

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Via Remote Access
August 26, 2020

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

Staff Present: Dr. Karen Spaulding, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources; Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business

(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.)

1. Call to order 7:04

- **Approve August 26, 2020 Agenda** - Updated and approved. Chair Varela reminded the community that Citizen Speak will be 30 minutes and if you are unable to call in to the School Committee meeting to please email any questions or concerns.

2. Chair's Report - Chair Varela

- a. Acceptance of Mary Gormley Letter of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement
 - Chair Varela read the letter of resignation of Mary Gormley

Chair Varela made a motion to accept the resignation of Mary Gormley for the purpose of retirement.

Second: Ms. White

Roll call Vote: 6-0-0

Chair Varela asked if anyone wanted to speak on behalf of Mary Gormley.

Ms. Eberhardt thanked Mary Gormley for all of her leadership and dedication to the town. Stated that Ms. Gormley showed up every day to support staff and students, she was a teacher and encouraged so many to pursue their dreams whether they were students, teachers or Principals. Ms. Eberhardt commented she will miss Ms. Gormley and was thankful for her 46 years with the Milton Public Schools.

Ms. White commented that when she thinks of Mary Gormley she automatically thinks of the Milton Public Schools. Stated that Ms. Gormley has been the heart and soul of the school system, she has been so dedicated to schools and the town. Ms. White also commented that Ms.

Gormley was always so proud of her students and faculty. Ms White stated that she would miss Ms. Gormley's smile, enthusiasm, dedication, devotion and her emails.

Ms. Rosmarin stated that she had the privilege to work with Mary Gormley for decades. Ms. Gormley was a life time educator with an open heart, mind and wanted nothing but the best for the Milton Public Schools. Ms. Rosmarin commented that Ms. Gormley was a strong leader with a passion for education, has faced many challenges through the years and has led us through those times. Ms. Rosmarin wished Ms. Gormley and her family the best wishes.

Dr. Donahue stated Ms. Gormley was a force of nature; her absence will be felt far and wide. Commented that Ms. Gormley was selfless and gave so much to the town of Milton and the Milton Public Schools. Ms. Gormley gave almost 50 years of dedicated service, touched so many lives so deeply, and Dr. Donahue stated that is such a gift to the community. Dr. Donahue wished Ms. Gormley and her family well.

Dr. Craghead stated she learned a lot from Ms. Gormley, she set examples for everyone around her, always working the hardest. Dr. Craghead commented that Ms. Gormley constantly recognized others in the school system, made people feel special and gave everyone her complete attention. Dr. Craghead said Ms. Gormley treated everyone with respect, grace, humor and was the best kind of leader. Dr. Craghead stated she would miss Ms. Gormley and thanked her for her service to the Milton Public Schools.

Chair Varela commented that she was shocked when she learned of Ms. Gormley's retirement. When she thinks of Mary she thinks of her dedication to Milton Public Schools. As a School Committee member and parent, Chair Varela has seen Ms. Gormley always put the Milton Public Schools first. Ms. Gormley has had such an impact on education that will be long lasting. Chair Varela reported that in the last 2 years, it was a privilege and honor to work closely with Ms. Gormley. She always had an excellent relationship with her School Committee. Chair Varela wished Ms. Gormley peace and comfort during this difficult time with her family. Milton is a great district; we will get through this because of Ms. Gormley's leadership. God bless you, you will be missed.

b. Superintendent Search – Chair Varela

- Next steps would be the appointment of the Interim Superintendent
- Recommendation can be made at the open School Committee Meeting
- Ms. Eberhardt would like to lead the process in the search for the permanent Superintendent

c. Interim Superintendent for 2020-2021: Discussion and Possible Appointment

- Chair Varela put forth for discussion of appointing of Principal James Jette to the position of Interim Superintendent of the Milton Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The School Committee agreed with Chair Varela on the appointment of Principal James Jette as Interim Superintendent.

