

Milton School Committee Minutes
Milton High School
Milton Access TV Studio
June 5, 2019
7 pm

Committee Present: Sheila Varela, Chair (newly appointed in open session); Dr. Elaine Craghead, Vice Chair (newly appointed in open session); 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.

Prior to the School Committee Meeting at 7pm, the 2018-2019 Retirees of the Milton Public Schools were honored at a 6 pm Reception in the Milton High School Lobby.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Approve June 5, 2019 Agenda

Ms. Varela moved to strike the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee Report and the Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Report. Ms. Rosmarin is absent for this meeting so therefore there will not be a full Facilities Advisory Committee Report but Ms. White will give a brief update regarding the formation of the School Building Committee.

Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes)

Mike Keating (30 McKinnon Ave), and Mark McGillivray (of 31 McKinnon Ave) both presented to discuss overcrowding. They feel that the overcrowding problem is temporary. They agree that there is overcrowding at the playground. They believe there should be a more temporary solution than the proposed Green Space project. He thinks there should be more time to consider other options.

Concern about the wooded area behind the Cunningham Park

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Guests of the Superintendent: Pierce Players, Mary Poppins, Jr.

Dr. Spaulding introduced the Pierce Players, who then performed excerpts from their current production, Mary Poppins. The shows are almost sold out. The School Committee members applauded the performance.

Topic Two: Introduction of Dr. Karen Spaulding as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources (Attachment) (Vote).

Ms. Gormley introduced Dr. Spaulding as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources. She detailed the process by which Dr. Spaulding was chosen, and gave a summary of her career thus far. Dr. Spaulding expressed her excitement to fulfill this role.

Additionally there are now finalists for the Pierce Middle Principal which will be chosen by the screening committee.

Topic Three: Final Field Trip Approval for World Language Dept. trip to Portugal, April 16-26, 2020(Attachment) (Vote)

Ms. Varela put forth a motion to approve the World Language Dept. trip to Portugal, April 16-26, 2020

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Four: Happenings

The Cunningham Art Show will continue on tomorrow night. On June 11th the next school committee meeting will occur. Prior to the meeting there will be a reception to celebrate all the volunteers. The last day of school is June 17th and that is a half day. In March the Pierce Problem Solving team won first place in action planning and second place in writing portion at the state level championship in the league. As a result, the Pierce Future Problem Solvers Coach will accompany students to the international competition at Umass Amherst this weekend. There were other students who also worked on the project, including **Ida Zoll** and **Victoria Kirkam** who both won the individual competition and will also attend the international competition. Baseball softball rugby and boy's tennis all made it to the MIAA tournament.

Chair's Report

Topic One: Summer Retreat Location/Dates

Ms. Varela thanked the committee members for sending their availability. Monday August 5, 2019 will be the date of the Summer Retreat, from 4-8 pm. She hopes to use the strategic plan as opposed to have a facilitator lead the meeting. The other members agreed to this date.

Ms. Varela made a motion that the Summer Retreat will be held on August 5, 2019.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-1

Topic Two: Summer Meeting Dates

The next summer meeting dates will be July 10 and August 21, 2019.

Topic Three: School Building Committee Update (Attachment)

Ms. White read the names of the members of the School Building Committee members. The first meeting is scheduled for June 24.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Topic One: FY20 Budget

Dr. Craghead explained that \$55,000 of the previous budget cuts that were made at Town Meeting has been restored. Of these funds, \$13,000 will be allocated to fund a music teacher at Pierce Middle School; \$42,000 will allow clubs and activities to be restored at the high school. The finance committee voted unanimously to accept and recommend to the full School Committee that we accept Principal Jette's proposed club cuts from 2018-2019.

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the FY20 budget restoration list as presented in the attachment.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Next, Dr. Craghead discussed the Transitions Program. The transitions program will create an alternative education setting in the Milton community for students in Grade 9-post graduate 12 who are struggling to maintain enrollment at Milton High School due to challenges in the following areas:

1. School refusal due to school, home, community stressors;
2. Prolonged hospitalization due to injuries;
3. Ongoing chronic or newly identified mental health needs including depression, anxiety, and self-harm;
4. Social interaction skills and proficiencies that create ongoing classroom disruptions impacting learning for self and others;
5. Emotional regulation impacting positive school participation, peer relationships, substance abuse related to mental health concerns;
6. Transition planning, post-secondary goal setting for students who may or may not be college bound;
7. Ongoing need for DBT and CBT supports embedded throughout the school day.

They determined that if these services keep only a couple students in the district this will pay for itself

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the transitions program as presented.

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant number 46, dated May 23 2019, in the amount of \$479, 436.62; and Vendor Warrant 48, dated June 6, 2019 in the amount of \$198, 486.06

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant number 47, dated May 30 2019, in the amount of \$82,542.31.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Abstain: Ms. White

Vote: 4-0-1

Transportation and Traffic Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Varela reported that there will be more secure signage added to the crosswalks. The “bus only” area at Tucker needs to be repainted because this is not visible to parents. This will be repainted over the summer. Dr. Pavlicek noted that one of the Cunningham buses was overcrowded and so the appropriate changes have been made. For the next school year, bus routes may change if this issue persists. Rising 6th and 9th grade students must re-establish residency to keep their bus placement. Dr. Pavlicek reviewed the requirements for guaranteed busing in Milton. Ms. Varela mentioned they will as for an afternoon crossing guard at the Cunningham School for safety.

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: 2nd Reading, Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest (Attachment) (Vote)

Ms. Eberhardt made a motion to approve Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest as is presented with the deletion as discussed.

Abstain: Ms. White

Vote : 4-0-1

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Varela made a motion to approve the meetings of March 27, 2019.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business

None

Citizen Speak Topic Response

Ms. Varela gave additional insight into the Green space Project. She explained this is an idea presented by a group of Cunningham and Collicot parents. They have drafted plan to create an additional recreational area which would utilize the wooded plot of land behind the Cunningham/Collicot School. Their plan also included ideas for fundraising to cover the cost of this proposed project. As things stand currently, there are at times up to 250 children in the current play area. The space was built to accommodate only 100 students. This has created a safety issue. The parent presented their idea to the school administration, and there was a recent meeting with community members and parents of both the schools. Ms. Varela commented that this project will likely fall under the pursue of the Facilities Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting Items

The next school committee meeting will occur on July 10, 2019 and will include Strategic Planning Advisory Committee Report.

Adjourn

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

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.