

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Milton Access Cable Studio
Public Participation via Remote Access
December 2, 2020

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

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** - 7:02pm
2. **Approve December 2, 2020 Agenda**
Updated and approved
3. **Citizen Speak** (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

Lynda-Lee Sheridan - 57 Clifton Road

- Spoke regarding Assistant Superintendent Dr. Glenn Pavlicek retiring
 - He is a dedicated member of the team and this will be his last official school committee meeting
 - Wanted to celebrate and thank Dr. Pavlicek for all of his contributions and all his years of working in education
 - Dr. Pavlicek has worked as the Chair of the Warrant Committee and the School Committee
 - His children went through MPS
 - Chair of Finance Committee, worked on number committees throughout the years
 - Dr. Pavlicek is a positive easy going spirit
 - 2013 became Assistant Superintendent of Business for the Milton Public Schools
 - He has worked with leaderships teams, parents, town government and boards
 - Since 1999 Dr. Pavlicek has analyzed and presented every school committee budget for the past 20 years
 - He is dedicated and trustworthy
 - Wished Dr. Pavlicek and his wife many years of health and happiness in his retirement

Leah Silipo - 23 Myers Lane

- On a leave of absence from being a High School Teacher
- Lucky enough to be home to manage and educate her own children

- Thanked Superintendent Jette and the entire MPS staff for all that they are doing to support her 1st grade daughter and her classmates
- Tucker has the hardest working staff
- Hybrid is challenging, but humbled by her daughter's teachers
- Privilege and sacrifice to be home with her daughter
- Wants her daughter back in school but the physical health and safety needs to be the first
- Cannot sacrifice the safety of others
- Referenced to social justice and the pandemic being two separate issues and stated that was not true and they are linked as the second caller stated a few weeks back about the public being uninformed. The full return to school would be a hit on our most vulnerable students.
- Stated that her daughter is learning in the remote model, of course not as much if she was in school in a normal year
- If you give a choice, a large portion of the Hispanic, black and brown families will chose the hybrid model for the safety of their families instead of the full return
- Ignoring social injustices harms our education system and will weaken our community

Patrick Hewitt - 26 Governor Belcher Lane

- Thanked Superintendent Jette and the School Committee for their efforts and congratulated Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pavlicek on his retirement
- 2 Children in MPS
- Admire school teachers
- Difficult to manage the hybrid model but the teachers are still motivating the students
- Credit to Ms. Concannon and the entire Collicot Staff and Families
- Need an increase of safe in school instruction especially for the K-3
- Covid is going to be with us for a long time, social distancing will be with us even with the vaccine through late 2021
- Need to circulate a list of needs of the community
- Fundraising can take place

Regina Murphy - 35 Alvin Avenue

- 2 children in MPS
- Thanked Superintendent and School Committee for all of their hard work
- Follow up points
 - Elementary students are struggling with remote
 - Young children struggle with the foundation of math and reading through the current hybrid model
 - No replacement for in person learning
 - Spreading of the virus is low in the elementary schools since the children are in just one classroom
 - All reading the same reports, returning to school is safe and that the children need to return to school full time
 - NYC is adopting the model done in Europe to get the students back to school full time
 - When will you be presenting parents a return to school for in school hours

4. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

a. District Updates

- Thanked the parents for speaking in Citizen Speak
- Introduced Jackie Morgan to give a update on the food service program
 - Jackie Morgan updated the community about the USFDA granted free meals to all children across the country
 - No matter what income
 - Variety of options, to go packages to children at school and addition there is a weekly drive through for all families
 - Food Services is working hard, 2 sessions every Wednesday
 - Work around schedules
 - 530-700 meals every Wednesday to families
 - Bags are multi meals, food everyday to take home
 - Great success, and families are very thankful
 - Sense of normalcy
 - Staff is going above and beyond since March 18th
 - Amazing Thanksgiving donation from Steel and Rye, offered 25 meals to families in Milton. Generous throughout the entire pandemic
 - Marti McKenna has helped deliver to the families
 - Stephanie O'Keefe has gotten the word out to all families
 - Produce boxes available
 - Bringing variety to families and providing recipes
 - Special needs students are in the building 5 days a week and involved in the menu planning

Chair Varela thanked Jackie Morgan and the food services staff for all of their hard work. Biggest and brightest news stories throughout the pandemic. Program assists all food issues, keeping everyone fed and safe.

Superintendent Jette

- Updated on the Manet Community Health Center
 - 250 tested on November 20th at Milton High School
 - Only 6 positive test
 - Manet said they would be willing to partner with MPS to continue to assist with the testing
- Fallon is also willing to partner up to help with the testing
- Numbers are still rising in Milton all levels
- Families should be aware of state policies of travel during the holidays

Superintendent Jette provided a presentation on the Instructional Model Update to the community and the School Committee:

Instructional Model Update

What structures are in place to reflect on the models?

- Faculty listening sessions by level, by school, and by model (hybrid and remote)
- Discussion during regularly scheduled meetings to reflect on strengths and areas of growth for current model (Superintendent/Principal meetings, Instructional Council, Elementary Principal/Coordinator meetings, building-based leadership team meetings, curriculum/departments/grade level meetings, meetings with Milton Educators Association leadership; meetings with Town and MPS Nursing Directors); meetings with MPS Food Services
- Feedback from families via listening sessions, existing structures (i.e. Site Councils, PTOs), and directly
- Regular meetings to monitor and discuss local COVID-19 trends

How has the model evolved since the August decision?

- Revision of frequency and length of mask breaks in order to maximize student learning in the hybrid model
- Use of afternoons to conduct critical one on one evaluations
- Increased access to professional development for teletherapy in order to improve services delivered remotely ● Increase of in-person hours for some special education programs (began November 30, 2020) ● Shift in protocols for quarantines in response to updated guidance
- Increased use of live streaming for students or staff (due to COVID-19 issues)
- More robust online tools and support for remote learning (e.g. Kami; Schoology; enhanced Google features; reading and writing support programs; at home STEM bags; hot spots)
- Air purifiers w/HEPA filters in every classroom and office space

What has been proposed to us, observed in other districts, and discussed?

- Lengthening the number of hours elementary students are in person in the hybrid model
- Increasing the time students in the remote model are in front of their teachers
- Creating two in person sessions for our elementary students (one group in the morning and the other group in the afternoon)

What has been brainstormed/discussed?

	Benefits	Cost
Increase the time elementary students are in school (on their scheduled “in school day”) to more than 3 hours	More in person time for students in the hybrid model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would need to schedule lunch and thus should do at least 5 hours. Doing so would mean that students at home would no longer be able to connect virtually with their classroom teachers. ● An add of, for example, two hours does not equate to an addition two hours of instructional time as lunch safety protocols take time
Shift the elementary hybrid model to one cohort in person in the morning and one in the afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More in person time for students in the hybrid model ● Everyday in person time for students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would reduce session in school to 2.5 hours ● Requires approximately \$450,000 to add the additional bus runs
Bring all elementary students in for the full day by utilizing all school buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More in person time for elementary students ● More consistent (everyday) in person time for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All high school and middle school students would be full remote ● Requires additional staffing (\$800,000?)
Combine cohorts in the remote model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More virtual face to face with teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would increase class size to at least 24 or as many as 30 ● Would compromise benefits of smaller classes

Next Steps

- Continue to meet with special education staff, food service personnel, custodians, and administrators who are currently functioning in a full day model to discuss implementation, needs, etc.- ongoing
- Meet with faculty representatives to further discuss all options and implications- first week of January
- Implement staff survey- by end of December
- Implement parent/guardian survey- early/mid January
- Present insights to SC- by late January

Chair Varela thanked Superintendent Jette for his thorough presentation.

Ms. Rosmarin response:

- Thanked Superintendent Jette for his insight and all the effort involved
- Leadership team right now is the strongest than it has been
- Incredible experiences and resources
- Great confidence in Superintendent Jette and his team
- Looking at the current models, kids do see their teachers every day. That is an important aspect for all students, that is a real advantage compared to other models.
- Asked Superintendent Jette about the availability of more buses? Dr. Pavlicek replied there's some availability due to other districts remaining remote. Right now it would work but could change when other school districts return.

Ms. Eberhardt response:

- Thanked Superintendent Jette for the presentation
- Superintendent Jette came into this position overnight and came into this when decision on the model was already made, he immediately owned the position with grace
- Appreciates Superintendent Jette and the leadership team
- MPS is unique and commended everyone's effort
- The Commissioner left everyone out there on their own to make decision and without support
- School Committee knows that students need to return but need to have a safe plan in place

Ms. White response:

- Thanked Superintendent Jette for his presentation and all of his hard work
- Understand parents want their children to return to school, but the idea of returning January 4th seems unrealistic, need to be cautious and think of the safety of the students and staff

Dr. Donahue response:

- Thanked Superintendent for the presentation
- Working hard to have the students return to school
- Information supplied from outside agencies is hard and appreciates Superintendent Jette's effort
- Acknowledge the frustration of the parents, we are living through a catastrophe
- Very hard and frustrating, stated that he also had 3 children in the MPS
- Long term efforts will not be fixed right away, it will be a major problem and need to be ready
- It will take time, School Committee is doing the best they can
- Impressed that MPS is still in school

Chair Varela expressed concern about the finance side of the presentation

- 450,000 estimate for buses
- Town and School have a Covid grant but ends on December 31st
- It is a lot of money to pay for extra buses if we chose to have the change in the bus schedule

Dr. Pavlicek replied:

- Grant is only good until December 31, 2020
- Contract with First Student
- 3 bus runs in the morning, 3 runs in the afternoon
- Cost would be extra for additional runs
- Bus is a legal entitlement for K-6 grade students
- Don't own the buses, contract with private firm
- Constrained by the nature of the busses

Superintendent Jette replied:

- Acknowledged Assistant Superintendent Pavlicek retirement
- Dr. Pavlicek has been a huge part of the success of the MPS
- He is a great leader in the MPS
- Wished Assistant Superintendent Pavlicek well on his well deserved retirement
- Thanked him for many years of service and his presence in the office will be missed

5. Chair's Report - Chair Varela

a. Update on Superintendent Search

- Ms. Eberhardt thanked Stephanie O'Keefe for getting the survey link out to the community
- Ms. Eberhardt reported she would be gathering information and present to the community in January
- She encouraged the community to fill out the survey and participate in the process

b. Report out on MASC Resolutions

- Dr. Craghead reported on the MASC assembly, met for 3 hours

- 10 resolutions proposed, 5 were passed without discussions (resolutions 2, 3, 6, 8, 9)
- Resolution 1 - MCAS was discussed regarding make ups, it did pass that they will not have to be made up MCAS
- Resolution 4 also passed Reduction Age of Voting in a municipal election
- Resolution 5 - Support Funding - Passed and amendment added
- Resolution 7 - Direct Public Funding to Private Schools

6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY21 Preschool Fee Adjustment

Dr. Craghead made a motion to reduce the tuition for the Blue Hills Full Day Preschool from \$8,400 to \$6,000 for the 2020-2021 school year in consideration of the pandemic-related changes in the program.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

b. FY22 Budget Proposal

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the FY22 Budget Proposal.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

c. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #22 payable December 3rd in the amount of \$504,872.61.

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

d. Update FY 21 Budget

Chair Varela reported that there will be a Special Town Meeting to revote the FY21 budget.

- 6 positions to be voted on December 7th (Reading Specialist, 2 Technology Positions, Guidance Counselor and World Language)
- Chair Varela asked parents and guardians on the meeting strongly suggestion that you advocate for these positions
- With our over enrollment issues we need this positions

7. Health and Wellness Advisory Committee - Ms. White

- Ms. Beliveau (High School Adjustment Counselor) presented a parent survey, how the HS students and parents are feeling - 1253 responses received

- Peer relationships
- Emotional well being
- Send out another survey for middle and elementary school students as well
- Parent series available once again
- Laurie Stillman update on the coalition program
- Milton Youth Advocate, exploring youth mental health

8. School Building Committee Report - Ms. Rosmarin

- Sean O'Rourke new chair
- Received updated projections and enrollment numbers
- Elementary enrollment has dropped especially at the Kindergarten level, high school level has increased
- Still over capacity
- In touch with the Building Authority, expecting a visit soon, it is a competitive process. Will not hear of a result until spring or early summer.
- Looking at sites - 4 to 5 acres

9. Approval of Minutes

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 Milton School Committee Meeting.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

10. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

11. Executive Session

Chair Varela moved to adjourn to go into the Executive Session not to return to the open session for the purpose of approval of minutes.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.