

Milton School Committee Minutes
Milton High School
Milton Access TV Studio
May 15, 2019
7 pm

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

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

(A tour of Collicot Elementary School occurred at 6:30 pm prior to the School Choice Hearing and Milton School Committee Meeting)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Approve May 15, 2019 Agenda

Dr. Craghead asked that “Revised FY20 Budget Number”, be stricken from the agenda. Ms. Varela added a discussion of Summer Retreat Dates to the agenda. The agenda was approved with these changes.

Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes)

None

Superintendent’s Report

The Collicot Site Council was introduced by Ms. Concannon and she read the school mission statement. She reviewed the Collicot code: Be respectful, responsible, hard working. The school’s accountability percentile is 99.

MCAS ELA – exceeded all targets, but room for improvement in open response.

MCAS Math – slightly below target; students did not make as much progress as hoped for. There are now specific goals related to this in the school improvement plan.

MCAS Science – targets were exceeded, but open response needs improvement.

The School Improvement Goals were discussed next.

1. Increase achievement in science and math.
 - a. Goal: The staff will work to increase proficiency in Science and Math for all students by implementing new Science curriculum and supporting Math small group instruction. Technology will be incorporated. Success would be evidenced by an increase in the number of students scoring proficient and advance by 20%; and the achievement gap will lessen.
 - b. Strategies:
 - i. Provide additional opportunities for small group instruction
 - ii. Highlight specific FOSS lessons that support STEM Standards

- iii. Highlight connection in Math and ELA curricula that support STEM standards
 - iv. Increase opportunities for school wide STEM collaboration. They had the first STEM day.
 - v. Increase opportunities for consistent coding lessons across all grade levels. This will made students ready for future jobs.
- 2. Increase writing opportunities to support achievement in all content areas
 - a. Goal: provide appropriate targeted intervention and instruction practices, early and often, to increase reading and writing proficiency in all grades and all content areas. Success will be evidenced by improvement in open response questions by 20% by year 2021.
 - b. Strategies to accomplish this goal include the following:
 - i. Utilize REACH for reading, Gaft, and Zigzag topics to support writing in center based work, homework and classroom. This strategy will be used in all content areas (Math, Science, Social Studies).
 - ii. Classrooms will incorporate a variety of technology based platforms to increase writing opportunities (Boomwriter, Study Island)
 - iii. Develop student portfolios
 - iv. Differentiate instruction to meet the needs of students.
- 3. Strengthen the home-school connection
 - a. Goal: Collicot staff will work to provide instruction, intervention, and extended programming to support academic, social and emotional growth for all students. The end result is that Collicot will be a more inclusive school. Strategies to meet this goal include the following
 - i. Provide families with opportunities to come to the school early and often.
 - ii. Develop a welcoming team for families new to Collicot
 - iii. Increase student and family involvement in all aspects of Collicot activities.
 - iv. Provide consistent communication regarding curriculum, events, and opportunities throughout the school community.

Principal Concannon then shared a list of items she wanted to highlight, which included the CASS program, Scripps National Spelling Bee, two science fairs, among many other items.

Chair's Report

Topic One: School Choice (Attachment) (Vote)

Ms. Varela asked Ms. Gormley for a recommendation regarding School Choice. Her recommendation is for the Milton Publics School district not to participate in School Choice.

Ms. Varela put forth a motion that the Milton Public School not be a school choice district for the FY20 School year.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Subcommittees and Advisory Committees (Attachment) (Vote)

Ms. Varela discussed the proposed attachment with Ms. Rosmarin, who is in agreement with this draft.

Ms. Varela put forth a motion to approve the proposed Subcommittee and Advisory Committees assignments as presented for the 2019-2020 School year

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Town Meeting Update

Ms. Varela reported that the Town Meeting occurred and the work was accomplished in just one night. The two main issues pertinent to the School Committee were the approval of the budget and the approval of \$40,000 in start-up funding which will go to the School Building Committee.

Topic Four: Summer Retreat Dates (Attachment)

Ms. Varela asked the committee when they prefer the Summer Retreat to occur. She suggested everyone send their available dates. She also asked that everyone send suggestions for topics and to think about whether a moderator would be needed for the retreat.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: FY20 Budget

The finance committee met yesterday and voted to make a recommendation to the school committee to approve the FY20 budget including the \$55,000 in additional funds that was approved at Town Meeting.

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve the FY20 budget in the amount of \$51,000,028,200.

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

The finance committee will meet again and vote on a recommendation as to how to best allocate the additional \$55,000 in funding that was approved. Dr. Craghead will have a recommendation to present from the finance committee at the next School Committee meeting.

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote)

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant number 44, dated May 9, 2019 in the amount of \$235,662.82.

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Reading, Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest (Attachment)

Ms. Eberhardt reviewed this policy, which will have a section deleted regarding nepotism. An additional reading with a vote will be taken at a future meeting.

Topic Two: 2nd Reading, Policy IJND, Access to Digital Resources (Attachment)

This policy is regarding the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Children's Online Privacy Act. Dr. Craghead pointed out a minor typo that will be revised. This information will be provided to parents in the student handbook and parents will attest to receiving this information about the MPS plans to comply with these regulations. Dr. Donahue questioned whether a reference to the FCC should be stricken. Dr. Craghead advocated keeping the clause.

Ms. Eberhardt made a motion to adopt with the changes as presented.

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Three: Reapproval of Policy JJI, Philosophy of Athletics (Attachment)

Ms. Eberhardt made a motion to approve Policy JJI, Philosophy of Athletics.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business

None

Citizen Speak Topic Response

Ms. Varela wanted to respond to the last meetings Citizen Speak regarding the French Immersion Program and Policy. She stated that by Massachusetts law MPS must accommodate all parents who wish their children wish to be educated in English. MPS does offer a French Immersion Program starting in first grade but there is a cap on based on overall enrollment of the program. Per our School Committee policy, the distribution of French Immersion versus English Innovations Pathways placement is determined upon parental sign up request. Each child is placed into a lottery. For 2020 school year the number of English and French Immersion programming per school is as follows:

- Tucker: 2 English, 1 French
- Collicot and Glover: 3 English, 2 French
- Cunningham: 3 English, 1 French

There is currently more request for French Immersion programming than there is room to accommodate. Initially there were 30 students that were waitlisted; 17 of these students have been offered placement as other families have moved out of district or decided not to pursue the French Immersion program for their child. Additional placements will be offer as space continues to become available. We do not have the classroom space or money for an additional teacher to add more French Immersion classrooms.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

There will be a retiree recognition event prior to the next meeting. Dr. Spaulding will attend the next meeting. Transportation, Health updates.

Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes)

Ms. Varela moved to go into executive session not to return to the open session, for the purpose of discussion of negotiation strategy for union and nonunion personnel.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned.