

Milton School Committee Minutes
Milton High School
Milton Access TV Studio
August 21, 2019
7pm

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

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

2. Approve August 21, 2019 Agenda

Approved

3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH - 15 minutes)

None

4. Superintendent Report

a. **Guest of the Superintendent**

i. **Introduction of Pierce Middle School Assistant Principal Janice Mazzola.**

Superintendent Gormley welcomed Janice Mazzola and shared Ms. Mazzola qualifications and experience.

Superintendent Gormley commented that the Screening Committee and Pierce Parents provided positive feedback and comments. Ms. Mazzola went through a number of interviews, has impressive scheduling experience and Superintendent Gormley welcomed Ms. Mazzola on behalf of the Milton Public Schools. Ms. Mazzola spoke with excitement to join the Pierce Middle School team and appreciated the warm welcome from all.

Dr. Craghead commented that as an English teacher herself it is nice to see an English teacher go into a leadership position. She also welcomed Ms. Mazzola to her new position.

Chair Varela commented that she had high hopes for the Pierce Middle School. And she wished Ms. Mazzola the best of luck in her new leadership role.

ii. **Introduction of K-12 Math Director Brian Selig**

Superintendent Gormley welcomed Brian Selig and shared his qualifications and experience. She expressed excited for this unique opening for the K-12 curriculum. Superintendent Gormley noted that Ms. Michelle Kreuzer, previous Math Coordinator, took on a new role as a Principal at another district. She wished Ms. Kreuzer luck in her new position. Superintendent Gormley spoke about the different levels of skills Mr. Selig will bring to this position. Superintendent Gormley stated that she and MPS are thrilled to have Mr. Selig join the Milton Public Schools. He has proven to be qualified and will be an asset to our district.

Mr. Selig spoke with excitement and is ready to hit the ground running. He is looking forward to this unique opportunity.

Chair Varela commented that at first she worried about the change to the position being K-12 curriculum. She feels that since Mr. Selig has been a K-12 Director, that will add to his success.

Dr. Pavlicek commented that as a former math teacher he is also happy to see a math teacher take a leadership role.

iii. **Introduction of Tucker Elementary School Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator Maggie Dillier.**

Superintendent Gormley welcomed Ms. Dillier and shared her qualifications and experience.

Superintendent Gormley commented that Ms. Dillier will take on a very special and unique position here at the Milton Public Schools. The Screening Committee provided all positive comments and teachers have stated they are thrilled with this appointment.

Dr. Spaulding shared a conversation she had with Ms. Dillier during the interview process. Dr. Spaulding asked Ms. Dillier why Tucker? Ms. Dillier responded that she knew the moment she walked into the Tucker School, this was where she wanted to be. Ms. Dillier expressed an understanding that all children needed to be supported.

Superintendent Gormley commented that on behalf of Tucker and the Milton Public Schools we are excited to welcome you. Ms. Dillier thanked the Committee and is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Chair Varela welcomed the new administrators and thanked them for their excitement and passion.

b. K-8 Literacy Director Job Description (Vote)

Superintendent Gormley spoke on behalf of the Language Arts Program. Historically when we make a curriculum change, we review one year at a time. Based on data and the commitment of this School Committee, we analyzed the data and worked closely with Dr. Nonie Lesaux, an expert in Early Education to help us analyze the data. Dr. Lesaux will lead us through the three year implementation. As a result of our work with Dr. Lesaux, it was recommended that MPS implement a PreK-8 Literacy Director position.

Through a reorganization of current staff (this is not a new position), Catherine DesRoche will be appointed to the PreK-8 Literacy Director position. Superintendent Gormley shared the job description of the PreK-8 Literacy Director with the School Committee to review and approve.

Superintendent Gormley wanted to share what Dr. Lesaux wrote:

- Summary of Job Description: Provides essential leadership in supporting the implementation of a model of literacy instruction that will meet 21st Century demands and the needs of all readers. The Literacy Director will oversee and enhance a comprehensive curricular reform at the elementary level, and launch a process to strengthen middle school literacy instruction and supports - ultimately creating a strong PreK-8 pathway district wide.

Catherine DesRoche is looking forward to this new and exciting position. Ms. DesRoche is currently the Curriculum Coordinator and the Assistant Vice Principal at Tucker Elementary School.

Superintendent Gormley believes the student achievement and instructional advancement will be phenomenal. Superintendent Gormley wanted to state again that this is not a new position it will be reorganization.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve the PreK-8 Literacy Director Job Description.

Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

c. Enrollment Update, Dr. Pavlicek

Dr. Pavlicek stated that registration is still going on, and more registrations are in the pipeline. Last year we had 359 register for kindergarten and this year we have 371 registered and more are on the way. Enrollment last year for the Milton Public Schools was about 4300 students, this year we are almost at 4500. It is certain that we are up in enrollment. Our registration and residency coordinator is very busy. Last spring re-establishment of residency was successful and we completed the reestablishment process early instead of waiting until the summer. We are almost complete with our reestablishment; there are only a few remaining. We will continue to monitor enrollment.

Superintendent Gormley stated that Sarina Burke, Brad Spindle and Marti McKenna worked hard all summer making sure all students were registered and have reestablished residency.

d. Transportation Update, Dr. Pavlicek

Dr. Pavlicek stated that Middle School and High School had issues with having more students than we have seats available. We contacted bus companies and surveyed other communities to see how they handle their bus/student ratio. We currently have 3 students to a seat at the elementary level and 2 students to a seat at the middle and high school levels. Others communities said the range of size of all students varies; realistically, you could have 3 students to a seat at the middle and high school levels. This decision made a dent in the waiting list but unfortunately we still have 70 students on the list. We surveyed parents and received a 40% response rate. More students will ride the bus in the afternoon than in the morning. 10% did say that they would not be riding the bus home in the afternoon due to sports or activities. That could open up seats for about 5 or 6 students. Dr. Pavlicek did suggest to parents in the meeting that MBTA M-7 passes would be available to students interested starting on September 1st. Some have opted to use the MBTA passes and some have chosen to wait for a spot available. First Student Transportation is available to run late bus pickups at Pierce Middle School and the High School. Students could stay after school and complete homework in the library and the bus would be available around 3:20pm.

Dr. Pavlicek confirmed that the Library will be staffed for students deciding to stay and wait for the late bus.

Dr. Pavlicek also commented that the bus companies have or are in the process of installing cameras on the busses for security. A tracker application will also be available, giving you the opportunity to track your bus.

Dr. Craghead commented that Milton Public Schools would love to be able to transport all students; unfortunately, we do not have the means to do so. Every bus would cost close to \$60,000. It would just be impossible with a very tight budget. She thanked Dr. Pavlicek and Rachel Schewe for doing all the heaving lifting on a very difficult issue. We do recognize that it is difficult for parents to figure out how to get their kids to and from school, especially when they live on the other side of town. Dr. Pavlicek went the extra mile to come up with creative solutions. She also wanted to thank Chair Varela and Margaret Eberhardt for organizing and going to the meeting with all the concerned parents. She hopes in next years' budget we have the money to add more busses.

Dr. Kevin Donahue commented that he seconds all that Dr. Craghead said. He suggested that when the dust settles, maybe we can look at the deadline and publicize.

Ada Rosmarin also wanted to thank Chair Varela and Margaret Eberhardt for their efforts pulling together to meet with parents on a challenging issue. She also wanted to thank Dr. Pavlicek and Rachel Schewe for their efforts. Ms. Rosmarin questioned how many families showed interested in receiving the MBTA passes?

Dr. Pavlicek replied that we have at least 15-20 families interested in receiving the M-7 MBTA passes.

Ada Rosmarin also asked how would the students get onto the late bus?

Dr. Pavlicek stated that students riding the late bus would just need to show up for the bus, no passes would be needed.

Chair Varela expressed concern that students riding the MBTA wouldn't have their passes available until September 1st, and asked that MPS do everything they can to make sure the students receive their passes in time for the first day of school.

Superintendent Gormley also recognized Charlene Roche and Laurie Dunn for all their hard work with parents throughout the summer.

Facilities Update, Dr. Pavlicek

- Parking lot will be paved by Friday, August 23rd
- Repaved a few parking lots at the High School
- Work also being done on Pierce Middle School sidewalks, will be finished by the first day of school
- Cunningham/Collicot sidewalks repaired
- All schools have been cleaned in preparation for the school year
- New furniture has arrived for the classrooms
- All the landscaping and mulching has been done
- Grant from Mass Lighting provided LED Lights. Lights will be replaced throughout the buildings
- Field House had floor repaired
- Roof of the High School almost finished
- Fire alarm system updating taking place at the High School and Middle School
- Glover Roof 95% complete
- Tucker Computer Lab turned into the Music Lab
- New Gate at Tucker
- Roof replacement at Tucker almost complete - very large job, more work than expected
- Pierce upgrades taking place in the boys locker room
- Redoing/repaving Lincoln Street - also adding sidewalks

Chair Varela questioned if Lincoln Street will be complete by the first day of school. She expressed concern of the potential traffic nightmare if not completed. Dr. Pavlicek confirmed that Lincoln Street will be open to by the first day of school, it may not be paved and be bumpy but will be open.

Superintendent Gormley wanted to give a huge thank you to Consolidated Facilities and custodians for all of their hard work this summer.

e. Approval of Handbooks - (Votes)

Superintendent Gormley stated that the attorney and all principals have reviewed the Handbooks. Ryan Madden worked with other AD's in the surrounding communities to create a Coaches Handbook and Student Athlete Handbook. Superintendent Gormley commented we live by these Handbooks - the student, teachers and principals. Superintendent Gormley asked The School Committee to approve the 2019-2020 Handbooks.

Chair Varela put forth one motion to approve Milton High School Handbook, Pierce Middle School Handbook, MPS Elementary School Handbook, the 2019-2020 Staff Handbook and the 2019-2020 Athletic Handbook.

Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

f. Happenings

None

5. Chair's Report

a. School Committee Retreat Update /2019-2020 School Committee Goals

Chair Varela thanked everyone for the goals and comments. The School Committee Goals were provided and reviewed. Chair Varela noted that there will not be a vote this evening; she just wanted the goals ready for the first meeting to review. Chair Varela asked for comments.

Ada Rosmarin had a question about the curriculum instruction goals - are last year's MCAS scores available?

Superintendent Gormley replied that scores should be available by the end of September.

b. Final 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Chair Varela asked if anyone had conflicts with the schedule/dates.

Superintendent Gormley asked to add Youth Risk Survey Results to September 18th.

Approval was given from the School Committee to add Youth Risk Survey Results to schedule. Chair Varela confirmed Site Council presentations will remain at Milton High School this year.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve the 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Schedule.

Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

6. Finance Subcommittee Report

a. Fourth Quarter Report (Vote)

Dr. Elaine Craghead asked Dr. Pavlicek for an update. Dr. Pavlicek stated we ended the year on budget, Special Education tuition was higher than expected; it is difficult to project. A child can be placed out of district at any moment and tuition rates also rise. Circuit Breaker was able to help out as well as Medicaid to get us through. Circuit Breaker helps with the out of district tuitions as well. Transportation came in close to budget and that was good news

Chair Varela asked with new enrollment at the beginning of the school year, do you need to make special adjustments based on new enrollment already in Special Education?

Dr. Pavlicek stated that what our costs are this year will have revised numbers with our enrollment. Projection will be tough but will be revised and rolled over in the 2021 budget as well.

Superintendent Gormley stated that we also needed to make space for Pre-K program because our numbers keep growing. Community Schools relocated to another space. She thanked Community Schools for their patience and hard work. Superintendent Gormley commented Community Schools is also filling up space in their after school program.

Dr. Donahue commented about the shuffling of programs, usually not our normal state but this year there is a lot of moving around.

Chair Varela also commented that our school enrollment is increasing and programs are running out of space even for the Community Schools which is tough because parents need care for their children up to 6pm.

Ada Rosmarin asked if there is a waiting list for Community Schools Program.

Superintendent Gormley will confirm and make sure a waiting list is available.

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

Second: Sheila Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

b. Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote)

Dr. Elaine Craghead put forth a motion to approve Vendor Warrants:

Vendor Warrant number 4, dated July 25, 2019 in the amount of \$245,439.29

Vendor Warrant number 6 August 8, 2019 in the amount of \$373,035.62

Vendor Warrant number 8 August 22, 2019 in the amount of \$607,809.67

Second: Sheila Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

7. Facilities Advisory Committee Report

a. Cunningham/Collicot Green Space Project

Ada Rosmarin stated with the enrollment growing MPS is feeling the pinch at the playgrounds.

Playgrounds are overpopulated with 250 children using the playground during recess hours.

A group of parents formed a committee in February and addressed the playground concerns with the School Committee. Parents addressed their concerns during the School Committee meeting in June as well. Both Ada Rosmarin and Betty White met with parents to explain the process of approval. The Facilities Advisory Committee will be involved; funding will come from outside the MPS budget, relying on fundraising. We clarified and pursued every option that was considered with the concerned parents. When an agreement is met on the concept, we will have an architect draw up plans. Luckily, parents were able to find a volunteer architect, Alex Fernandez, a parent at the Glover School who has agreed to help and volunteer his time on this project. Ada Rosmarin stated that she and Betty White have made phone calls to direct abutters to the playground site to understand their concerns and listen to their suggestions. The group will meet again early in September. When ready, we will circle back around to meet again with the Facilities Advisory Committee.

Ada Rosmarin wanted to thank Christina Lang (Collicot parent) and Deb Lynch (Cunningham parent) who played a crucial leadership role in this project. All are invited to be involved. If interested, please contact your PTO or Principal to be involved.

Chair Varela also wanted to thank everyone involved.

8. Policy Subcommittee Report - Dr. Kevin Donahue

a. Expedited Approval Process for Policies- Reviewed

- i. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve Policy JFAA, Residency Policy.
Second: Sheila Varela
Vote: 5-0-0
- ii. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve Policy JFABE, Educational Opportunities for Military Children.
Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead
Vote: 5-0-0
- iii. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve Policy JFABF, Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care.
Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead
Vote: 5-0-0
- iv. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve Policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses.
Second: Sheila Varela
Vote: 5-0-0
- v. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve JKAA, Restraint Procedure Policy.
Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead
Vote: 5-0-0
- vi. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve JLG, Homeless Students.
Second: Sheila Varela
Vote: 5-0-0
- vii. Dr. Kevin Donahue made a motion to approve JR, Student Records.
Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead
Vote: 5-0-0

9. Approval of Minutes (Votes)

Chair Varela made a motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 13, 2019.

Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead
Vote: 5-0-0

Chair Varela made a motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes dated May 15, 2019.

Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

Chair Varela made a motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 5, 2019.

Second: Dr. Elaine Craghead

Vote: 5-0-0

10. Old Business

None

11. Citizen Speak Top Response

None

12. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Reviewed and updated

13. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH - 15 minutes)

None

14. 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 and approval of minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.