

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
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October 21, 2020

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

Absent: Dr. Craghead, Vice Chair

Staff Present: James Jette, Superintendent of Schools; 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** - 7:03pm
2. **Approve October 21, 2020 Agenda**
 - Updated and approved
3. **Chair's Report** - Chair Varela welcomed Glenn Koocher, MACS Executive Director.
 - a. Glenn Koocher presented to the School Committee and the community on the Superintendent Search Process (please see the presentation slides link below)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g-zFf2rOjqdH5VUncU7dIAYHDvhn9wty6oVMekziS2o/edit>

The School Committee thanked Glenn Koocher and confirmed his presentation was helpful to the community and the School Committee. Stated that the School Committee now has good information to think about and can come back to another public meeting to discuss what needs to be done with the Superintendent search.

b. MASC Resolutions

Resolution 1: MCAS and High Stakes Testing

School Committee members expressed concern with the language of the Resolution.

Chair Varela made a motion to disagree with the resolution with the stipulation that Dr. Craghead will speak to the change on behalf of the School Committee.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: Voting yes for no 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 2: Covid-19 State Funding (approved by School Committee in previous meeting)

Resolution 3: School Committee Anti-Racism Resolution (approved by School Committee in previous meeting)

Resolution 4: Lowering the Voting Age for Municipal Elections

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the voting age to 16 for Municipal Elections.

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 5: Supporting Increased Federal Support and Stimulus Funding for Public K-12 Education

Chair Varela made a motion to approve Support Increased Federal Support and Stimulus Funding for Public K-12 Education.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 6: Retention of Medicaid Revenue

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the Retention of Medicaid Revenue.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 7: Attempts by US Department of Education to Direct Funding to Private Schools

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the Attempts by the US Department of Education to Direct Funding to Private School.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 8: Membership of a School Committee member on the Board of the Elementary and Secondary Education

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the Membership of a School Committee member on the Board of the Elementary and Secondary Education.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 9: Providing Equity for Sexual Orientation - LGBTQ + Students, Teachers and Staff

Chair Varela made a motion to approve Providing Equity for Sexual orientation - LGBTQ + Students, Teachers and Staff.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Resolution 10: Relative to the Monitoring of Attendance of Students During the Pandemic

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the Relative to the Monitoring of Attendance of Students During the Pandemic.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

c. Ratification of Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME

Chair Varela made a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME concerning working conditions for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

d. Ratification of Memorandum of Understanding with Milton Educators Association

Chair Varela made a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding with the Milton Educators Association concerning working conditions for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

4. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

a. COVID Metrics Advisory Team

- Commitment to in person learning
- Thankful to faculty and staff
- Kim Coughlin doing an amazing job
- Collaborative effort
- Some parents are asking if Milton can return in full
 - number of positive cases have grown
 - bound by 6 feet of social distance
 - sympathize with families struggling with child care
 - at this time it would be impossible to return in full
- Tracking all cases in Milton would include the entire community including colleges not just Milton Public Schools.
- Commissioner will continue to give updates including new metrics guidelines
- Concerned about college students returning home and to the community
- Concerned about travel with the holiday season
- Teachers are working hard, preparing for students in remote, hybrid and students that stream in as well
- Enrollment is an issue but Milton has been fortunate to return in the Hybrid Model

The School Committee thanked Superintendent Jette, staff and faculty for all of their hard work.

b. Update on Anti-Racism Initiatives

- Diverse group - Representatives from all six schools, diverse parent population and two students (Anya O'Brien and Adrianna Simpson)
- Next meeting we will identify work that needs to be done with student and staff
 - how can we enhance to be more inclusive
- Chair Varela suggested having the committee present at a later date to the community and the School Committee. Superintendent Jette stated he could provide the committee member list as well.
- Director of Equity - Dr. Spaulding
 - working with an amazing team
 - 7 candidates
 - working through our semi finalist round and will then send the finalist to Superintendent Jette
 - Timeline for recommendations would be late next week
- Equity Audit

- concerned that the audit is not going to see the schools as a full picture during the hybrid model, some students are remote, not using the cafe and hallways. It is hard to see the full scope of the classroom
- Is it possible to put a pause on the audit until we are back in full with all students
- Needed to remove furniture from the buildings and schools have become a sterile environment
- Continue to receive feedback, making sure everyone's needs are being met
- Dr. Spaulding commented how long can MPS delay the equity of education
- Chair Varela stated the sample given with the current bid was not what MPS was looking for so perhaps should request another sample

c. Update on Remote/Hybrid Learning

- Positive experience walking through the schools
 - unannounced visits at schools and pleased to report all students and teachers working and the engagement taking place in all classrooms
 - wearing mask, working independently
 - impressed with all the schools
 - teachers are just as excited to be back in the classroom
 - students are the most important
 - understand we have challenges but doing our best
 - continue to find ways to support students, families and teachers
 - Remote students can still participate in sports and activities

d. 2019-2020 Annual Report

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Annual Report for submission.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

5. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

Scott Matthews

- concerned about the Equity Audit being considered to be paused
- socialization piece is not the primary problem, it is really just the symptom
- we are blinded by the issues we are facing, we need to have an expert to help us out
- impact on black and brown kids, are at a disadvantage
- raising white kids to be racist
- need to go in the right direction
- need the right people to help with the evaluation

Lizzy Carroll - 37 Randolph Ave

- encourage to recognize responsibilities
- need to start collecting data from the outside resources
- if you find the bid incomplete, perhaps reopen the bid in January
- look at the curriculum
- Thanked Ms. Eberhardt on the Superintendent search
 - great community of diversity

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

Dr. Donahue made a motion to request that \$180,000 be added to the School Department budget at the December 7th Special Town Meeting.

Superintendent Jette spoke about the additional positions to be added.

- 2 Technology Positions
- Reading Interventionist - Elementary
- Math Interventionist - Elementary
- World Language Teacher at PMS
- Science Teacher - MHS

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve the First Quarter Report as presented.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve the FY22 Technology Capital Requests as presented.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Dr. Donahue suggested holding off on the vote on the contract for the provision of Equity Audit and systematic implementation in the amount of \$50,000 to Cambridge Education, LLC.

- appears MPS is not ready to accept the contract
- need to do more research
- suggest to defer this item until the next meeting

Chair Varela suggested putting out the request in January, still start the audit this year but hopefully receive more submissions.

Ms. Eberhardt said we already waited too long and struggling as a committee of what the samples should look like, would rather not delay since we could still be in this situation next year with the pandemic.

Chair Varela wants to request another sample of an audit, then review as a committee before making the vote. Not happy with the first sample provided.

Dr. Donahue made a motion to reauthorize the maximum fund level of \$40,000 for the Milton High School Activities checking account.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant 15 payable 10/15/20 in the amount of \$393,372.35.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant 15A Refunds payable 10/15/20 in the amount of \$24,119.73.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant 16 payable 10/22/20 in the amount of \$251,619.40

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant 16A payable 10/22/20 in the amount of \$21,517.20

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

7. Facilities Advisory Committee Report - Dr. Donahue

a. FY22 Facilities Capital Requests

Dr. Donahue made a motion to approve the FY22 Facilities Capital Requests as presented.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

8. School Building Committee Update - Ms. Rosmarin

- Members spoke with the Massachusetts School Building Authority in response to our submission of interest of funding for a new school building
- They wanted to confirm that MPS is still interested, they are going to schedule a visit to look at Cunningham but welcomed them to look at all elementary schools
- They will be back in touch, the visit will probably take place in 60-90 days
- They have all of MPS information and enrollment numbers

9. Approval of Minutes

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the Milton School committee Minutes need dated October 7, 2020.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

10. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

Chair Varela moved to adjourn to go into Executive Session not to return to open session for the purpose of discussion:

- a. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation with Milton Educators Association (Units A, B and D) and with AFSCME Council 93 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. Approval of Minutes

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.