

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Milton Access Cable Studio
Milton High School
January 8, 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 January 8, 2020 Agenda

Updated and Approved

3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH - 15 minutes)

None

4. Superintendent Report

a. Superintendent Gormley welcomed Members of the Pierce Players. Bill Deschenes and students invited the community to come to their musical - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Pierce Middle School January 23rd, 24th and 25th. Best way to purchase tickets is online but if not sold out tickets will be available at the door. Pierce students performed a song from the play.

Chair Varela commented she was very impressed with the acapella and thanked the students and Mr. Deschenes for coming.

The School Committee wished Pierce Players good luck with the musical and to keep up the great work.

b. Superintendent Gormley welcomed the Collicot Site Council.

- Holly Concannon, Principal
- Zeina Hamada, Vice Principal/Curriculum Coordinator
- Ellen Lohan, Elementary Science Coordinator
- Justine Novak, Parent/Teacher Representative

- Samantha Bullard, Teacher Representative
- Fatima Bourass-Elzein, Teacher Representative
- Laura McDermott, Teacher Representative
- Krissy Giffune, Teacher representative
- Margo Tansey, Community Representative
- Christine Morrow, Parent/PTO Co-President
- Heidi Naumes, Parent
- Kelly Kyler, Parent
- Maureen Driscoll, Parent
- Amanda Dayer, Parent

Collicot Site Council Presentation

- At the Collicot School there is a commitment to academic excellence and high standards for administrators, teachers and students. The dedicated and creative Collicot teachers and staff are committed to maximizing the individual potential of each child. Through a wide variety of challenging activities and experience, we strive to provide a strong academic foundation and a love for learning in a secure, safe and stimulating environment that values individual differences.
- Kindergarten – 92 Students, 4 Classes
- Grade 1-5 – 554 Students, 23 Classes
- Partner & collaborative – 23 Students, 3 Classes
- Total – 669 Students, 30 Classes
- Collicot Code
 - Respect
 - Responsibility
 - Hard Work
- 2019 Official Accountability Report
 - 81% meeting or Exceeding Targets
 - 90 Accountability Percentile
- Highlights
 - Participation Rate for MCAS assessment of students with disabilities increased
 - The target set for all students was met in mathematics in 2019
 - Increase in the number of students exceeding expectations in ELA for both grades 4 and 5
 - The lowest performing group and students with disabilities group met their target in ELA in 2019
 - Students participated in the first grade 5 STE MCAS aligned to new MA standards with technology enhanced questions

- Grade 5 Life Science and Constructed Response questions show improvement
- District literacy screener used in grades K-5 (LEXIA)
- Collicot team continues to meet in collaborative groups to plan effective and rigorous lessons in all content areas
- Kindergarten and grade 1 each implemented 3 new FOSS science units with ongoing professional development throughout the year
- Increased focus school wide on scientific note booking and scientific drawings using rubrics from FOSS
- Teachers participate in collaborative coaching and learning cycle with elementary Math Coach
- Consistent planning with support from curriculum leadership
- Areas for Growth in Science
 - Students did not perform as well as expected on the 2019 Science, Technology and Engineering MCAS
 - Plan for Improvement:
 - Beginning of Year (BOY), End of Year (EOY) and unit assessment given on Otus for increased exposure to online assessments in Science.
 - Exposure to released questions MCAS questions starting in Grade 3 as aligned to FOSS
 - Supplement FOSS curriculum with MCAS released items, Study island and review lessons developed by science coordinator
 - Grade 5 implementation of a new STEM curriculum using project lead the Way including biomedical and robotics units
 - Partnerships with Massachusetts Audubon, Trailside Museum, SEED Education and Museum of Science
- SIP Goal #1 Increase Achievement in Science and Math
 - Goal: Collicot staff will work to increase proficiency in Science and Math for all Students by implementing new Science curriculum units and supporting Math small group instruction
 - Result: Percentage of students who score proficient and advanced on the Grade 5 Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS will increase by 20% by May 2021 and the proficiency gap for students in the high needs subgroup in Math will decrease
- SIP Goal #2 Increase Writing Opportunities to Support Achievement in all content areas

- Goal: Provide appropriate targeted intervention and instructional practices, early and often , to increase reading and writing proficiency in all grads and in all content areas
- Result: 20% of students will demonstrate improvement in open response questions by 2021
- SIP Goal #3 Strengthen Home School Connection
 - Goal: Collicot Staff will work to provide instruction, intervention and extended programming to support academic social and emotional growth for all students
 - Result: The Collicot will be more inclusive school
- Transition to Middle School – New Plan in Place
 - Grade 5 students use specific door to enter the gym for walk and talk 8:05am-8:20am
 - Students file independently to lockers before reporting to afternoon classes
 - Students have open seating for grade 5 lunch
 - Students have a menu of options for community service including one 45 minute session during school hours
 - Students applied for jobs and student council seats

Ms. Concannon commented that Collicot is a partnership with staff and PTO. There is a connection with school and community for example; students have a school garden and like to provide opportunities for families to come to the garden before and after school. Collicot is lucky to have a connection with Cunningham Park; students can utilize open park space.

Also have

- Meet the artist
- Science presentations
- Work with younger readers
- Box program
- Lantern walk

Ms. Concannon also spoke about the exciting new CC Green Space project. Parents, staff and students are looking forward to a safer place to play. School Fundraising events are being planned and will follow up in the next few weeks.

Ms. White had a question about the 5th grade walk and talk that takes place before school. Is there a teacher on duty to supervise the students? Ms. Concannon responded yes, both the staff and students are enjoying the extra time in the morning.

Dr. Craghead commented that she loved the measure taken regarding the transition to middle school. Each one will help with the student's independence. Dr. Craghead hopes that Ms. Concannon can share your ideas with other schools. Dr. Craghead also asked if the Math, Safety Net Group before and after school is that for anyone to participate or for those who are struggling. Ms. Lohan replied the group is decided through teacher recommendation of students that are struggling.

Dr. Donahue commented that the support and transition to the Middle School is tremendous and your attention to the emotional needs of your 5th graders should be commended. Dr. Donahue stated last year we lost a Technology Teacher position at the elementary level, can you comment on the loss and has it affected your last scores and if we restore the position could you use this as another building block?

Ms. Concannon stated she felt very strongly about the restoration of the technology position. Technology is a necessity, but we also need to teach our children about the dangers of social media and how to use technology. We also need the technology support to keep up with Otus, Rediker and our new report card systems.

Ms. Eberhardt commented that she just read an article about technology in the hands of the children, and that parents need to help guide children. Ms. Concannon agreed and commented that she has talked to parents and students about the dangers and the social pressure.

Ms. Eberhardt also commented that she loved what was being done with the Science K-5. In Reach for Reading is there Science? Ms. Lohan replied yes, we work with teachers and organize the chapters and set up sections. Maybe all the even chapters can be Social Studies and all the odd chapters can be Science. Teachers are really going above and beyond when working with Reach for Reading.

Ms. Rosmarin thanked the Site Council for all that they shared in the presentation. Ms. Rosmarin asked how Otus is being used? Ms. Concannon replied as an assessment tool and also for data collections, it is a wonderful online tool for teachers to stay organized and to expedite plans.

Ms. Rosmarin also asked if the data collected from Otus moves on with the student. Ms. Concannon confirmed yes, the data will follow the students through the school years.

Chair Varela questioned if the assessments are available electronically? Ms. Lohan replied no, she uploads the assessments for the teachers.

Chair Varela also asked if online practice testing is available for students to prepare them for MCAS.

Ms. Concannon stated there was a plan in place to get the online practice testing done and reading for the students.

The School Committee and Administration thanked the Collicot Site Council for their presentation.

c. **Happenings**

Superintendent Gormley reported

- Preschool Information Night will be January 9, 2020 at MHS Auditorium
- Melissa Fassel Dunn organized a fundraising event to benefit our music lessons, it was a great success
- January 20, 2020 MLK – No School
- January 21, 2020 – Vaping Representation taking place at the MHS Auditorium
- January 22, 2020 – School Committee Meeting, BackStage Boosters
- February 25, 2020 – 1st Grade Information Night
- March 2, 2020 – Stem Information Night

5. **Chair's Report - Chair Varela**

School Committee concerns that will be submitted to Milton Select Board:

a. **Ice House 40b Statement**

- General Concern: Currently our elementary schools are 120-125% of resigned capacity, creating both space and staffing issues. The addition of 54 new units will undoubtedly create more strain on the system both through new students living in these units and through existing families/couples downsizing into these units, putting larger houses on the market for families moving into town. Given the distribution of 1-2 and 3- bedroom units in the proposal, it is this latter alternative that is more likely. We have already experienced this exact downsizing/existing home resale with developments such as Woodmere Road. The infusion of 54 more housing units will exacerbate our current enrollment crisis. A mix of commercial and residential space would partially alleviate these concerns.
- Specific Concern 1: Given the location of the Ice House project directly across blue Hill parkway from the access driveway to Milton High school, consideration needs to be given to providing a safe means of crossing the Parkway. Traffic at that point travels at a significant rate of speed and the nearest crossing (Canton Avenue or Blue Hill Terrace) are sufficiently distant that they are unlikely to be used. Given that this road is controlled by the Department of Conservation and

Recreation (DCR), negotiations with them are necessary to provide a signalized crossing of some sort at this location.

- Specific Concern 2: The proposed site abuts Pope's Pond, the path around which is used by students walking from the Summer Street/Truro Lane area to either the High School or, via the Pine Tree Brook path, to Pierce Middle School. Consideration should be given to maintaining and improving this path and coordinating it with the safe crossing needed at the Ie House site.

Dr. Donahue thanked Dr. Pavlicek and Chair Varela for preparing the letter.

b. FY21 Budget Presentations

Glover/Tucker

- January 28th - Tucker Library 6:30pm

Collicot/Cunningham

- January 29th - Collicot/Cunningham 6:30pm

MHS/PMS

- February 12th - MHS Auditorium

Bus Issues:

- Discussed the cost of owning and operating school busses
- Crisis with buses/transportation because of enrollment
- Future Education Firm - consultants to prepare a efficiently study
 - vendor options, bids, own or rent buses
- Vote tonight to decide to hire Future Education Firm

Dr. Craghead stated that given that MPS only has one bidder for the buses, something has to be done. Having the consulting firm prepare a RFP and write a formal report is best for the district. It would be money well spent.

Ms. Eberhardt commented when a waitlist happened for the bus in August, parents thought we were not prioritizing. Stated that School Committee needs a plan to get students to school and still be cost efficient.

Dr. Donahue stated that this was a great idea and having a professional assisting in this process would be helpful.

Ms. Rosmarin commented that she was impressed with the consultant when he gave the presentation and thinks the time is right to hire the firm.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve the hiring of Future Education Consulting Firm.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

6. **Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead**

a. **Second Quarter Report**

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve the Second Quarter Report.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

b. **Student Activities Account Reauthorization**

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to establish a maximum fund level of \$40,000 for the High School Student Activities checking account.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

c. **Approval of Warrants**

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #28 payable January 9, 2020 in the amount of \$446,688.38.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

7. **Health and Wellness Advisory Committee**

Ms. White reported that the following was discussed at the last Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting:

- Mental Health Issues
- Help staff with behavior, identify students of concern
- Behavioral Health Resources available
- 60% of children have been exposed to drama
- Goals of Mental Health
- Grants for trainings
- Assist recess aides - provide Professional Development - positive play

8. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve School Committee Minutes of December 4, 2020.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-1

9. Old Business

None

10. Citizen Speak Topic Response

None

11. Next Meeting Agenda Items

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

12. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH - 15 minutes)

None

13. 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 approval of minutes.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.