

**Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
School Choice Open Public Hearing
Followed by Regular School Committee Meeting
In Person @ Milton Cable Access TV Studio and Via Zoom
May 19, 2021**

Committee Present: Chair; Margaret Eberhardt, Vice Chair; Ada Rosmarin, Dr. Elizabeth Carroll, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Beverly Ross Denny, 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 the School Choice Open Public Hearing –

Chair Eberhardt called the annual public hearing for School Choice to order and explained that this is an annual process. Chair Eberhardt referred to Policy JFBB, School Choice.

Superintendent Jette gave a brief [presentation](#) regarding School Choice. Historically, Milton has not participated in School Choice. Superintendent Jette mentioned that Milton's space and enrollment issues contribute to us not participating. A vote on School Choice will be taken later in the evening.

Ms. Ross Denny

- Important Program but agree with Superintendent Jette that MPS already has an enrollment issues and now would not be the time to participate

Dr. Carroll

- agreed with Ms. Ross Denny

Chair Eberhardt asked if there were any further questions from School Committee members or from the public with regard to School Choice. With no questions, Chair Eberhardt made the motion to adjourn from School Choice Hearing.

Hearing adjourned at 7:10pm

1. Call to order the Regular May 19, 2021 Milton School Committee Meeting - 7:10pm

2. Approve May 19, 2021 Agenda

Updated and approved

3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 minutes)

Hugh Stringer - lived in Milton 40 yrs

- Children went through MPS K-12
- Teacher for 50 years
- Kept close watch on class sizes when my children were in school
- Thank you for your efforts to secure 5 teachers positions and a guidance counselor position
- Urge you to keep fighting for these positions
- Children of Milton depend on you
- Treat everyone in the school and everyone benefits
- SPED Education is important
- Provide extra help so everyone student can excel
- Every student needs help and small class sizes
- Depend on caring and knowledgeable teachers
- Provide support to teachers
- Our students can learn
- Should not vote against hiring teachers
- Our population grows, the children needs grow as well
- Thank you for your countless hours and all of your work

4. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

- a. **Cunningham Site Council Presentation** – Principal Dr. Jonathan Redden along with Site Council members gave a [presentation](#) to the Milton School Committee

Ms. White

- Great presentation
- Nice to have the children back in person
- What are you noticing about the support of the Mental Health, how are you preparing?

Dr. Redden

- We are checking in with children daily
- Teachers have personal relationships with students
- Engaging more with families
- Supporting students relationships, provide social groups and opportunities to speak to adults

Dr. Craghead

- Great presentation
- Nice to hear the children voices
- Love the Green Space
- Important to have the Green Space since all the children have returned
- Agreed that Professional Development is never finished, it is an ongoing process

Ms. Ross Denny

- Thanked the Cunningham Site Council for their presentation

Dr. Carroll

- Thanked the Cunningham Site Council for their thoughtful, heartfelt and inspiring presentation
- Appreciate the entire faculty and staff
- Do you have plans on how to move forward as a School Community?

Dr. Redden

- Block scheduling, which include support
- Can engage live or stream, collaboration is important
- Want to engage with the students as much as possible
- Name all the successes that Cunningham has had throughout the year

Superintendent Jette

- Leadership group will meet next week on Team Building
- Team perspective
- What worked and didn't work during the school year
- Thanked Cunningham Site Council for their presentation
- Thanked the students as well
- Looking forward to building relationships with the parents and the community

Ms. Rosmarin

- This has been the most challenging year in education
- Parents have given everything to support their children
- Dr. Redden stayed positive and focused on goals
- Green Space looks amazing

Chair Eberhardt

- Thanked the entire Cunningham Community for making this year possible
- There was a lot of good that happened this year
- Thanked for all of the extra worked that was done this year

- b. **Student Opportunity Act Plan** – Dr. Karen Spaulding gave a brief overview of the Student Opportunity Act Plan

Chair Eberhardt asked if any School Committee members had questions.

Ms. Ross Denny commented

- The references and identification of students of color on free and reduced lunch are disproportionately represented in Special Education as well as gaps and outcomes on SAT's and MCAS
- Please share any conclusions you are drawn from your research as your theory of change

Dr. Spaulding replied

- Student Opportunity Act
 - Gave direction to districts to ensure that money was targeted and going in the right direction that would achieve closing opportunity gaps.
 - When information first came out about the amount of money and the guidance around it, the deadline for creating the Student Opportunity Act Plan was pushed out due to the pandemic.
 - Almost 1.3 million
 - In conversations with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to try to really understand the implementation and following the guidelines
 - Milton has been participating in the plans in closing the gaps
 - Have a created a list to close the opportunity gaps
 - Actions are being taken by educators
 - Culture awareness
 - Dedicated ongoing process
 - Think about the Professional Development needed
 - Look at policies and referrals
 - Making sure students are given opportunity and given access

Ms. Ross Denny

- Students should be accommodated in the least restrictive environment

Dr. Spaulding

- The added piece for inclusion students of color with disabilities are more likely to spend more time outside of the regular classroom due to receiving services

- They are getting less access to the regular curriculum and falling further behind
- Thinking about our inclusion models, referrals and addressing the opportunities gaps
- This plan is in response to DESE
- Has evolved over time

Superintendent Jette

- Providing support participating in content area
- Modify work when necessary
- Building up the students capacity to work on their own

Ms. Rosmarin

- What does the plan and dollars mean for FY21-FY22
- Positions were not funded and that is concerning

Superintendent Jette

- Conference calls with Commissioner
- Funds are blended in with Chapter 70 money for the town
- Continue to advocate for these position
- Need to continue this conversation because these positions are needed

Dr. Carroll

- Concerned about a plan that is in place when position were not given
- Does approving the plan make sense?
- Agree School Committee needs to hold our town accountable for these positions
- Professional Development curriculum related to social emotional learning and inclusion, is that allocated in the funds? Teachers would need the support.

Dr. Spaulding

- Professional Development would be available to the teams
- Captured in the disproportionality plan
- Culture proficiency
- 3 year plan, and will continue to advocate for these positions

Chair Eberhardt

- Angry that the positions were not approved
- Looking at data, percentages and recognize the needs are so great and so important
- The town voted against these needs, School Committee will continue to advocate for all of our students

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve and accept the Student Opportunity Act Plan FY21-FY23.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

c. Naming Rights for Pierce Library

- Free to push forward to name the library

Ms. Rosmarin

- Last School Building Committee wanted to name the library after former Superintendant Gormley
- Would like to push forward with the recommendation to name the library after Mary Gormley

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to name the Pierce Middle School Library “The Mary C. Gormley Library”.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

Ms. Eberhardt asked if there were any further comments.

Dr. Carroll

- Inquired about the process we go through as a district when we decide to honor somebody in this manner
- Was not questioning the naming, but more the process

d. District Updates

- Principal Karen Cahill
 - Discussed dual program with Curry College and Quincy College
 - Curry College - late afternoon class offered to our seniors, students would be required to pay the additional fee. Would receive high school and college credit.
 - Replace the honor curriculum not the AP curriculum
 - Access to Curry College and possible interest in acceptance in Curry
 - Great opportunity

- Excited about the possibility for our seniors and could help with class sizes
- Quincy College - Milton High School approved course. Take the STATS course. Every student could have the opportunity to have college experience.
- Need to attend and maintain the grades
- Can use the grades and credit when applying to colleges

Dr. Craghead

- Excellent opportunity for students
- Can save them money and give flexibility in their schedules
- Opportunities to move ahead in advance course

Ms. Ross Denny

- Once Brian Selig has completed the review, can he share the differences between the AP Statistics vs. the Quincy Statistics course
- Agree this is a great opportunity

Principal Cahill

- AP courses are approved by the College Board
- The Statistics Course at Quincy College will be for college credit

Superintendent Jette

- Can vote similar to the Program of Studies

Ms. Rosmarin

- With the fees involved, would assistance be available?

Principal Cahill

- Spoke to the colleges
- Funds may be available
- Conversations would take place case by case

Chair Eberhardt

- More discussions before the vote takes place
- Thanked Principal Cahill for presenting this opportunity

Superintendent Jette - District Updates

- New State Guidance
 - DESE publicly announces statements
 - Changes can involve negotiations
 - Need clarification before communication to community
 - Implementation of changes will be on Thursday, May 20, 2021
 - Students can do what is comfortable, if they want to continue to wear the mask they may do so
 - Can be some contradictions with DESE, trying to provide communications with community and clarify
- Offer first Vaccination Clinic to Milton will take place this Saturday, May 22nd

5. Chair's Report

a. School Choice Recommendation

Chair Eberhardt made a motion that Milton not participate in the School Choice program for FY22.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

b. Future Meeting Schedule Updated and discussed

c. Milton School Committee Subcommittees Reviewed, forward interest and discuss at the next meeting

6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY22 Budget

- Town Meeting Article 5 on May 3, 2021 School Committee made a plea for taking an additional amount of the stabilization to fund positions for MPS
- Additional needs driven by enrollment
- Town Hall voted down
- Article 26 passed on May 10, 2021
- Town Meeting not supporting educational needs of our students
- Still looking for guidance for funding pandemic related

b. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrants

- Vendor Warrant #44 payable on May 6, 2021 in the amount of \$414,952.73
- Vendor Warrant #45 payable on May 13, 2021 in the amount of \$247,098.91
- Vendor Warrant #46 payable on May 20, 2021 in the amount of \$485,859.63

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

7. Health and Wellness - Ms. White

- Laurie Stillman reported an opportunity for two parent programming online called “The Light at the End of the Tunnel on May 27, 2021
- June 15, 2021 opportunity focused on younger children
- Links will be available in the Superintendent Blog

8. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Eberhardt made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes for April 28, 2021.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Vote: 5-0-1

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

10. Executive Session

Chair Eberhardt 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 9:39pm.