local conditions:

1. That by May 1 of every school year, the administration will determine the number of spaces in each school available to choice students.
2. That by June 1 of every school year, if consideration is being given to withdraw from the provisions of the school choice law, a public meeting will be held to review this decision.
3. That resident students be given priority placement in any classes or programs within the Milton Public Schools.
4. That the selection of non-resident students for admission when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces be in the form of a random drawing. There will be two (2) drawings for this purpose. The first will take place during the last week of the current school year but no later than July 1st. The second will be conducted during the

week immediately preceding the opening of the next school year and will be based on the possibility of unexpected additional openings.

5. Any student who is accepted for admission under the provisions of this policy is entitled to remain in the Milton Public Schools until the graduation from high school except if there is a lack of funding of the program.
6. The School Committee affirms its position that it shall not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, gender conformity, gender transitioning, transgender status, gender variance, ancestry, athletic performance, disability, pregnancy, pregnancy related condition, academic performance or proficiency in the English language.

Chair Varela made a motion to adjourn from School Choice Hearing.

1. **Call to order the Regular May 6, 2020 Milton School Committee Meeting - 7:10pm**
2. **Approve May 6, 2020 Agenda**
Updated and approved
3. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 minutes)**
None
4. **Superintendent's Report**
 - a. Milton High School Presentation - Principal James Jette

AGENDA

- Student Testimonies
- Grading Expectations
- Annual Assessments
- AP Exams
- College Process - Impact of COVID 19
- Detrimental Consequences of COVID 19
- School Closure Highlights

STUDENT TESTIMONIES

- Halle Armstrong - Senior
- Alix Benoit - Junior
- Arianna Simpson - Sophomore
- Barron Clancy - Sophomore
- Kiera Glazer - Freshman

STUDENT TESTIMONIES

- How did you initially feel about the school closure/remote learning?
- What do you find to be the biggest challenge?
- Are there any positives given the challenges we're experiencing?
- What do you miss most about school prior to March 13th?
- What are you most concerned about moving forward?

Students speak regarding remote learning experience

- Kiera Glazer - Freshman spoke about missing friends, school community and clubs. Biggest challenge would be the zoom conflicts, at times my classes overlapped making me choose which class to attend. Commented that she has adjusted well to the remote learning and Milton High School has done a good job over all.
- Barron Clancy - Sophomore spoke about missing clubs, activities and friends at school. Milton High has done a good job adjusting to the online learning.
- Alix Benoit - Junior spoke about how things changed so quickly, first nobody seemed concerned and within a couple of days school was cancelled. Milton High has done an excellent job providing learning opportunities. But at the same time understanding that it is stressful and teachers understand. Learning/adjustment curve. Having the adjustment counselors classroom is helpful for the struggling students. Challenges were not experienced in the school atmosphere. Adjusting has been tough. Positives to see the more human/friendly aspects of teachers. Seeing videos from staff was nice and enjoyable.
- Halle Armstrong - Senior stated the experience has been different for her. She didn't think it would be this long. Challenge has been an online learning, concerned about the AP test coming up. Misses the classroom experience and hands on learning. Staying motivated has been tough. Positive outcome would be resilient due to this experience. Concerned about missing the curriculum, missing out on the instructuring. Guidance has been helpful with the scholarship and writing recommendations.
- Arianna Simpson - Sophomore commented that school has always been her sanuatory and an outlet. Loved being with peers and the whole school environment. When she first heard about Covid19 she was nervous about not being able to participate in a sport or any activities. She reported that she was not motivated when it came to online learning. Challenge is just getting her work done, it's a different learning through zoom, missing the classroom instruction. Being in her own household environment realized that she needed some time management. Misses school, peers, teachers, and sports. Being isolated is the biggest challenge and just so sad. We want to be with our community. Concerned about not being as confident to move onto my junior year.

Principal Jette thanked students for speaking to the School Committee and Administration. Also thanked Vice Principal Ben Kelly and Department Heads, faculty and staff.

Dr. Donahue commented to the students that they have worked very hard to adapt to a different way of learning. Encouraged by the efforts of the students and the adaptations from staff. Thanked the students for joining the School Committee meeting and stated that they should

continue to be vocal with administration providing your feedback. Work as hard as you can, best wishes getting through this process.

