

Milton School Committee Meeting  
Milton Access Cable Studio  
Milton High School  
October 2, 2019  
7pm

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

Dr. Kevin Donahue joined the meeting at 8:57pm.

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

Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business joined the meeting at 8:13pm.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

- Chair Varela asked for a moment of silence for Matthew Tobin.
- Students from the Milton High School Chorus Group directed Johnny Nichols performed the National Anthem.

**2. Approve October 2nd, 2019 Agenda**

Approved

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

None

**4. Superintendent's Report**

a. Fine Arts Presentation

- i. Dawn Sykes, Director of Fine and Applied Arts
- ii. Johnny Nichols Jr., Chorus Director, Milton High School
- iii. Julia Hanna, Chorus Director, Pierce Middle School
- iv. Laurel Bernini, Art Specialist, Collicot & Cunningham Elementary School

Superintendent Gormley welcomed the Fine Arts Department.

- Dawn Sykes Presented:

Our Students/Elementary Schools

- All students attend music and art class for 45 minutes/week
- Grade 5 students may elect ACE and or Band or Strings

Pierce Middle School:

- Art (471) and ACE (77) - 548 students
- General Music - 269 students
- Band (92), Chorus (244), Strings (47) - 383 students

Milton High School:

- Foundations and Studio Art - 244 students
- Digital Photography - 40 students
- Visual Literacy - 48 students
- General Music (111) and Theory (46) - 157 students
- Band (73), Chorus (101), Strings (42), Jazz (27) - 243 students

Our Faculty:

Elementary Schools

- Art: 4 teachers (2FT/2PT)
- Music: 4 teachers (3FT/1PT)
- Teach about 750 students

Pierce Middle School

- Art: 2 teachers (2FT)
- General Music & Band: 1 teacher (FT)
- Piano Lab & Strings: 1 teachers \* (PT)
- Chorus: 1 teacher (FT)

Milton Public School

- Art: 2 teachers (2FT)
- General Music, Band & Jazz: 1 teacher (FT)
- Music Theory, Composition & Chorus: 1 teacher (PT)
- Strings: 1 teacher \* (PT)
- Chorus & Department Director: 1 administrator (FT)

Dawn also spoke regarding the vision of the program. “By fostering a lifelong understanding and appreciation of the arts, we endeavor to enrich our students through artistic experiences and in doing so, develop skills transferable to all areas of life”.

Laurel Bernini explained the goals of the Fine Arts Program:

- Develop artistically literate individuals who possess the confidence to enjoy a lifetime of engagement in the arts.
- Challenge students to create, interpret, and evaluate art and music.

Julia Hanna spoke regarding fostering qualities in students that contribute to their overall success:

- Self-discipline
- Perseverance
- Teamwork
- Empathy
- Curiosity

Laurel Bernini and Julia Hanna discussed the mission of the Fine Arts.

- Provide opportunities to explore the artistic process
- Build a foundation of knowledge, skills and understanding
  - Learn via a variety of tools, materials and techniques
  - Engage in singing, playing instruments, movement and listening
- Enhance cultural competency through artistic connections
- Cultivate collaborative skills through collective, artistic expression

Laurel Bernini and Julia Hanna spoke about the Recognition in Art and Music.

#### **Art**

- 2019 Scholastic Art Awards (grades 6-12)
  - 100 entries, 39 awards
- 2019 Lincoln Drawing Contest (grades K-5)
  - 20 recognitions

#### **Music**

- SEMSBA, MMEA Eastern District & All State Festivals (72 Participants)
- NAFME All Eastern Festival
- Great East Festival, Berklee Jazz Festival, MA Instrumental and Choral Conductors Associations
- Tri-M Music Honor Society 2018-2019 (42 members)

#### **In the Community and Beyond - Dawn Sykes**

Displayed Student Work 2018-2019

- 11 elementary music showcases and 16 middle and high school concerts
- 33 community performances
- 8 exhibits of student artwork

Special Invitations

- MMEA All State Conference
- JFK Museum, MA State House, Fenway Park, BSO Youth Concert

## **Key Initiatives**

### **Professional Development**

- Unpack the newly adopted MA 2019 Arts Curriculum Framework
- Develop formative assessments aligned with new students

### **Ensuring Equitable Access**

- Tucker Group Lessons Project

Dawn Sykes commented that the chorus group shows diversity but our band does not. So our department looked at our applied lessons at an earlier age. Tucker Pilot Program was created, offering music lessons to students at Tucker. Having instruments available and adjusting the cost has made the program successful.

Going forward the Fine Arts Department would:

- Examine and modify the current art and music curriculum to align to the new MA 2019 Arts Curriculum Framework
- Build a system to track student growth and measure effectiveness of the group lessons initiative and examine the feasibility of expansion
- Explore the expansion of the group instrumental lesson model in order to introduce it into other elementary schools

Dr. Craghead commented she was very impressed with the presentation and the art work displayed, especially the painting of the girl blowing the bubble. Dawn Sykes replied it was one of her favorite pictures and was done by Kacy Glenn. Laurel Bernini replied that the other artwork on the slides was created by her 5 grade class after given an assignment of a Poem describing “Who I am”. And the flowers were painted by a group of 4th graders.

Dr. Craghead also commented that she loved the fact that the Fine Arts Department looked at a demographic and tried to figure out how to bring more diversity into the High School Band. We are doing something similar with the athletics, looking into the youth leagues in the town because that is really where it starts.

Dr. Craghead mentioned you spoke about youth lesson models and reducing cost but what about the instruments? Dawn replied a collection of school owned instruments are available for students to borrow for free. Costs of the lessons are also reduced due to scholarships being offered to students. FAME has also provided donations as well and the community has come forward and donated instruments.

Superintendent Gormley commented that if anyone watching wants to donate any instruments please reach out to Dawn Sykes. Catherine DesRoche organized a fair at the Tucker Elementary School for Music and Sports and it was a huge success. Concerts and recitals are at the end of June, also a huge success.

Ada Rosmarin commented that she would love to see the Pilot Program that was created at Tucker expanded into the other elementary schools. Dawn Sykes replied that is the ultimate goal for all the schools but our challenges are the funding and also finding instructors.

Chair Varela asked Dawn Sykes about the ACE Program, how does the program continue through Middle and High School? Dawn Sykes replied that in Middle School ACE is incorporated into the classes but have an added curriculum. In High School, students need to reapply and courses are offered as semester courses at different levels. Chair Varela also asked if an evaluation was done with students of color participating in the ACE program similar to the evaluation done with Fine Arts. Dawn Sykes replied no but would be something that ACE could evaluate.

Superintendent Gormley added a quick note that Catherine DesRoche began a partnership with CDM and also with Winston Daley. And both Cat and Winston went to Dawn Sykes to work with Tucker students.

Superintendent Gormley spoke about the Marching Band's involvement on the first day of school. We had our lawyers here to speak to staff regarding legal issues and also a guest speaker who presented on child abuse. It was a very serious two hours on serious topics. And to have the Marching Band end the day with a performance was all the staff could talk about. On September 26th, we had 500 Japanese Exchange students come back to Milton High School for its 14th year. Superintendent Gormley asked Johnny Nichols to share about the day with the Marching Band.

Johnny Nichols replied that he really needed to give credit to Rebecca Damiani (who is out on maternity leave) and Gary Good. We are a partnership, worked all summer with the students to put the show together. Students performed a Spanish Style routine, the Tango and the Mambo. Marching Band marked up the field house and march in sequence for the 1st time for the Japanese Exchange students. In the past we just played music. Superintendent Gormley said the performance and presentation was amazing. Johnny Nichols agreed and said the students work hard and deserve the credit as well.

Margaret Eberhardt commented that it is so important to see the kids making the connections with music and how serious Marching Band is at all levels. Teamwork drives from much of their learning and your amazing program supports them.

Chair Varela agreed that the program is great and promotes leadership roles for the students. The skill set gives the students the confidence they need to succeed. It is great that the program continues to blossom.

Betty White thanked the Fine Arts Committee for the presentation. Every year School Committee attends budget meetings for funding and your students are our best advisement. Students perform at the winter concerts, graduation, school plays and musicals. The quality of your program and your students are amazing.

b. Happenings - Superintendent Gormley

- Superintendent Gormley spoke about the Professional Development - Raising the Bar organized by Ben Kelly, AJ Melanson and Amy Tom on Friday, September 27th at Milton High School. The team organized 85 presenters, over 600 attendees from 15 different school districts. Received all positive feedback and comments. I believe this was the best Professional Development day I have ever attended. With the organization to the follow up was absolutely extraordinary. Betty White agreed and commented that the keynote speaker Kenneth Wesson was one of the best speakers she has ever heard.
- Superintendent Gormley also spoke regarding Childhood Cancer - and Milton Public Schools "Goes Gold". Throughout our schools we witnessed children helping children. In two short weeks students raised/donated \$6,000. The Key Club at the High School was a huge success reported by Leonice Bernard. We were overcome with donations dropped off for children's hospital.
- October 3, 2019 James Jette gave presentation to parents at the 8th Grade Information Night.
- Very Excited to report that Celebrate Milton will recognize Dr. Elaine McNeil Girmai. Presenting her with the Community Building Award.
- Parent University Presented by Marty McKenna and Noel Vigue. Offered a variety of topics to parents on October 17th at Pierce Middle School.
- Middle and High School packets listing the number of students per class were given to School Committee to be reviewed at the next meeting.

**5. Chair's Report**

a. 2019 2020 School Committee Goals - Goal 1 (Vote)

Chair Varela confirmed that Dr. Spaulding updated the goal with the MCAS results. Dr. Spaulding reported that MCAS scores were lower across the state and we are watching the trends overtime.

Goal #1 - Curriculum & Instruction Goal for the 2019-2020 School Year

- Recognizing that the Grade 10 ELA and Math tests have transitioned over to the Next-Generation version in 2018-2019 and that the percentages of students meeting/exceeding expectations are 77% and 76% respectively, our goal is to have 80% meeting/exceeding for both test in 2019-2020.

- The percentage of Grade 3 students who meet/exceed grade-level expectations on the 2020 ELA MCAS will increase by two percentage points (to 77%) from the percentage on the 2019 Grade 3 ELA MCAS (75%).
- Evaluate the impact of Milton High School's change to their block day schedule.
- Begin a two year program review of the Milton Public Schools K-5 Math Curriculum.

Margaret Eberhardt added that it will be interesting to hear the data presentation in a few weeks. Boston Globe Article wrote about the decrease in scores across the state as well. It is good to look at the data and stay on track.

Chair Varela asked if all are in favor of adopting the goal for the 2019-2020 school year.

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

b. School Committee 2019-2020 Calendar - updated and approved

c. Appoint MACS Designate (Vote)

Chair Varela made a motion to approve Dr. Craghead as our Delegate to represent the School Committee at the MASC Conference.

Second: Margaret Eberhardt

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

d. MASC Resolutions (Vote)

Dr. Craghead spoke regarding the nine proposed Resolutions.

1. Banning Polystyrene from Schools
2. Pertaining to Educator Diversity and Professional Licensure
3. School Transportation
4. Climate Change
5. Full Funding of Transportation Cost for Students in Foster Care and State Care
6. Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts (reaffirmation of a 2014 Resolution)
7. Poverty and Children (reaffirmation of a 2015 Resolution)
8. Resolution for Access to Menstrual Supplies
9. Charter School Reform

Chair Varela asked if anyone wanted to speak about Resolution #2 (Pertaining to Educator Diversity and Professional Licensure)? Superintendent Gormley commented that she supports

that our students and teachers should be qualified to take any or all test, whether it is SAT, MCAS, AP or MTEL.

Dr. Spaulding reported that there are possible cultural barriers with certain questions on the test. Dr. Spaulding agreed with Superintendent Gormley that we owe it to our students to have qualified teachers.

Dr. Pavlicek commented that he has taken the MTEL exam and did not think it was difficult. This is not an excessive standard for teachers.

Betty White has also taken the exam and commented that it was not difficult and has changed over the years to make it convenient for most.

Dr. Craghead commented that maybe they could look at the test and the questions to make sure it is culturally appropriate. Scholarships are also provided to help pay for the exam. This should be the direction we should be going in instead of throwing out the entire exam.

