

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
In Person @ Cable Access TV Studio and Via Zoom
June 16, 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; Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Absent: Dr. Karen Spaulding, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources

1. **Call to order** - 7:05pm

2. **Approve June 16, 2021 Agenda**
Updated and approved

3. **Citizen Speak**

Robert Burke - 297 Pleasant Street

- Family has lived in Milton for 125 years
- Identify as a man
- I am the person outside of the school with my sign
- Critical Race Theory destroys children
- Ideological argument and has nothing to do with race
- Went to MPS and love this town
- Recognized Administration and School Committee as doing a good job
- Want to move forward not backwards
- Ask the committee
 - When we talk about the student, we don't talk about what their capabilities are and not what they look like
- A lot of things have happened in this town since last year
- The George Floyd incident was terrible, he should have never been killed but blame Senator Amy Klobuchar, she had 14 times to remove that police officer and she did nothing
- Moving forward here
- Reason I am here tonight is to ask to have that Zoom call released?
- Public employee on a Zoom Call last year, we need to know what that was all about

- Want everyone to learn everything - poetry
- We have a new person employed to go through the Curriculum, to review the equity
- Want to know and learn about equity, what is the definition of equity
- Thank Mr. Jette for put that letter out to the community
- Free speech and the US constitution, never said anything about race
- Against teaching Marxism in the school, it destroys children
- Asked Administration and School Committee if they were Patriots or Marxist
- Greatest country in the world, want to move forward
- Attaching covid money for equity? Can you define equity issues?
- Not a racist
- Have the constitutional right to hold a sign, I am American citizen
- Have a lot of great education here
- Want to be part of this
- Parents are bullied in this town
- Parents are afraid to come here to talk to you because they feel bullied
- Mr. Jette made it because what he has accomplished not what he looks like
- All elective official, you are here because people voted for you and you won
- This has to stop
- Expect you to stop and put your foot forward
- Handed out the flags to the School Committee and Administration

4. **Acknowledgement** - Chair Eberhardt

- Retirement Ceremony in the courtyard for our retirees
- Thanked all the Retirees for their dedication and commitment to MPS
- Superintendent Jette shared thoughts and feelings from co-workers and friends
- Wish all luck in future endeavors

Chair Eberhardt also thanked and acknowledged Mike Lynch, Executive Director of Milton Access TV.

Ms. Rosmarin

- Designed and constructed TV studio over at Pierce Middle School
- Worked since with Milton Access TV since 2012
- Reports to a 9 member Executive Board
- Filming and programming
- Directing, filming program ideas
- Assisted going to Kindergarten video

- Has the skills of building community
- Received the Community Builder Award in 2002 (was still in High School)
- Graduate of Milton High School
- Go to person for the entire town during the pandemic
- He recorded and assisted with all the remote public meetings
- Grandson of Bernie Lynch
- Wish you well on all your future endeavors
- Thank you for all that you have done

Ms. Ross Denny

- Appreciate all that you have done especially this past year
- You kept the community engaged, provided remote access to public meetings
- Wish you all the best

Superintendent Jette

- Known Mike for many years
- Technology access was a great opportunity for students
- Always accepted late last minute calls to help with technology
- Dedicated and committed to the schools and the community
- Best of Luck

Mike Lynch

- Thanked Administration and School Committee
- Enjoyed time here working for MPS
- Always been involved, especially this past year
- Confident that his staff will continue on with great success
- Love this town so much
- Will continue on and with Grandfather's legacy
- Will serve on the board on the volunteer capacity

Dr. Craghead

- Mike Lynch took the school committee on the road
- Went to every school to broadcast all of our School Committee meeting 2 years ago and Mike and his team were always prepared

Assistant Superintendent Dexter

- Thankful to Mike with my time at the school and town side

- Provided a great service to the parents when during the pandemic, Mike and his team broadcasted sporting and school events for parents to be able to watch remotely since they were unable to attend

Chair Eberhardt

- Thank you
- You have been our partner in this journey

5. **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Jette

a. District Updates

Superintendent Jette - Announced that Administration and School Committee celebrated all the retirees and will share their bios via the MPS website.

- Worked hard over the years and now can enjoy their retirement
 - Thanked the retirees for all of their service, commitment, mentorship and leadership in the Milton Public Schools.
 - Barbara Pakalnietis
 - Jeanne Sgroi
 - Allison Joyce
 - Mary Downey - Tipping
 - Mary McCarthy
 - Joan Dow
 - Mary Bodkin
 - Carol Hunt
 - Glenn Pavlicek
 - Mary Gormley

i. **Equity Audit** - Somaly Prak-Martins

- Update on the Equity Audit
- Projected timeline of the Equity Audit report will be in July
- Working with Cambridge to finalize the report
- Also like to announce that we have had 5 community members make into the final round of the Steering Committee
- Intense training
- 16 hrs together developing relationships
- The 5 members are students, parents and community members
- About to really embrace the work

Dr. Craghead

- Thanked Ms. Prak-Martins for putting in all the hard work
- Right team for this Equity Audit

Ms. Prak-Martins

- Did not pick the team, put it out to the community
- Encourage all to apply
- Looking for educators to be part of the team
- 2 year time commitment
- Listening to all voices
- No one is afraid to say what they believe
- Offer Professional Development
- Can't just bring people to the table, have to identify what each person needs in order to work together
- It is a process
- 2 day retreat required in the summer
- Building relationships
- All training pieces need to come in play
- Time commitment, first 3 months
- 2 hour workshops, building skills
- Equity review
- Strategic Plan
- Data diving, needs of the district
- All students are being served
- Educational videos available to what Equity is available on the website

Dr. Carroll

- Thanked Ms. Prak-Martins for the update
- Excited to see the work of the Steering Committee
- It was wonderful to see the number of community members with experience with Professional and Equity
- Understand not everyone was able to be included
- What other opportunities can these people be a part of to remain involved
- Want them to stay engaged and be invited to participate

Ms. Prak-Martins

- Always tapping into other outside resources
- Plenty of opportunities to engage in with this work
- Responsibilities to be involved in an authentic way
- Stages and phases will look different

Superintendent Jette

- There will be ongoing conversations with the community
- Fluid situation
- Over the course of time of the year, will offer parent information sessions
- When information comes out, MPS will make it user friendly and community friendly
- Don't take information from social media
- Reach out to the schools for correct information

Ms. Prak-Martins

- Wanted to address Robert Burke from Citizen Speak
- We are all trying to do better
- Do not want the bullying
- Conversation should be working together
- Ensure all students will be served and successful
- Lets approach the conversation without bullying one another
- Being an immigrant "I Love American", and what America has given for me and my family
- Thinking about improving and things can be better and do better
- We want to move forward together as a community

Chair Eberhardt

- Thanked Ms. Prak-Martins for stepping into this role
- Accepted this role with grace, you listen and accept everyone
- Ally in this work
- Need to understand the words we use
- We will work together to make things better
- Thank you for the hard work you are doing

ii. **Enrollment** - Superintendent Jette

- Another round of registrations, added 30 more students just today
- 4420 students in the Milton Public Schools

- List of schools
 - Collicot 594 students
 - Cunningham 614 students
 - Glover 584 students
 - Tucker 447 students
 - Pierce Middle School 990 students
 - High School - 1151 students
- Public acknowledgment, August is one of biggest month with students moving in and registering
- 350 kindergarten students
- Increase from last year

Chair Eberhardt

- Many districts are seeing a decline in enrollment, but Milton has an increase of students

Dr. Craghead

- Numbers of students is high
- Once again, MPS will run over the number that our schools are built for
- Every year over enrollment has been a problem

Ms. Ross Denny

- Earlier this year we talked about the extra space that was identify
- Do you anticipate we will use this space
- Will it gradually increase

Superintendent Jette

- Will be using the extra space that was identified
- Have made a Capital request
- Anticipated a higher number
- Hope we are in good shape for space for the next school year
- Milton Schools and community attracts a lot of people/families to move in

Ms. Rosmarin

- This conversation will continue into our School Building Report because we looked closely at the enrollment projections and how it affects our application to the School Building Authority

- Sean O'Rourke our School Building Chair put together a graphic to tells the story well that people understand the situation we are in with projection of enrollment

b. Dual Enrollment

- Principal Cahill gave a presentation a few weeks back
- Questions were raised and questions are still remaining

The School Committee still had questions regarding the Dual Enrollment and decided to hold off on the vote for a later date.