Chair Varela made a motion to offer the position of Interim Superintendent to Principal James Jette.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

Chair Varela made a motion to take a 10 minute recess starting at 7:50pm to call Principal James Jette to formally offer him the Interim Superintendent position.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

Chair Varela reconvened the School Committee meeting at 8pm.

Principal James Jette joined the meeting. Chair Varela announced that Principal Jette has accepted the Interim Superintendent position.

3. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Spaulding

a. Update on Anti-Racism Initiatives

- Parents/guardians and staff asked to apply for positions on the anti-racism team
- Equity audit is complete
- Job description is complete for the Senior Position for the Director of Equity

- b. Pierce Middle School Principal William Fish: Pause in Leveling at the Middle School** – A discussion was held with Principal Bill Fish, K-8 Math Director Brian Selig and K-8 Literacy Director Cat DesRoche with regard to the Accelerated Program at Pierce Middle School and the decision to pause it. It was explained that when the school closure occurred in the spring MCAS was cancelled and teachers were unable to administer grade level assessments. Families and teachers discussed concerns around the lack of data to make informed and fair decisions for accelerated levels. The best course of action would be to pause that program for this year.

- c. Approval MPS Staff Procedural Handbook for Student Restraint** - Ms. Susan Maselli, Administrator of Pupil Personnel services explained that as a result of a

recent Coordinated Program Review, we had to update our Staff Procedural Handbook for Student Restraint. It has been completed and will be distributed; however, it must be voted on by the School Committee.

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the MPS Staff Procedural Handbook for Student Restraint for the 2020-2021 school year.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

4. Policy Subcommittee Report

Dr. Donahue recommended using the expedited approval process for policies that have been recently discussed in Policy Subcommittee meetings and which have been reviewed by legal counsel.

a. Policy EBCFA, Face Covering Policy

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Policy EBCFA, Face Covering Policy.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

b. Policy IHBHE, Remote Learning Policy

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Policy IHBHE, Remote Learning Policy.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

c. Policy JLCB, Immunization Policy

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Policy JLCB, Immunization Policy.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

d. Policy JLCF, COVID Policy

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Policy JLCF, COVID Policy.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

e. Policy ACAB, Harassment Policy (this will replace Policy ACAA)

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Policy ACAB, Harassment Policy.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

5. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-30 minutes) – Chair Varela reminded the community that Citizen Speak would be 30 minutes.

Jay Fundling - 39 Sias Lane

- Addressed and concerned about the decision to cease offering Math and English Advanced placement at Pierce
- Worry that AP classes will be next to be taken away at the High School level
- Does not want to think that a rigorous education is only available at private schools
- Understands remote schooling is an issue right now
- 6th grade was not challenging for his daughter and now worried that 7th grade will not be as well
- Hope the School Committee will reverse this policy

Dr. Lizzy Carroll - 37 Randolph Ave

- Pleased to hear about the appointment Interim Superintendent James Jette
- Wanted to make suggestions on the search for the permanent Superintendent
 - need to for open and transparent committee
 - robust national search

Regine Jean-Charles - 70 Sumner Street

- Looking forward to working with Superintendent James Jette
- Agreed with Dr. Carroll about the robust national search

Joy Garmaise – 47 Harland Street

- Thanked the School Committee for appointing James Jette as the Interim Superintendent

Ana Frega – 5 Viola Street

- Thanked the School Committee for appointing James Jette
- Questioned who will be the Principal of the High School

Emily Speck - 84 Beacon Street Circle

- Thanked the committee and task force for all their hard work getting ready for the opening of the schools.
- Commented that the plan of the Pierce Middle School eliminating the leveling of classes is a idea in the right direction

6. Approval of Minutes

Chair Varela made a motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes dated July 29, 2020.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 5-0-1

7. Next Meeting Agenda Items - Updated and approved

8. 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 the following:

- a. strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation with Milton Educators Association (Units A, B and D) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares
- b. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non union personnel, specifically Town of Milton Consolidated Facilities Director and Interim Superintendent of Schools
- c. Approval of Minutes

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

Meeting adjourn 9:40pm