

**Reorganizational Meeting of the Milton School Committee  
prior to the Regular Meeting of the Milton  
June 10, 2020**

**(Conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.)**

**Committee Present:** Sheila Varela, Chair; Dr. Elaine 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. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business

**Milton School Committee Reorganizational Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to Order 7:05 - Dr. Donahue
2. Approve June 10, 2020 Reorganizational Meeting Agenda - approved and updated
3. School Committee Organizational Meeting, Policy BDA

Dr. Donahue extended congratulations to re-elected members Ms. Rosmarin and Ms. White. Dr. Donahue opened the floor for nominations for the Chair of the School Committee. Dr. Craghead nominated Sheila Varela for Chair. Dr. Donahue asked Ms. Varela if she accepted the nomination. Ms. Varela replied yes, she accepted the nomination for Chair of the School Committee. Dr. Donahue asked if there were any additional nominations for Chair of the School Committee. With no reply at this time from the School Committee, Dr. Donahue closed the nomination for the Chair of the School Committee.

Dr. Donahue put forth a motion to vote on the nomination of the Chair of the School Committee to be Sheila Varela.

Second: Dr. Donahue  
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Donahue congratulated Chair Varela.

Chair Varela opened up the nominations for Vice Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Eberhardt nominated Dr. Elaine Craghead as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Chair Varela asked Dr. Craghead if she accepted the nomination. Dr. Craghead accepted. Chair Varela asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chair. With no reply at this time from the School Committee, Chair Varela closed the nomination for the Vice Chair of the School Committee.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to vote on the nomination of the Vice Chair of the School Committee to be Dr. Elaine Craghead.

Second: Chair Varela

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Chair Varela adjourned the reorganization meeting and formally opened the School Committee Meeting.

### **Regular Milton School Committee Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to order: 7:40pm

Chair Varela asked for a moment to speak to a member of the Committee who passed away, Mr. Beirne Lovely.

- Long time public school advocate
- School Committee for 3 terms 2000-2010
- Implemented the Town's full day Kindergarten program
- Advocate of High School Athletics
- Dedicated Town Meeting Member from 1988-2018
- Served as role model and mentor many throughout his career
- Decorated United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran
- True legend in the Town of Milton

Chair Varela asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Beirne Lovely. Ms. White and Ms. Rosmarin also shared kind words and memories of Mr. Beirne Lovely.

2. Approve June 10, 2020 Agenda  
Updated and approved
3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 minutes)  
None
4. Superintendent's Report
  - a. School Committee Endorsement of MTA Request for Additional Federal Funding-HEROES Act

Dyanne Crowley, MEA President spoke to the School Committee about the Funding-HEROES ACT.

The COVID-19 health crisis and the resulting economic shutdown have created a disaster that only the federal government has the resources to adequately address. We need a massive New Deal-level infusion of new federal funding to stave off catastrophic consequences for the millions of people who have lost their jobs - and to protect and strengthen the public services our

society depends on, including outstanding public schools and high-quality public colleges and universities that students can attend without taking on massive amounts of debt.

The federal CARES Act was a down payment. The HEROES Act, a \$3 trillion bill passed on May 15 by the U.S. House of Representatives, goes much further. We need to build a chorus of support for the HEROES Act, along with calls for improvements, as it is debated in the Senate.

The HEROES Act would do the following:

1. Allocate \$900 billion for state and local fiscal relief.
2. Provide \$100 billion in emergency aid for public education, from prek through college.
3. Cancel at least \$10,000 per student in college loan debt for the most financially insecure borrowers.
4. Provide \$1.5 billion for computers, Wi-Fi hotspots and support for students and families to address home connectivity issues.
5. Provide hundreds of billions of dollars of relief — including to our immigrant neighbors and friends — for testing and contact tracing, healing the sick, feeding the needy, assisting the housing insecure, and extending aid to the unemployed and to those caring for sick family members.

The HEROES Act — while helping to protect states, municipalities, public schools and colleges still needs to be improved:

1. Our public schools and colleges will need far more to maintain and improve services for our students. The MTA, the MEA and our allies have called for nearly double the amount for our public education system.
2. The final bill should be expanded to provide across-the board student loan cancellation of \$10,000 for federal and private loans. Research shows that canceling debt is a powerful way to stimulate the economy.
3. The measure should also provide assistance to help people, many of them out of jobs, return to college or go for the first time and graduate debt free.

Let your U.S. senators know that you want them to pass an improved HEROES Act. Thank your U.S. representative for voting in favor of the bill and urge them to stand firm for a strong bill when it comes back to the house.

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Superintendent Gormley asked if anyone had any questions. At this time there were no questions.

b. Guest of the Superintendent

- Food Service Director Jacqueline Morgan shared the success of the Food Service Program
- Jackie Morgan announced a waiver was approved to continue to feed families through the summer
- Ms. Morgan displayed the boxes given to families full 22lbs of produce
- Food Services have been serving families every Wednesday since March 16th
- So far Milton has served 40,945 meals
- Custodial staff has been exceptional and helpful with setting up and assisting Food Services

Dr. Craghead commented that Jackie Morgan's efforts during the Pandemic have been nothing short of heroic. Seeing pictures of Ms. Morgan and staff standing in the rain, the snow and the produce boxes are such a wonderful thing in addition to all the other food. Dr. Craghead thanked Jackie Morgan for being a great leader and hero.

Ms. Rosmarin thanked Ms. Morgan for all of the work she has done and for bringing in another grant to feed families through the summer.

Chair Varela commented that Ms. Morgan is a jewel and the Food Service Program should receive an A++. Stated that Ms. Morgan and staff have gone above and beyond during this Pandemic and is just amazing. Chair Varela thanked Ms. Morgan.

Superintendent Gormley read the below statement:

The recently publicized series of events related to a teacher in the Milton Public Schools in a call to all of us to reflect on our processes and practices with an equity lens and to ensure that we do so with the input of others, especially educators of color. I would like to thank those of you who have reached out to us with your thoughts, insights and ideas. As is captured in a letter that Principal Fish and I received from over 400 members of our community, the Milton Public Schools must lead this work. We commit to doing that, and we appreciate your commitment to partner with us in order to move closer to a “racially literate, education-with-excellence” district. I commit to the community, our educators, and our students to be open to growth and improvement and to expect the same of those around me. I ask you for your help in this important work. We must do better for our students, our staff, and our community.

c. Return to School Task Force

- School Committee Member Ada Rosmarin & Glover Principal Karen McDavitt

Ms. Rosmarin gave an update on the survey given to the community about returning to school in the fall. The survey was designed to give an overview of the challenges of returning to school and to see what the community concerns were.

- Primary community concerns are science and equity
- 850 responded to survey
- Will be sharing results on the new Return to School Task Force website that is being created
- More information about the Commissioner's Guidelines will be shared on the website as well
- The link to the new website will be available in the Superintendent Blog
- Website will have contact links so people can reach out with comments, questions and concerns
- Want to hear from the community

Ms. Eberhardt thanked Ms. Rosmarin and the task force for their work. Ms. Eberhardt questioned the role of the School Committee on how they can support the educators. Ms. Eberhardt commented that if Milton Public Schools is going forward with the Hybrid Model for a whole year, we need to make sure teachers are supported in school and remotely. Ms. Eberhardt stated she would like clear guidance on what the School Committee role will be to support these initiatives to make sure that systems are in place to make sure teachers have what they need.

Dr. Craghead agreed with Ms. Eberhardt. She commented that with a model like this, you have kids in school and some remote; she is concerned about the support. How are the students supported through this model?

Mr. Rosmarin commented that in the task force there are subcommittees working in all different areas. The task force will make recommendations go to Superintendent Gormley, and from there Superintendent Gormley will be making the final decisions on what to implement. For the School Committee role, Ms. Rosmarin commented that the roles will remain the same as always, which are policy, budget and the Superintendent. Any policies that need to be developed will come to the School Committee to plan and to make the decisions, but the implementation of the plans will belong to the Administration.

Chair Varela thanked Ms. Rosmarin for the clarification of the School Committee roles. Policy will be more important than ever and during the School Committee retreat the policies will be looked at and we will strategize what the School Committee will do for the upcoming year.

Ms. Eberhardt asked Ms. Rosmarin if there was a plan from the district to do a social and emotional learner screener as students return to school. Ms. Rosmarin replied most likely, this will be part of the Health and Wellness subcommittee. Ms. Rosmarin commented that the subcommittee will be looking at the social/emotional learning, behavioral and physical health and will be making recommendations.

d. Happenings

- Successful Milton High School Graduation on June 7, 2020
- Return to School Task Force Chairs, Ms. Rosmarin and Ms. McDavitt will be providing an outline at the beginning of the Superintendent's Blast
- Commissioner will be issuing information on June 15th around the Hybrid Model for the upcoming school year
- Goal is to have 85-90% on the same Hybrid Model
- Will keep the School Committee, community, parents, students, staff informed
- Check website for summer reading
- Camp Cunningham will not be running this summer
- Will be providing Special Ed services at the Cunningham/Collicot School over the summer, more information to follow
- Student recovery, Bridge Program and Calc Program will be remote

5. Citizen Speak Topic Response - School Committee Statement - Social Justice

- Chair Varela read a statement on behalf of the Milton School Committee about Social Justice.

6. Chair's Report

- a. School Committee Resolution Covid-19 State Funding - Chair Varela read the Resolution on behalf of the School Committees.

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE COVID-19 ERA

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Legislature and governor enacted the *Student Opportunity Act* in 2019 because the state's school funding formula was out of date and failed to provide all students with the education to which they are constitutionally entitled; and

WHEREAS, the inadequacy in funding was felt most deeply in school districts serving high concentrations of low-income students, English learners and students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the *Student Opportunity Act* requires phasing in new funding formulas to provide greater resources for all school districts, with the largest share going to low-income districts; and

WHEREAS, our students' needs are even greater now after public schools and colleges were shut down in mid-March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the upcoming academic year many students will need enhanced educational opportunities, technology, health and guidance services; and

WHEREAS, the need for these additional services exists in every school district and is greatest in school districts that would receive the largest share of new funding under the *Student Opportunity Act*; and

WHEREAS, the federal, state and local governments share responsibility for making sure all students receive the education to which they are constitutionally entitled.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_ School Committee supports the following:

- Congress should approve New Deal-level funding for state and local governments in response to the economic crisis caused by this pandemic, raising revenues progressively if necessary, to ensure that they can fulfill their obligations to educate our students;
- The Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Charlie Baker should fund public education — preK through higher education — at the level needed to maintain current staffing and services, fully fund the first year of the *Student Opportunity Act*, and enable students and our state's economy to thrive as we begin recovering from the pandemic;
- Our city/town(s) should maintain its/their commitment to fully fund our public schools.

Chair Varela asked Mr. Rosmarin if she would like to speak to the Resolution. Ms. Rosmarin replied that it would be an opportunity to join other School Committees across the state that are signing onto this resolution and this combined with the MTA Resolution adds voices to the Massachusetts legislators and to the congressional delegations to let them know we need funding to support bringing kids back safely.

Dr. Craghead stated that the cost to bring the students back could well exceed half a million dollars. She commented that most know already that Milton had a budget gap that had to be filled using the stabilization fund which will be voted on at Town Meeting on June 15th. If Milton had to pay any portion of this half of a million dollars, we would not be able to fund it out of the budget - we just do not have the money. Dr. Craghead stated that this is an absolute necessity for our district and most other districts in Massachusetts.

Chair Varela put forth a motion to support the School Committee Resolution Covid-19 State Funding.

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

7. Finance Subcommittee Report

a. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #50 in the amount of \$142,172.50 payable June 11, 2020.

Second: Chair Varela

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

8. Old Business

None

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and Approved

10. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 minutes)

None

11. Executive Session

a. Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel.

Chair Varela moved to adjourn to go into Executive Session not to return to open session for the purpose of discussion of Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.