

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Public Participation Via Remote Access
March 17, 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 - 7:03pm

2. Approve March 17, 2021 Agenda
Updated and approved

3. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY22 Budget

- Met with Select Board Subcommittee to discuss the FY22 budget request
- Schools are not in the same place with the current asks as the Select Board's Budget
- The Select Board has given the budget request to the Warrant Committee, School Committee will also attend the Warrant Committee meeting to advocate for the School asks for the FY22 Budget
- In December of 2020 Schools were awarded 6 positions, in the FY22 Budget the Select Board is now looking to cut the 6 positions that were given in December
- Some of the positions were filled by current faculty members adding on to their course load which they are being paid additional for the classes
- 3 of the positions do not have full time faculty members in them and the town sees that as unfilled and have cut the three positions
- Tier I and Tier II asks, the Tier II are no longer on the table
- Denied Tier I funding asks
- Could not agree to the cuts or non funding of the Tier I ask
- Need to educate the community, there will be a presentation on March 18, 2021 at 7pm - Budget Presentation
- Encourage the community and town members to view the Budget Presentation

b. Community Schools Fee Update

- Voted at Finance Committee increasing the fees for the Community Schools - April Vacation - \$250 for students attending
- Will meet all CDC guidelines
- Voted to raise the cost of Community Schools Summer - \$330 per student for the week
- Each vote was unanimous 6-0-0

c. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #35 payable 3/4/21 in the amount of \$357,624.33.

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #37 payable 3/18/21 in the amount of \$504,751.58.

Second: Chair Varela
Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #36 payable 3/11/21 in the amount of \$379,313.16.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin
Roll Call Vote:5-0-1

Chair Varela encouraged the parents and the community to join the Finance Subcommittee Presentation on March 18, 2021.

4. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

None

5. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

- a. Special Education Presentation - Susan Maselli - link: https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/6116/1654/9990/2021_presentation_by_Special_Education_Dept.pdf

The School Committee and Administration thanked Susan Maselli and the Special Education Team for their presentation.

b. District Updates

- Dr. Spaulding - Proposal for the Universal Summer Program
 - Process of planning an academic summer program for K-4th grade
 - 4 week program from the student perspective Mon-Friday 8-10 or 10-12
 - Hope for have students utilize Milton Enrichment as well
 - Recruiting MPS teachers available to teach

- Free program to all students, Funded through Esser Grant (Federal Grant)
- Survey families to see who are interested in the program
- Literacy, math, social and emotional learning and group games
- All CDC protocols in place
- more details to follow

Chair Varela thanked Dr. Spaulding for all the work and planning for the summer program.

Ms. Eberhardt asked Dr. Spaulding to confirm that this academic summer camp would be offered to all k-4 students free of charge. Dr. Spaulding confirmed yes. Ms. Eberhardt commented that this is a great opportunity for the students.

Ms. Rosmarin commented that it sounds like a wonderful program. What are the plans for the 5-12 grade students? Dr. Spaulding replied Bill Fish and Karen Cahill are working on programs and opportunities.

Superintendent Jette - Updates

- In the process of the MHS Principal search
- Final rounds (5 candidates)
- Interviews will be done live
 - Dr. Spaulding gave an update on the search and thanked all who were involved in the process
 - developed a screening process
 - blind look at the data
 - more robust questions and performance based tasks
 - 5 finalist
 - Zoom interviews will be live and questions can be sent in from the community in advance

Chair Varela asked when the information will go out to parents about the interviews.

Superintendent Jette replied in the blog on Thursday. Chair Varela commented that it is a great idea but concerned that the community is exhausted so hope they will be involved.

6. Chair's Report - Chair Varela

- a. Revised 2021-2022 School Committee Meeting Calendar
 - Updated and confirmed

7. Facilities Advisory Committee Report - Dr. Donahue

- Discussed space issues
- School Building Committee what are MPS anticipated space needs
- Need to look at what is needed for space per school, how much more money will be needed to convert space
- How much will be spent on renting space

Ms. Rosmarin commented this has been a difficult year to look at the projections for enrollment. Important conversations are taking place on how we will move forward.

Ms. Eberhardt asked about the enrollment numbers, have parents requested students to repeat grades? Superintendent Jette replied that we have seen a decrease in enrollment but still in the registration process. Principals have reached out to families that left last year to attend private schools for full days. Anticipate that students will return.

8. Approval of Minutes - Chair Varela

Chair Varela made a motion to approve the Milton School Committee meeting minutes of February 3, 2021.

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

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

10. Executive Session

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

- a. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union and nonunion personnel in accordance with Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)
- b. Approval of Minutes

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm