

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Milton Access TV Studio  
April 14, 2021  
7pm

**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

Open Budget Hearing

**Call to Order** - 6:37pm

**Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request Presentation:** Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Dr. Karen Spaulding, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources.

[https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/9016/1909/8262/Budget\\_for\\_Hearing\\_4-13-21\\_revised.pdf](https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/9016/1909/8262/Budget_for_Hearing_4-13-21_revised.pdf)

Open Budget Hearing meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

School Committee Open Session:

1. **Call to Order** - 7:06pm
2. **Approve April 14, 2021 Agenda**  
Updated and approved
3. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH – 15 minutes)**

Dr. Glenn Pavlicek - Smith Road

- Wanted to come and say thank you to Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue at their last School Committee Meeting
- Both have been a part of so many different committees and served as School Committee Chairs
- Chair Varela is an advocate for the Schools and Dr. Donahue has been a part of negotiations over the past few years in such trying times
- Thanked them both for their service
- Appreciate all the work they have done for our community

Becky Padera – 44 Allen Circle

- Thanked Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue for their time on School Committee
- Dr. Donahue has been a joy to work with on the School Committee
  - Team player
  - Appreciate his calming presence
  - Advocate for the space in our schools
- Chair Varela

- Hard to say no to Chair Varela
- Strong voice in the override for our schools
- Thanked Chair Varela for all of her work as the Chair in the most trying times over the past year
- Such a support to our schools

#### Jay Fundling - 39 Sias Lane

- Thanked Dr. Donahue and Chair Varela for their time served on School Committee
- Dr. Donahue has presented calmly and clearly to the public
- Advocate for the space needed for our schools
- Work is important and necessary
- Role model for Civil Service
- Proud to call you a friend

#### Amy Delaney - 150 Pleasant Street

- Thanked Dr. Donahue for his service and for volunteering his time on School Committee
- Thanked Chair Varela for her passion and the advocacy
  - Loved for her leadership
  - Children have worked on campaigns together, Chair Varela has set examples for the children
  - Collicot Involvement
  - Thank you for making Milton a better place to live
  - Advocate for the town of Milton
  - Role model for our children
- Thank you both for serving our town

#### Bill White - 73 Plymouth Ave

- Chair Varela
  - Was the heart and soul of our school construction project campaign
  - Driven, smart and can take over a situation
  - Not easy taking on this responsibility
  - Made a difference in our town and for our children
  - Part of the necessary overrides
  - Eagan Varela will be name to carry on in the town on Milton

#### Julio Ricardo Varela - 70 Lyman Road

- Need to take a moment to recognize two amazing individuals Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue who have given it all over the past 6 years
- Best School Committee this town has seen in a long time
- Lead with grace even in a pandemic

#### Dr. Donahue

- Sense of leadership and compassion while serving as the Chair and on the committee

#### Chair Varela

- Lead the district during the most difficult times
- We are a better district because of Chair Verela
- Gives it her all, loves the town of Milton
- Times Chair Varela has been mistreated and disrespected, Chair Varela has always put the children first and the town of Milton
- Proud husband

- True leader

Amy Nagle

- Dr. Donahue
  - Letter from the Voight Family to thank for all of his hard work over the years on School Committee
  - Challenging year
  - Always used science and logic
- Also wanted to thank Dr. Donahue from her family
  - Provided a calm presence
  - So much time and effort on the School Committee
  - Hope you get to enjoy time with your family

#### 4. **Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette**

- Tucker Elementary School Site Council Presentation - LINK

The School Committee and Administration thanked the Tucker Site Council for their presentation and all of their parent engagement.

- District Updates - Superintendent Jette
  - Acknowledge Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue
    - Typically we would have a big celebration but with Covid we unfortunately can not
    - We value your contribution to the Milton School Committee for the past 6 years
    - Work diligently
    - Note this year difficult year
  - Chair Varela
    - Milton Government always involved in the town MFE, PTO and town involvement
    - involvement in 2 overrides
    - Involvement in committees
    - Involved in music and fine arts
    - Encourage student representative
    - In Honor of Chair Varela each year we would like to give a book to a student during the book awards ceremony on local government or music/fine arts
    - Thanked Chair Varela for her passion and dedication to the town of Milton
    - Presence will be missed, thank you for your ongoing support
  - Dr. Donahue

- Invaluable over the 6 years
- Served as Chair and Vice chair
- Level headedness and valued opinion
- Involved in so many subcommittees
- Glover Principal Karen stated how much she appreciated Dr. Donahue as a School Committee member and as a parent. Enjoyed seeing Dr. Donahue walking his four children to school everyday
- Each year in honor of Dr. Donahue a book award will given out during the book award ceremony to a student related to the medical profession/science/stem based
- Presence will be missed, thank you for your support

#### **Superintendent Jette - Update**

- Thanked the parents and guardians
- Long 8 months of the academic year
- Elementary transition is going well - full in person
- Grades 6-12 also returned in person this week
- Students are resilient, students are upbeat
- Lunch is going well and without incident
- Appreciated all the parents, principals and staff

#### **5. Chair's Report - Chair Varela**

- a. Student Advisory Council Representatives - Anderson Korman (Junior)
  - Transition into the new high school schedule
  - Going well
  - Overall it is organized and can grasp onto the schedule
  - Lunch schedule is weird but going well
  - Students are moving into a solid routine
  - The shift is the assignments
  - A lot of students are happy to get back to school
  - Most part, vast majority of students are happy with this schedule and the return to school

Chair Varela asked Anderson about his class sizes.

Anderson replied:

- Ranges - class sizes are a little bigger but have the space and comfortable distance
- Science room has plenty of space
- Protective measures are in place

Chair Varela

- Commended and thanked the students for adjusting to the schedule and routine

Anderson:

- Looks like everyone is doing a good job
- Class passing time (more time is given) following directions in the stairways and the halls

- Students understand the importance of the mask and following the safety measures

## **6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead**

### **a. FY22 Budget**

- The budget was reviewed in the opening meeting budget forum, and will be posted on the MPS website. Urged the community to take a look at the presentation.

### **b. Approval of Vendor Warrants**

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #40 payable on April 8, 2021 in the amount of \$316,392.03.

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #41 payable on April 15, 2021 in the amount of \$473,266.49.

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

## **7. Facilities Advisory Committee Report - Dr. Donahue**

- Actions Task Force
  - Going through plans
  - Revote some facilities plan priorities
  - Focus on building a new school

Ms. Rosmarin - focused on the space challenges due to our over enrollment

- Until we have a new school, what will we do?
- Trying to realign to focus on objectives and goals

- Current Facilities – Dr. Donahue
  - Past few meetings there have been discussions of naming the library after former Superintendent Gormley - vote at future meeting
  - Former Superintendent Gormley had been an advocate for the Milton Public Schools for so many years

The School Committee agreed and will vote at a future meeting.

Ms. Rosmarin

- addressing space challenges
- until we have a new school what will we do
- important focus
- focus on smaller number of goals
- all be on the same page

## **8. Special Remarks in regards to Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue - Dr. Craghead**

Dr. Crahead

- Final regular Wednesday night School Committee meeting with Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue
- Both served 2 full years as Chair and been on the committee for 6 years
- Will miss both a great deal

- They are role models
- Dr. Donahue - silent processor, always thinking ahead, prepared, involved in policies and procedures
  - Advocate for the district, always on point and always professional
  - Dedicated
  - Go to call
  - Couldn't have asked for a better teammate
- Chair Varela is the artist and the star of the cast.
  - Displays her passion for education at the public meetings and elsewhere
  - Energy and passion are contagious and inspiring
  - School Committee Chair during the pandemic
  - Involved in committees and subcommittees
  - Given so much her time for the town
  - District is better because of the sacrifices Chair Varela has made
  - Will all miss Chair Varela a great deal

Ms. White

- Thanked both Chair Varela and Dr. Donahue. Stated that it has been an honor and pleasure to work with both over the past 4 years.
  - Chair Varela
    - Advocate for the schools
    - Passion for the MPS
    - Works so hard over the years to support the students and the staff
    - Milton is a better community because of Chair Varela
    - Incredibly dedicated to the town
    - Thank you for all the extra work this year during
  - Dr. Kevin
    - Remarkable, smart, and a joy to know
    - Thank you for your wisdom and hard work
    - Advocate for the town
    - You will be missed and look forward to seeing you at town meetings

Ms. Rosmarin

- Chair Varela
  - Always made an impression
  - Dedicated to the School Committee especially this year
  - This group has worked so well together
  - Value your leadership
  - We kept moving forward and the year came together because we are all on the same page
  - Powerful advocate for the public education and the town of Milton
  - Hope your family can enjoy time together
- Dr. Donahue
  - Calm voice of reason
  - Helpful and meaningful
  - Dedicated
  - Leadership will always be remembered and appreciated
  - Even in the past year you continued to show up and contribute

- Wish you and your family the best

Ms. Eberhardt

- Two of you are kind thoughtful and passionate
- Activist and true to selves
- Thank you for all that you have done
- Will miss you terribly

Chair Varela

- Go back many years to thank those who help during the campaign to be elected
- Thanked former members of the School Committee
- Former Superintendent Gormley, Assistant Superintendent Pavlicek and Assistant Superintendent Janet Sheehan
- Current Administration - thanked all for what they have done in their new role. All managed through this past year and half showing loyalty and great courage
- Laurie Dunn and Charlene Roche - support team who are the glue that holds it all together
- 5 current colleagues/School Committee members
  - Have been through so much together
  - Thankful for being so supportive
  - Team work
  - Respectful
- Thanked her family
- Wished all good luck

Dr. Kevin Donahue

- Will miss you all very much
- Thanked his former and current colleagues and central office for their support
- Forever grateful
  - Ms. Rosmarin – will miss you and your leadership on the School Building Committee
  - Ms. White - impressed with knowledge of town politics. Grateful to know you and the work you have done with facilities and building committees are essential.
  - Assistant Superintendent Amy Dexter
    - So glad you are on this side and it has been a pleasure working with you
    - Calm and deliberative guidance, thankful for coming part of the team
- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Spaulding
  - Looked forward to your presentations
  - Management of the data, informed and meaningful way to drive the District forward
- Superintendent Jette
  - Jealous of whoever is able to work with you next.
  - Successful administration
  - Excellent Superintendent so far
  - Appreciate your optimism and determination grip
  - Relieve and happiness that the district is in your hands
- Ms. Eberhardt
  - Hard to capture all that you have captured over the past 6 year
  - Keen insight and perspective

- Guidance with policies
- Grateful for your input and wonderful to get to have known you
- Dr. Craghead
  - Grateful to have had you during the negotiations
  - Will miss to able to sit and talk to you
  - Look forward to where you take this in the future
- Chair Varela
  - Past year you put us on your back and carried us
  - Where would we be without you
  - Wit, grace and determination you have shown has been phenomenal
  - Tremendous example you have set
  - Forever grateful for your time
  - Appreciate your leadership

## **9. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Varela' made a motion to approve School Committee Minutes dated March 17, 2021 and March 31, 2021.

Second: Dr. Crahead

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:

- 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 9:21pm.