

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Public Participation Via Remote Access
January 6, 2021

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; Amy Dexter, 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

Chair Varela asked for a moment of silence for the happenings in the US Capital, praying for peace and unity for our Federal Government.

2. Approve January 6, 2021 Agenda

Updated and approved

3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

Dr. Elissa Perkins - 118 Wolcott Road

- Former member of the Health Task Force Committee
- Asking Superintendent Jette and School Committee what is the definition of safe for returning to school
- Need to follow the science
- Other organizations have determined that it is safe to return with plans in place
- Other districts have plans to return, starting at the elementary levels
- Vaccines have only been approved for 16 years and up
- Trained to recognize the outcomes
 - academics struggles
 - mental health
 - child obesity

Michael Perkins - 118 Wolcott Road

- Understand how difficult it is to make the decisions for the district
- Failing as a district by ignoring the science and data

- School is not tied to the spread
- In person learning can increased
- Consequence is the complete abandonment of the children
- Children are struggling and are frustrated

John Varghese - 307 Thatcher Street

- Trust the we have smart and good people running our towns and schools
- We are all in this together and put a lot of faith in the school system but the new model this year is difficult for working families
- School Committee doesn't seem to be making the changes to work with our current data
- Should have children back in school, consider other options
- Need to create a way to bring our children back to school
- We need to think about the children

Bonnie Bates - Pleasant Street

- Important to let other know that DESE has increased in person learning time
- Milton is in the bottom 5% offering in person hours
- Collected the data and emailed all the data to the School Committee
- 7 1/2 hours a week is not enough to offer to our children in person learning
- 195 other districts are eating lunch at school
- Other schools have successfully negotiated their MOA's
- No plan in place to return fully
- Need to do better than the bare minimum

Alexandra Higgins - Kathleen Lane

- Thanked Superintendent Jette, faculty and staff
- Concerned that Milton isn't reaching the standard learning time
- Would like to hear the plan
- Need to do better for our students

4. Chair's Report - Chair Varela

a. Update on Superintendent Search Process - Ms. Eberhardt

- Presentation - survey results
 - presentation link: www.miltonps.org/application/files/5916/1004/6903/Final_Superintendent_Survey_Results_1.pdf

Chair Varela thanked Ms. Eberhardt for putting all the information together and taking the lead.

Dr. Craghead

- Completed the survey as a parent
- Thanked Ms. Eberhardt for the presentation, very informative and helpful

Ms. White

- Loved the format and the graphs, very impressed with the number of people that participated

Dr. Donahue

- Appreciated all the hard work put into this presentation

Ms. Rosmarin

- Great job moving forward with the search and the presentation
- Great to hear from the community and see the data in the survey
- Looking forward to the listening sessions

Ms. Eberhardt

- Craft a vision for the district moving forward. In the end the Superintendent and their team lead the district.

5. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

- Presentation - Student Learning Time - District Update
 - link: https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/5416/1048/1958/Milton_Public_Schools_SLT_Presentation_1.6.21.pdf

Ms. White

- Asked about the decision on not having lunch because we do not have the space

Superintendent Jette

- Replied that the cafeterias are being used for classes so students would need to eat in their classes but sitting in your seat for 6 hours a day is not ideal for students
- Different options are being explored at this time

Ms. Eberhardt

- Stated she understands that DESE has information on the website that may not have enough context

Chair Varela

- Asked about fine tuning the leadership team, cascading out the additional learning time as of January 19th
- February would be the timeline for the increasing time

Superintendent Jette

- Replied he has a meeting scheduled with faculty and staff and he would be communicating with the community

- All the information will be available on the website as well

Dr. Donahue

- Thanked the Chair and Superintendent for all of the hard work
- Past 10 months have been difficult
- Want to be positive and collaborative
- Focus on the plans

Ms. Rosmarin

- Glad to see the response about the concerned parents
- Agreed to have parents communicate with teachers and principals
- Extended learning time plans perhaps can be presented before the decision is made so all parents can view

a. FY22 School Year Calendar

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the FY22 School Year Calendar

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY22 Budget

- Proposed
 - 1.0 Elementary Reading Specialist
 - 1.0 Middle School Guidance Counselor
 - 1.0 High School Special Education Teacher
 - 2.0 Nurses (allocated part-time increments)
- Tier II
 - 1.0 HS/MS 504 Coordinator/Career Counselor
 - 1.0 MS Exploratory Teacher
 - 1.0 Pre-K-12 Behavior Health Specialist
 - 1.0 Paraprofessional

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

Second: Chair Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

b. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #25 in the amount of \$75,848.32 payable on 12/23/20.

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #27 in the amount of \$220,750.41 payable on 1/7/20.

Second: Chair Varela
Vote: 6-0-0

7. Approval of Minutes

Chair Varela made a motion to approve minutes of the December 2, 2020 Milton School Committee Meeting.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin
Vote: 6-0-0

8. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

Chair Varela made a motion to adjourn from the School Committee Meeting.

Second: Dr. Craghead
Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.