Dr. Craghead thanked the students for sharing their perspectives and taking their time to speak tonight. Usually in the Site Council presentation we talk a lot about the students and thanked Principal Jette for having the students speak tonight. Helps the School Committee gain some insight into what the students are going through.

Chair Varela thanked the students for being so honest about the pros and cons and thank Principal Jette for asking the students to speak, it is always great to hear from students. Chair Varela stated that she loves when the students are present on committees because you get the real truth when the students are there.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

- The well being of our students, families and staff
- Opportunities for learning must be equitable
- Remote Learning is necessary at this time
- Keys Skills and Content Material
- Student Engagement - Check-Ins

3RD QUARTER GRADES

- Work assigned between January 31st and March 13th
- Students can work to improve their numerical/letter grade
- Deadline for term 3 will be Friday, May 15th
- No final exams for any courses
- Student Engagement

4TH QUARTER GRADES

- Work assigned between April 6th and June 23rd
- Graded as Credit (Pass) or No Credit
- Students completing 60% of the work will receive Credit
- Students who fail to complete 60% of work will receive No Credit (59%) for Term 4
- No Final Exams for Courses

GRADING FOR FULL YEAR COURSES

- Final Grades for full year courses will be recognized using traditional numerical/letter grades
- Term 1 = 30%
- Term 2 = 30%
- Mid Year Exam = 10%
- Term 3 = 20%
- Term 4 = 10%
- Transcript will reflect the final grade only!

GRADING FOR SEMESTER 2 CLASSES

- Final Grades for Semester Courses will be graded as Credit/No Credit
- The weighting for to determine Credit (Pass) or No Credit for Semester courses will be as follows:
 - Term 3 = 60%
 - Term 4 = 40%
- Students that earn at least 60% for the course will receive Credit (“P”)
- Students that fail to earn Credit (F)
- Report Card and Transcript will reflect a final grade of “P” or “F” only

Principal Jette asked if anyone had questions about the grading?

Dr. Craghead had a question about the credit recovery, and asked Principal Jette to please explain. Principal Jette replied even when school is in session if a student falls short of a passing grade D- we offer them support. If a student is not passing, we need to offer students additional support over the summer.

Ms. White commented that the grading sounds reasonable and liked the way the semesters were weighted and thanked Principal Jette.

Ms. Rosmarin commented great job and thanked James for all his work.

Ms. Eberhardt had some concerns about students struggling, is it because of the online learning? How can we offer summer help but at this point really don't know what summer sessions will look like? Principal Jette replied we have a contract with Educere which is an online educational program. It is a challenge and change for all of us with online learning. For the High School the Summer Program has always had assessments and support in place. Our job is to support the students going through it. Reported that he has communicated with Educere to ensure support for the students. Ms. Eberhardt asked if this will affect any student moving onto the next grade? Principal Jette replied we have had students in academic danger well before we moved to online learning. Students will be moving forward to the next grade with the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education. Currently working with students and families to set up plans to provide support for the summer.

Mr. Kelly stated that 90% of the students grade is based on what happened this school year prior to the school closure. The additional 10% students actually received a boost. Reported that we may have more students qualify for the student recovery over the summer, and students would benefit from the program.

Dr. Donahue thanked Principal Jette and Mr. Kelly.

Chair Varela questioned term 4 pass/fail? What happens with the GPA? If they have the grade in term 3 they can approve but can't go down? Mr. Kelly replied final grades two numbers to put in the grade book will be a 100 or 59? Reported that the student would see a rise in their grade, GPA will not be hurt by term 4 decision, semester courses will not be counted into their GPA's.

Principal Jette gives full credit to the committees and leadership team. Stated that he appreciates Mr. Kelly for all his work behind the scenes.

Superintendent Gormley stated that Principal Jette reports daily on grades, attendance and about graduation. The High School team has put in hours of work through this school closure and talks with other communities. Superintendent Gormley thanked Principal Jette and Mr. Kelly on behalf of the district for all of their hard work.

WHAT ABOUT ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS?