Margaret Eberhardt also took the exam to advance her license. Did not find the test challenging but many young people that are taking the exam today seem to be failing the same sections with the same score, which is a problem. The math section can be difficult for a K-8 teacher who is teaching younger grade levels but then asked to complete eight grade math. Really need to consider the quality of the exam.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to approve the Resolutions:

Resolution #1 Banning Polystyrene from Schools

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #2 Pertaining to Educator Diversity and Professional Licensure

Vote: 0-0-5

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #3 School Transportation

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #4 Climate Change

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.



Resolution #5 Full Funding of Transportation Cost for Students in Foster Care and State Care

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #6 Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts (reaffirmation of a 2014 Resolution)

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #7 Poverty and Children (reaffirmation of a 2015 Resolution)

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #8 for Access to Menstrual Supplies

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Resolution #9 Charter School Reform

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

## **5. Chair's Report**

### **a. FY21 Budget Calendar (Revised)**

Site Councils and Administration present FY20 Budget Recommendations to Finance Subcommittee.

- September 25 – Capital, Athletics, FY20 Budget
- October 8 – Milton High School, Pierce Middle School
- October 15 – Cunningham Collicot, tucker and Glover
- October 22 – Special Education
- Late October Finance Subcommittee will present FY21 recommendation to School Committee.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> Finance Subcommittee will present FY21 recommendation to School Committee.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> School Committee votes FY21 Budget recommendation for Warrant Committee.

### **b. FY20-FY22 Capital Requests (Vote)**

Bob Pattison, Director of Technology submitted the 5 year Technology Capital Plan

- Server Replacement
- WiFi Upgrades

- End User Devices to keep up with 20% annual replacement
- Chrome books and Carts to make Pierce 1:1

Bill Richie, Director of Consolidated Facilities – 5 Year Capital Expense Request

- Asphalt/Concrete, Curbing, Patching & Repairs (phased)
- New Maintenance Truck 12 y.o. (very poor condition)
- Security System Upgrades
- Auditorium Lighting Control Replacement
- Digital Network Radio System
- Roof Replacement/Sections Flash & Pitched (phased)
- Roof Replacement/Sections – Flash & Pitched (phased)
- Carpet Replacement (phased)
- Window/Hardware Replacement (phased)
- Replacement (phased)

c. FY19 End of Year Report – copy was emailed out to review.

Dr. Glenn Pavlicek reported that the End of the Year Report was signed and submitted.

d. Approve of Vendor Warrants (Vote)

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

Vendor Warrant number 14, dated October 3, 2019 in the amount of \$292,590.15

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

Vendor Warrant number 15, dated October 10, 2019 in the amount of \$291,961.44

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 4-0-1

Dr. Donahue was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote.

## **7. Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Report**

Margaret Eberhardt reported that a short meeting took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Talked about the walk to school days for the students, bus updates were given and also discussed the project taking place on Route 138. Glover continues to have traffic issues that we need to address.

Dr. Glenn Pavlicek commented that the traffic around Glover has been an ongoing issue even with the updates that were completed. A variety of recommendations have been made for example, raising the traffic signs and removing a newly planted tree that is blocking views to traffic. Also talked about making more parking available near Milton Academy and adding

another crosswalk. Adding a traffic circle was also suggested but will likely not happen. We also have traffic issues coming from the High School on Canton Ave at the Thatcher Street light that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Donahue joined the School Committee meeting at 8:57pm.

**8. Policy Subcommittee Report**

Dr. Donahue reported the Policy Subcommittee met a few weeks back. Productive meeting, talked about our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Placement Policy and the possibility that the policy made need to be addressed due to our enrollment issues/crisis. Also discussed the French Immersion waiting list that took place over the summer. Parents asked if there were different ways to approach the French Immersion enrollment. Milton Public Schools currently hold a lottery for the French Immersion Program. The next Policy Subcommittee Meeting will take place on October 23, 2019.

**9. Approval of Minutes (Vote)**

Chair Varela made a motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 4, 2019.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

**10. Old Business**

None

**11. Citizen Speak Topic Response**

None

**12. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

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, AFSCME and approval of minutes.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm.