

Milton School Committee Meeting Agenda
Milton Access Cable Studio
Milton High School
September 18, 2019
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. Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02

2. Approve September 18, 2019 Agenda

Approved

3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH - 15 minutes)

Superintendent Gormley welcomed parents to speak on behalf of Childhood Cancer Research and the MCM Foundation. Kristen Kociol, Michelle Serpa and Julie Albense shared their children's stories and how they battled cancer. Explained that through the cancer treatment process they became aware that Childhood Cancer is the least funded for research and wanted to come out and tell the community that the September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and the color gold symbolizes supporting the cause. The more communities are aware of Childhood Cancer, hopefully the more money will be raised. All three parents expressed such appreciation to the Milton Public School and entire community for all the support by "Milton Goes Gold", buying gold laces, wearing gold, donating to the gold boots in the main offices of all Milton Public Schools. Ryan Madden (Athletic Director) had gold M's painted at the schools to show support and to raise awareness. Parents had a lemonade stand at the football game to raise money and it was a huge success. Kari McHugh and her family started the MCM Foundation in honor of their son Michael. Michael McHugh passed away from cancer; he was a tucker student and loved by all. Please support The Michael C. McHugh Foundation and the One Mission Resource Room, both are raising awareness and supporting families.

Superintendent Gormley thanked the parents for coming out and commended them on being so brave and sharing their stories. Superintendent Gormley assured the families that September will forever be Milton Goes Gold Month at the Milton Public Schools. The link is available on our Milton Public School website to donate and two upcoming dates for blood drives will take place at the Cunningham Elementary School.

Dr. Craghead also thanked the families for sharing and creating awareness in the Milton Public School.

Chair Varela thanked the families for being so brave and for sharing their stories. Going forward September will be a great month for awareness and looking forward to rolling out the campaign next year.

All three families expressed appreciated and support through the month and are overwhelmed with all the support from the schools and community.

4. Superintendent's Report, Superintendent Mary Gormley

a. Superintendent Gormley introduced Assistant Superintendent Dr. Karen Spaulding, Principal James Jette, PE/Health Director Noel Vigue, SEL facilitator Laurie Stillman to speak on behalf of the Risk Behavior Survey. Milton High School students took the Risk Behavior Survey last year and below are the results:

- Student Assets
 - of the 46 YRBS risk indicators studied, Milton students performed better than the rest of the nation on 36 of them.
 - dramatic improvement in student alcohol & marijuana consumption since 2014.
 - violence and bullying are significantly lower
 - smoking cigarettes is significantly lower
 - illicit drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy and inhalants are used at a much lower rate than the rest of the nation
 - very low rate of drunk driving
 - rates of engaging in risky sexual behaviors are significantly lower in Milton
 - substances of concern are alcohol, marijuana and an emerging problem today is vaping
 - both 30 day alcohol and binge drinking rates in Milton continue to be higher than state and national rates. MHS binge drinking is nearly doubled in the US rate.
 - underage drinking is higher in females than males
 - marijuana usage rates in Milton is lower than state
 - males are using marijuana more than females
 - vaping is a huge concern
 - vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol produced by an e-cigarette or similar battery powered device
 - vaping has increased dramatically nationwide. In Milton the rates have more than doubled from 2014. MHS rates are significantly higher than state or nation.

- Mental Health Issues among MHS students continue and have increased since 2014.
- 2019 29% of MHS students reported depressive symptoms (higher than state)
- higher than state rate and increased from 2014 survey
- 2019 15% seriously considered suicide in the past year
- increased from 2014
- doubling in rates of male students who considered suicide from 2014 to 2019
- 2019 45% of MHS students indicated that they experience persistent anxiety symptoms
- females vs. males 56% vs. 38% respectively
- anxiety tends to be higher among students in grade 11 & 12 vs. grades 9 & 10
- white students represent the greatest number of students at risk of mental health and substance use issues in MHS but certain minority groups have higher rates of risk
- highest rates
 - Alcohol and Drugs
 - White Athletes
 - Caribbean
 - LGBTQ
 - Hispanic
 - Asian American
 - Mental Health
 - LGBTQ
 - Caribbean
 - Hispanic
 - Asian American
 - Art Students
- Lowest Rates
 - Alcohol and Drugs
 - Black/African American
 - Art Students
 - Higher achieving students (drugs only)
 - Asian American (alcohol only)
 - Mental Health
 - Athletes
 - Black/African American
 - Higher Achieving students

- Priorities of School year 2019-2020
 - The high school leadership team, central administration, SEL facilitator and guidance staff have prioritized the following student risk factors to be addressed over the coming 1-2 years. We will also develop specific strategies to support our most vulnerable students.
 - Behavioral health includes stress management, mental health disorders, social emotional learning skills, coping mechanisms
 - Vaping of both nicotine and marijuana concentrates
 - Alcohol consumption especially binge drinking

- Where do we go from here?
 - educating all stakeholders
 - ensuring best practices and curricula
 - innovative practices to support mental health
 - vaping detectors installed in bathrooms and locker rooms
 - system wide vertical approach

Dr. Craghead stated that she was impressed at how well Milton is doing but we still have some concerning issues. Dr. Craghead asked about the stakeholders meeting, Dr. Craghead stated she has attended meetings at Pierce, said they are great and well attended. But was wondering about selected group of parents. Are there other ways you are communicating with the families to invite them to the meetings or educate them about the concerns? James Jette stated that student, school and families all need to work together and attend the coalition meetings. James stated that in emails home to families, information is provided as well as links to watch videos about substance abuse.

Dr. Spaulding stated that Health Classes at Pierce have incorporated parent/guardian homework to create a conversation between child and parent about stress, alcohol, etc. Parents provided positive feedback about the assignments and most parents completed the homework with their child.

Laurie Stillman stated that it has to be a group effort from school, community, students and families. We have seen a positive difference over the past four years just by raising awareness. Data is what changes people's minds and raises awareness.

Superintendent Gormley stated that funds/grants have become available thanks to Laurie Stillman to incorporate Health Class starting in 5th grade in all of our elementary schools. Superintendent Gormley thanked all for all of their hard work on this survey and collecting all of the data and stated that a healthy child is a successful child.

Ada Rosmarin thanked the committee for the presentation and for the road map on how to move forward. She expressed concern about the vaping and asked where the kids are buying? James Jette answered from adults or can even kids buy online with a gift card.

Chair Varela thanked the committee and stated the presentation was well done and is a great road map. Chair Varela asked if the presentation would be available for all on our website? Superintendent Gormley stated that yes; the presentation would be available the following day on the Milton Public School website. Chair Varela also commended the Milton Public School District for the awareness of vaping and looks forward to the Health Curriculum to be incorporated.

- b. **Happenings:** Superintendent Gormley reported that the happenings will be available in the email blast on September 19th.

5. **Chair's Report**

a. **2019-2020 School Committee Goals (Vote Goals 2-5)**

- Goal 2, Cultural Competency Goal
- Goal 3, Facilities Goal
- Goal 4, Technology Goal
- Goal 5, Social Emotional Learning Goal

School Committee Goals were reviewed and edited, will vote on Goal 1 at the October 2nd Meeting. We are still waiting on MCAS scores.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve the 2019-2020 School Committee Goals 2-5

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

b. **School Committee 2019-2020 Calendar**

Discussion on School Committee Calendar dates, Chair Varela requested meeting date change from the October 16th to October 23rd so members could attend the Gala if they wished. All Committee Members in favor of changing dates.

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

a. **FY20 Budget**

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve the FY20 Budget

Second: Betty White

Vote: 6-0-0

b. FY21 Budget Calendar

FY21 Budget Calendar and Budget Development

- One Wednesday, September 25 and Tuesday October 8, 15 and 22nd: Site Councils and Administration present FY20 Budget Recommendations to Finance Subcommittee.
- September 25, 2019 - Capital, Athletics, FY 20 Budget
- October 8, 2019 - Milton High School, Collicot and Tucker
- October 15, 2019 - Pierce Middle School, Cunningham , Glover
- October 22, 2019 - Special Education
- Late October: Finance Subcommittee discusses and approves FY21 Budget Proposal
- November 20, 2019: Finance Subcommittee presents FY21 recommendation to School Committee
- December 4, 2019: School Committee votes FY 21 Budget recommendation for Warrant Committee

Dr. Pavlicek noted that principals will rearrange some dates to give joint presentations.

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve the FY21 Budget Calendar

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

c. Approval of Vendor Warrants - Dr. Craghead

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve Vendor Warrant number 11 payable September 12, 2019 in the amount of \$350,004.62.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead put forth a motion to approve Vendor Warrant number 12 payable September 19, 2019 in the amount of \$432,838.70.

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead stated that the yearend report will be provided on the 25th and then will be presented at the next School Committee Meeting for approval.

7. Facilities Advisory Committee Report

Ada Rosmarin reported she met with Bill Ritchie and reviewed a lengthy presentation of what has been completed at the schools. Some projects still going on but an amazing amount of work has taken place since the summer. Bill Ritchie also shared the annual recommendations and prioritized the projects for next year. Facilities Advisory Committee agreed with Bill Ritchie on his priority list and voted to approve. Also began a conversation for short term plan to address

the overcrowded schools. Dr. Pavlicek presented class sizes and possible spaces that may be used. Just the beginning of the conversations are taking place, it is a work progress.

Ada Rosmarin gave an update on the Cunningham/Collicot Green Space Project. Met with the committee about a week ago, our volunteer architect will draw up plans for the next meeting. Plan in place to move forward with the project.

Chair Varela and Margaret Eberhardt had a question about the company that came in a few years back to give us a 20 year plan and what they forecasted for our schools (maintenance/building, etc). Ms. Rosmarin made it clear that the Warrant Committee has the plan and what the forecast looks like 5 years out. Need to give the town time to plan for the expenses. Warrant Committee has the report and they are aware of the expenses.

Dr. Pavlicek stated that the heavy capital projects for example rooftop units and pavement projects that will need to take place. Also mentioned that cameras and security systems are also being added/updated.

Chair Varela ask for a short term plan. Is it possible to have a recommendation by the November meeting on space/construction changes? Superintendent Gormley agreed and stated that this is a town investment and a lot of time has been spent on this project. Facilities does an amazing job with the upkeep and maintenance of all the school. Superintendent Gormley also stated that the School Committee does a great job communicating with the community that enrollment is growing and changes will eventually have to take place.

Dr. Donahue commended Bill Ritchie for all of the hard work that goes into the projects like the Tucker roof. And also stated that it is never too early to have capital and budget discussions.

8. **Health and Wellness Advisory Committee**

Betty White reported that the Health and Wellness Advisory Committee met on September 10th. Laurie Stillman presented a video that both she and Stephanie O'Keefe worked on called "Come on Milton". Video focused on underage drinking. Also discussed vaping and packets have been distributed out in schools and the library with the hopes to decrease the use of vaping. Another video was shown which featured James Jette talking about vaping and the growing concerns.

Jackie Morgan presented her goals at the meeting one being the importance of the breakfast programs at all schools. Wants to expand the number of students that participate in the breakfast program.

Also discussed at the meeting by Laurie Stillman were the new health classes that will be incorporated in the 5 grade classes.

Superintendent Gormley reported that our Achieve Class here at the high school started growing lettuce and vegetables with the supervision of Jackie Morgan. It was a huge success and featured in the Milton Times.

9. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve School Committee Minutes of February 27, 2019.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve School Committee Minutes of August 21, 2019.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

10. **Old Business**

None

11. **Citizen Speak Topic Response**

None

12. **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

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

13. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH - 15 minutes)**

None

14. **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, MEA and AFSCME and approval of minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.