- MCAS – Canceled for this year
- SAT – Canceled for this year
- DELF - Canceled for the year
- Final Exams - Canceled for the year
- Advanced Placement (AP) – Online Exams

AP EXAMS REQUIRED

- MHS Requirement
- Shorter Exams (Approximately 45 minutes vs. 4 hours)
- Taken at home/Online
- Opportunity for College Credit
- Time Saver/Cost Saver
- Opportunity for Scholarships
- Backup Plan

COLLEGE PROCESS - IMPACT OF COVID 19

- Old rules and policies are being revamped
- Colleges are taking more of a holistic approach - No class rank
- Colleges will accept "Pass/Fail" or "Credit/No Credit" on transcripts
- Online recruiting
- Virtual campus tours and interviews

COLLEGE PROCESS

- Delays and cancellations in test reporting
- Virtual high school classes
- Changes in grading and assessments
- Financial Need (Need Base, Blind Base, Merit Base)
- NCAA Eligibility

DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF COVID 19

- Schedules and Routines
- Health - Sick Family Member(s)
- Mental Health - Anxiety, Depression, Stress
- Employment
- Finances (Housing, Vacations, Summer Programs)
- Food Insecure Families
- School Closure & Loss of Activities
- Comparing Schools & Districts

SCHOOL CLOSURE HIGHLIGHTS...

- Teachers, Students Making Adjustments
- Technology
- Student Spotlight
- May 1st - Senior College Commitments
- Community Service Initiatives - Student Initiatives
- Boosters Class of 2020 Lawn Signs
- Clap Because We Care

SCHOOL CLOSURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Lip Sync Challenge
- Senior Class Time Capsule
- 20 Miles For 2020
- Letters to Seniors
- Adopt a Senior
- MHS Awards & Honors

MHS AWARDS & HONORS

- Emailed to all parents and students links to view all of the awards received by students.

Dr. Donahue commented that a lot of thought and time has gone into this presentation, thanked Principal Jette.

Ms. Rosmarin thanked Principal Jette and Mr. Kelly for the presentation and to the students that shared their experiences and thoughts. As much as a challenge has been MHS has risen to the challenge and we should be proud. Commented to the students that resilience will stick with you for the rest of your lives. Thanked Principal Jette for what you have done for our students and community.

Ms. White thanked Principal Jette for the excellent presentation and commented that she was so impressed that people have reached out to check in and to hear the students' input. Enjoyed listening to the students speak about their experience. Down the road there will be so many interesting discussions about this period in our lives.

Ms. Eberhardt commented that you are the primary source, you are living history everyday, you will have lessons to teach. It is a really challenging time and really appreciated all of your efforts.

Dr. Craghead stated that she was just impressed with the grading, teaching piece, and the decisions around graduation. Struck at the end to learn about the incentives, letters to the seniors, signs and the 20 miles for class of 2020. Covered all the basis and then the extras, social, emotional and financial support. Proud that you are the Principal with all of your leadership and all you have done for the community.

Chair Varela commend Principal Jette, Mr. Kelly and team that you all see these children at the end of their career. Every stage is challenging and difficult. Commended Principal Jette for being a leader with making difficult choices on how to end this school year. We will look back on this and see that Milton High School led the way and was not afraid to make strong safe choices in all aspects of the High School situations.

Superintendent Gormley reported that it is important for the town residents to know about the effort made remotely and the connections with students. Students did an outstanding job speaking , they are the heart of Milton Public Schools. Superintendent Gormley reported that she supported the efforts of our Administrators who are working 24/7. On behalf of Milton Public Schools she thanked Principal Jette, without this closure the public may not have learned so much about the High School. Couldn't be more proud to work alongside you.

Principal Jette thanked all of the students, families, faculty and staff. Thanked PTO of every school and MFE for all of their hard work and support, definitely an unified effort.

b. 2021 Kindergarten Update and 2021 Grade One Program Placement Update
i. Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Dr. Pavlicek reported that we have registered 325 kindergarteners, registrations had stopped during the school closure but has picked up again. The Registrar is looking to move to online registration, a lock box is available outside the High School to have paperwork dropped off. First grade French, as of now we have offered everyone a seat in French Immersion. Everyone who has requested French has been offered a seat.

- Jack and Morgan reported handing out 3514 meals this week.
- We are registering several new students a week. There are more registrations in the pipeline, and will be accepting registrations of students up to the new school year.
- Dr. Spaulding reported that packets for Pre-K through 5 have been made, hard copies work better for some parents with educational activities/lessons. Group of Paraprofessionals have made copies for families. Scholastic Magazines are also put out

for distribution available in families. Available for pick up at the elementary and High School.

c. Happenings - Superintendent Gormley

- Thanked the PTO for the t-shirts. Every staff member was contacted for their size. All staff will receive a t-shirt, “We are all in this together”.
- Thank you to all the Milton Public School Nurses and to all the health professionals.
- Waiting on what will happen with the Summer School Programs, waiting for guidance from the Commissioner of Education.
- Creating a new entry task force, School Committee member Ms. Rosmarin and Glover Principal Karen McDavitt will Co-Chair. Reported that over 50 volunteers are available to help out with the new committee. This work has to start now.
- Town Elections, June 9th
- Town Meeting June 15th

5. Chair’s Report - Chair Varela

a. School Choice

Back to School Choice as noted, we had the hearing before the School Committee meeting. Chair Varela asked if any School Committee members had any questions or comments on School Choice? No School Committee member committed at this time.

Chair Varela formally asked Superintendent Gormley for recommendation for School Choice for the school year 2020-2021. Superintendent Gormely replied at this time Milton Public School does not have the space to participate in School Choice therefore recommends no on the School Choice.

Chair Varela made a motion on a Formal No Vote that Milton Public School will not be a part of School Choice for the 2020-2021 school year.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Chair Varela reported that the vote was unanimous that Milton Public School will not be a part of the School Choice for the upcoming school year 2020-2021.

6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY21 Budget

- Reported that the Finance Subcommittee continues to meet, right now to cover our portion of the gap, the gap is being closed by using free cash, taking a million dollars out of a stabilization fund (all has to be approved by the town meeting). Existing half a million dollar gap. Our portion is \$300,000 given the monies that we did not spend this year on events, utilities and transportation. We have the funds to pre-pay \$300,000 of our Special Education expenditures for FY21. We by law can prepay Special Ed.

b. Third Quarter Report

- Dr. Pavlicek reported that we are on track for salaries, there are savings we can apply to next year. At this point we don't know what to expect for next year with funds. Taking a conservative estimate.

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the Third Quarter Report.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call: 6-0-0

c. Fee Refunds for FY20

With the closure of schools for the remainder of the year, the School Committee needs to approve the amount of refunds to be provided to those who paid for services during the closure. Some are straightforward; others require some consideration.

- Adult Education: Fees were refunded for the classes not held. No further action is necessary.
- SAT Prep Courses: These fees were also refunded. No further action necessary.
- Early and After School programs of the Community Schools: Credit is being offered for next year's programs. If families prefer an immediate refund, those are being processed.
- Camp Cunningham: If this is cancelled, refunds will need to be issued.
- Summer Enrichment: The scope and cost of this program needs to be determined. If, per the guidance of DESE, we offer a targeted, small-group-based program for those most affected by the current closure, a decision will need to be made as to whether we charge tuition and, if so, how much. As of now, no tuition has been collected, so no refunds are due.
- Transportation: The bus fee was \$275 and we were open 122 of the 180 school days (just over 2/3 of the year). I would recommend a \$90 refund, either immediately or in the form of a credit for next year, at the families' choice. This requires a vote.
- PreSchool Tuition: Current tuition is \$3450 for the half day program, \$4100 for the three full day program at the High School, and \$8200 for the five full day program at Tucker. Tuition is frequently paid in ten monthly payments of 10% each. Some parents prepaid the entire tuition have reached out for refunds of April, May and June. This is probably the simplest way to handle it as many families have held off on the April tuition. This also requires a vote.
- Spring Sports fees: Only a few were paid prior to March 13. These will be refunded unless families choose to have it credited to next fall's sports fee. No action is necessary here.
- Drivers Education: Classes will be held virtually. Driving hours will resume when allowed. No action is necessary at this time.
- All other fees: Any fees paid for specific events that were cancelled will be refunded. Due to the timing of the closure, there are very few such instances.

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the recommended fee Reimbursement for FY20 for the Transportation and Preschool.

Second: Chair Varela

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

d. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #45 payable May 7, 2020 in the amount of \$439,842.43.

Second: Ms. White
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

7. Old Business

None

8. Citizen Speak Topic Response

None

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

10. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 minutes)

None

11. Executive Session

- a. Negotiation Strategy for Union Personnel (MEA)

Chair Varela moved to adjourn to go into Executive Session not to return to open session for the purpose of discussion of Negotiation Strategy for Union Personnel (MEA).

Second: Dr. Craghead
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.