Chair Eberhardt

- Thank Principal Cahill for offering this opportunity
- Not sure what this will look like
- Will address all the questions

6. **Chair Report** - Chair Eberhardt

- Subcommittees will be posted on the MPS website
- Reviewed and updated the members and Chair of Subcommittees
- Two new Advisory Committees

The School Committee Retreat

- July 21, 2021
- Will most likely add another day for a retreat
- The next School Committee Meeting will be the third week in August

7. **Finance Subcommittee** - Dr. Craghead

- Working with Select Board, 2 Finance Committees working together
- Town has offered some of their Cares Act Funding to the schools
- Have been working together to figure what expenses are related to the pandemic, could be funded from the town

Ms. White arrived late to the meeting – 8:15pm

8. **School Building Report** - Ms. Rosmarin

- Presentation link on the MPS website
- Welcomed Sean O'Rourke, Chair of School Building Committee

- Sean O'Rourke
 - Have lived in Milton for 3 years
 - Director of Electrical Engineer, WSP
 - Board of Directors for Constructors Managers Association of New England
 - Worked on a variety of projects over the past 17 years
 - Milton enrollment graph jumped out, when he went to an information session for his daughter's Welcome to Kindergarten
 - 2008 enrollment started spiking
 - Are we going to build a new school and are we going to build it correctly?
 - Dove into the numbers and square footage of all the schools
 - Pushing with MSBA to apply for a State of Interest
 - Hit on two factors, both for overcrowding and our application was denied
 - Resubmitting the Revised Statement of Interest
 - Want to give you a revised Statement of Interest

Sean O'Rourke and Ms. Rosmarin - MSBA School Building Presentation

School Building Authority (MSBA)

- Seeking Select Board and School Committee votes to authorize submission of the SOI to the MSBA
- The SOI is the first step in the MSBA's school building construction funding pipeline
- No Town commitments at this time
- No guarantee of acceptance by MSBA
- Competitive – This year 15 accepted out of 71 submissions

MSBA SOI Process

- Due June 25, 2021
- 2021 Statement Of Interest Filing Deadline
- Town Requirements: School Committee and Select Board Vote to approve submission (no financial commitment at this time)
- July 2021 – December 2021/January 2022
- The MSBA SOI Due Diligence Process
- Review SOI submissions, and accompanying documents, for content and completeness
- Conduct Senior Study Visits
- Recommend SOIs for Invitation into Eligibility Period
- December 2021/January 2022
- MSBA Board of Directors votes to authorize Invitation to Eligibility Period

MSBA Eligibility Phase

- Up to 270 Days – January through July-September 2022 • Compliance certification
- SBC formation – may need to add a few members
- Educational Profile
- Maintenance Practices
- Design Enrollment (enrollment projections)
- Community authorization and funding to proceed (only if invited by MSBA to enter Feasibility Study) – Town Meeting May 2022
- Execute Feasibility Agreement with MSBA

Town of Milton – MSBA Statement of Interest

- Cunningham School represents the elementary schools, but responses based on all four schools
- Priority 2: Existing Severe Overcrowding
- Priority 4: Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollment

Town of Milton – MSBA Statement of Interest

- Previous Submittal used as baseline with updates per 2021 facility modifications and enrollment
- Existing conditions
- Measures taken to mitigate the problem
- Impact of overcrowding on district's educational program • Non-traditional spaces converted to classrooms

Existing Conditions

- Elementary enrollment growth since last school building project • 1,873 students in 2008 2,258 students in 2021 • Increase of 385 students or 21% increase
- Schools built for 14 strands – currently 5 classes short of 17 strands K-5 • Elementary Space Needs Study - shortage of 26 classrooms in 10 years
- Already converted over 20 non-traditional spaces into classrooms with 5 more projected for next 5 years

Measures to Mitigate Overcrowding

- Elementary Space Needs Study by DRA – short- and long- term options
- Formation of School Building Committee
- Conversion of non-traditional rooms to classrooms

- Growing class sizes
- Shared overcrowded offices
- Votes taken by School Committee and School Building Committee to build a new K-5 school

Impact of Overcrowding

- Expanded class sizes make teaching and learning more difficult • Cafeterias strained and Libraries compromised
- Limited ability to develop programs to enable special needs students to attend school in Milton – rather than COSTLY out-of-district placements
- Art and music compromised with traveling teachers
- Computer Labs eliminated
- Overcrowded playgrounds
- Rest rooms limited and overtaxed
- Crowded offices minimizes time available for testing and service delivery
- Teacher common planning time compromised with no space to meet

Expected Future Increased Enrollment

- NESDEC (New England School Development Council) projections are CONSERVATIVE
- NESDEC Enrollment projections based on 2020-21 school year COVID19 pandemic enrollment decrease
- Early returns of registrations for 2021-22 school year indicate a return to pre-pandemic enrollment
- Assumes level birth rate
- Does NOT include “student yield” of numerous residential construction projects
- EIGHT 40B projects for potential total of 601 new housing units PLUS Other Residential Construction Projects = 771 new housing units

Ms. Rosmarin

- Statement overview
- Required by MSBA to vote
- Looking to vote on the submission
- No commitment from the town at this point
- Hopefully this time we will have more luck
- Very competitive process
- 15 were accepted last year
- Milton made it through the first round

- But unfortunately we were cut

Ms. Rosmarin made a MOTION FOR VOTE BY MILTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF 2021 STATEMENT OF INTEREST TO MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on June 16, 2021, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Milton, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated June 25, 2021 for the Cunningham School located at 44 Edge Hill Road, Milton, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

- Priority 2 - Elimination of existing severe overcrowding
- Priority 4 - Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.

The elementary enrollment in Milton Public Schools has grown by 21% (385 students) over the past thirteen years, since the last school building project was completed - from 1,873 students (in 2008) to 2,258 students (in 2021), far exceeding the capacity of Milton elementary school buildings; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Milton Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Second: Ms. White
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead

- Thank you both for the thorough presentation
- Enrollment is going to go up not down
- Great job going through what was lost
 - Cafe, library, art rooms, music rooms, computer labs, etc.
- Rooms have been taken away from our students
- We need this new building, historically our enrollment numbers go up

Ms. White

- Clarified, 25 years ago, did see that our enrollment was going to go up

- Schools would not allowed to build to projections only to the enrollment
- Can't build beyond the enrollment
- State of the buildings across the commonwealth, priority one buildings are too competitive for Milton
- Competing against a lot of schools that schools buildings that are older
- We have the enrollment crisis, we may have to look at creative ways to build

Sean O'Rourke

- MSBA will do their own projections
- Small reimbursements rate 30-35%, number can go down
- Building can be over a long period of time 7-8 years

Superintendent Jette

- Reviewed the slide Existing Conditions
- 40b projects are not allowed to be counted yet until they are completed
- Not just the space issue
- Also increase class sizes issues
- Make the current space we have tighter

Ms. Ross Denny

- Agreed that the class size ratios are an issue along with the enrollment
- Changes how teachers can instruct
- Milton can do better
- We may need a parallel path, what are we going to do for schools

Sean O'Rourke

- Working on alternative plans

Ms. Rosmarin

- Concerned about the 8 - 40b projects in the works
- This will be more families registering for MPS during our enrollment crisis

Chair Eberhardt

- Community should be aware the enrollment crisis has always been a part of the conversation over the years

9. **Agenda Items** - Updated and approved
- July 21, 2021- retreat and another date to follow
 - August 25, 2021 - School Committee Meeting

Superintendent Jette

- We will be in school full time with no mask in the fall
- Optimistic for the next school year
- Milton community came together in a positive way

10. **Executive Session**

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session not to return to open session to discuss:

- 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)
- Approval of Minutes

Second: Ms. White

Roll call vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm

