

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
September 8, 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 of Curriculum and Human Resources; Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. **Call to Order** - 7:03pm

2. **Approve of Agenda**

Updated and approved

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

a. Back to School Update

i. Transportation

- Assistant Superintendent Dexter and [Laurie Dunn](#) have been working hard
- 1,400 students requested bus/transportation
- still have about 91 on the waiting list
- understand the challenges
- trying to find ways to come up with additional funding
- exploring an option for additional bus for the middle and high school
- still may not be able to accommodate everybody on the buses
- funds could come from revolving funds from rentals, computer/language labs not needed at this time
- bus typical cost about 75,000 a year
- families will still need to pay the user fee
- turnover with bus drivers, tough to find drivers
- ask parents for their patience with the delays
- students need their bus pass to board the bus, need to confirm the route on the passes
- if a student no longer need the bus please let the district know to free up the spot on the bus

Dr. Craghead wanted to recognize how much time has been put into transportation by Assistant Superintendent Dexter and Laurie Dunn.

Superintendent Jette commented that the community expressed concern about finances and that MPS should be focused on teaching and learning.

- when people submit a public records request, MPS needs to pay the attorney fees
- taken up a lot of time of the central office
- everything is being shared
- need to work together as a community and move forward

ii. Restorative Justice Training

- tagged 2015-2019 for disproportionality with disciplinary issues
- In April and May the middle and high school Principals/Vice Principals attended a Restorative Justice Training
- Restorative mindset and management
- Moving away from the conventional way and look at the root cause of the behavior
- training needs to be done with all staff
- not just sending the student out of the classes
- how to better support the students

Chair Eberhardt

- a lot of chatter in the community about the language
- community does not have a lot of knowledge about what is going on
- perhaps hold a parent engagement evening to talk about Restorative Justice
- have the community be a part of the conversation

Superintendent Jette

- will be offering informational sessions for the community

Ms. Rosmarin

- agree with holding community engagement meeting to talk about Restorative Justice
- families can think about and support from home as well
- provide resources to families

iii. Locker Use at Pierce Middle School

- Dr. Fish said lockers will be open
- will not be an issue
- nobody is denied a locker

Superintendent Jette

- Test and Stay program
- met with a representative from CIC Health
- registered nurse will be provided, they will pay for the benefits and salary of the full time nurse
- more positive cases in the Milton Public Schools
- students are vaccinated, Test and Stay Program is the best option
- there will be emails of communication to families instead of phone calls
- parental consent will be needed in order to test students
- information will be sent in the Blog this week

Ms. Rosmarin

- excited to hear that CIC is coming through with the additional nurse
- Questioned spaces where symptomatic students will go, is one nurse enough?

Superintendent Jette

- CNA's will be supporting staff
- still working on the locations since MPS will not have medical waiting rooms at this time

b. Equity Audit Update

- Cambridge Education - few minor corrections
- Leadership team, faculty and staff to review
- plan is to have the report out to the community by September 23rd

Superintendent Jette

- Dr. Spaulding will be moving onto another position with another district, her last day will be September 10, 2021
- Process - looking for an interim, will be advertising in January so we will have a person in place for July 2022
- right now looking for a retired Superintendent or somebody within that is familiar with the curriculum

- looking to have somebody to present on September 22nd

Ms. Ross Denny

- wanted to thank Dr. Spaulding for her many years of service with the Milton Public Schools
- you will be missed and thanked Dr. Spaulding for all that she has done
 - Might be helpful to review the position of the Assistant Superintendent
 - position should reflect the reality of our time
 - to ensure to get the best candidate
 - set up the position that reflects the amount of work
 - Dr. Spaulding had a broad scope of responsibilities
 - should be thoughtful of the job description

Ms. Rosmarin

- wished Dr. Spaulding well with her new position
- been through many levels in the school district
- strategic planning, voice has always been important
- appreciate your guidance and input

Dr. Craghead

- stated she would miss Dr. Spaulding and so will the district
- wished Dr. Spaulding all the best
- can't imagine MPS will find somebody that will know DESI better than Dr. Spaulding

Ms. White

- thanked Dr. Spaulding for all of her hard work and dedication
- wished Dr. Spaulding the best in Brockton

Superintendent Jette

- will miss Dr. Spaulding's knowledge and expertise
- appreciated her attention to detail
- Dr. Spaulding has been a huge contributor to the Milton Public Schools
- wished Dr. Spaulding the best

Chair Ebherhardt

- recalled Dr. Spaulding playing the viola with the students at Pierce

- through a lot over the past few years and Dr. Spaulding always handled situations with dignity and grace

Dr. Spaulding

- thanked everyone for their kinds words
- thanked the Milton Community for all the opportunities
- committed to children and families, honor to do this work
- amazing people working in Milton
- excited about new chapter, teaching and leading the children

4. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

- none

5. Chair's Report - Chair Eberhardt

- a. 2021-2022 School Committee Goals - Draft

Presentation of the School Committee Goals (Draft) Slides: - School Committee Members:

Summary of School Committee Retreat

August 3 and August 4, 2021

- The school committee met over two nights in the Milton Access TV studio. The meetings were open to the public and one member of the public attended on the first evening.
- School committee members present: Chair Margaret Eberhardt; Vice Chair Ada Rosmarin; Members: Beverly Ross Denny, Dr. Elizabeth Carroll and Elizabeth White.
- Unable to attend: Dr. Elaine Craghead
- Administration present: Supt. Jette, Asst. Superintendents Dexter and Spaulding.

In 2020-2021 the district was able to meet the following School Committee Goals:

1. Fund and conduct an equity audit.
2. Fund, create and hire a Director of Educational Equity.
3. Piloted a Social and Emotional screener, Intelspark.
4. Created and maintained a robust online learning program for remote students and provided access to all students and subgroups.
5. Managed and ran in person learning from September 16 through June 2021, prioritizing the safety and well being of students and staff.
6. Developed and began to execute a plan to utilize existing space to address overcrowding and began to retrofit and repair common academic spaces to facilitate in person learning for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

Goals still in progress from 2020-2021

1. Reviewing, financing and implementing new math and social studies curriculum.
2. Fully incorporate the role of the director of educational equity: define role and determine supports needed to effectively implement the equity goals of the district.
3. Continued work on Anti-racism action plan, inclusion and diversity.
4. Professional development to build capacity around social and emotional learning and instruction, including trauma informed schools, cultural competency and racial equity.

Superintendent Vision

Superintendent Jette shared his vision for the district and priorities for the 2021-2022 school year.

1. Teaching and learning: align teacher practice with district priorities.
2. Equity: Define role/responsibilities of Senior Director of educational equity.
3. Social and Emotional Learning
4. Student and Family Engagement

Superintendent Jette met with the leadership team in late August and will present his goals at our next school committee meeting. District and school committee goals should align and should keep teaching and learning at the center.

How did we prioritize goals for 2021-2022?

- Reviewed district/data presentations and student opportunity plan.
- Reviewed initial findings of the equity audit.
- Considered issues raised by the community at school committee meetings and through email.

2021-2022 School Committee Goal Areas

1. Teaching and Learning
2. Family and Community Engagement
3. Social and Emotional Learning

Teaching and Learning Goals

Unfinished Learning

- a) By June 2022, MPS will have secured ELA and math formative assessments as well as the associated professional development services for grade 9-12 teachers.
- b) By June 2023, HS ELA and math teachers will have been trained on administering the new formative assessments.

- c) By June 2023, MPS students K-8 will be able to demonstrate grade level proficiency in ELA and math for their current grade level as well as their previous year's grade level evidenced by the same proficiency rates of white non-FRL students in a pre-pandemic (e.g. SY18-19).

Teaching and Learning: Discipline Discipline

- a) By June 2022, MPS administration will set and communicate the district's disciplinary philosophy and expectations across all school faculty. The district will have developed and begun the implementation of professional development and coaching to change behaviors.
- b) By June 2024, MPS will reduce the number of disciplinary actions against African-American students so these rates match that of white non-FRL students.

Teaching and Learning: Personalized Learning and Special Education Special Education

- a) By June 2022, select MPS teachers would have completed a professional learning experience that requires that they analyze the special education referral data, study research-based practices into resolving the matter, co-construct the solution with project plan and present it to the leadership team. The superintendent will present the findings to the SC.
- b) By June 2024, MPS will reduce the number of African-American students referred to special education so referral rates will be that of white non-FRL students.

Teaching and Learning: Curriculum Curriculum adoption

- a) By June 2022, K-12 social studies curricula will be selected
- b) By June 2023, K-12 teachers responsible for delivering instruction in social studies would have begun the process of adopting the new curriculum and engaged in the professional development necessary to implement it with fidelity
- c) By June 2023, an elementary school math curriculum will be selected
- d) By June 2024,, elementary school teachers will have begun the process of adopting the new curriculum and engaged in the professional development necessary to implement it with fidelity

Community and Family Engagement

- Community Listening Sessions
- Create opportunities to engage with Milton Public Schools families and the Milton

community, to share information and to be informed by families' and other stakeholders' perspectives on key issues.

- Add Virtual Listening/Learning Sessions hosted by the School Committee to create a regular forum for the community to share feedback on any topic, like an extended Citizen Speak. Note that, pursuant to open meeting law, these will not be opportunities for dialogue with School Committee members (which is prohibited under the law unless the topic has been listed on the posted agenda), but rather extended opportunities for stakeholders to voice questions and concerns that can then be followed up on individually after the session.
 - Proposed dates:
 - 6:30-7:00pm before School Committee meetings 9/22/21 and 11/17/21
 - two 7:30-8:00am dates TBD in October and December
 - *Pilot this series through the fall, collecting feedback to inform scheduling and format for January - June, 2022.*

Opportunities for Engagement

- Host at least two forums specifically for community members to learn and share questions about the Equity Audit Report findings: one evening and one morning, during September-October.
- Contact PTOs at each school to request that two School Committee members be able to join one of their meetings to learn about issues of particular interest in that school community.
- Disseminate a google form for teacher input to learn their priorities for district community engagement.
- Disseminate a google form for community members to share questions that will be collated into a FAQ document to address common areas of concern. Explore possibilities for adding a feature like this to the MPS website during 2022-2023.
- Encourage youth participation in School Committee meetings by meeting with youth-led organizations (eg. MHS Student Government, Milton Youth Action Coalition) to collaboratively identify goals for incorporating student perspectives into district decision making.
- Conduct research into district ombudsperson role; report findings in spring 2022.
- Develop Public Relations/Communications strategy for MPS.

Social and Emotional Skills/Life Skills

- Assess effectiveness of SEL screener piloted in 2020-2021.
- Identify evidence based SEL programs used in the district (PK-12).
- Identify and secure resources to implement continued SEL screening (PK-12).
- Review discipline practices and procedures and revise to integrate SEL and reduce

disparity. Report to the school committee by May 2022.

- By June 2022, initial district wide training on effective SEL teaching practices.

Will not be voting on the goals on Sept. 22, 2021; realistic to plan to vote in October.

Assistant Superintendent Dexter arrived to the meeting at 9:03pm.

- attended Select Board Meeting which voted to approved an additional \$1,500 to the Cares Act for Technology for school needs
- requested another joint Finance Committee meeting
- \$178,000 in additional revenue FY22 with a budget article to increase budgets
- bring forward, how to use the money
- Public Safety, library, etc.
- consensus recommendations
- should meet next Tuesday, time is of the essence
- need to accommodate Dr. Craghead's schedule

6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY23 Budget

- focused on Cares Act Money and Esser Funds
- the additional \$117,000 from the town will be allocated to MPS tonight
- formation of the FY23 budget
- former Assistant Superintendent Dr. Pavlicek joined the Finance meeting was able to refreshed memories and answered questions
- Assistant Superintendent Dexter joined the Milton Public Schools in December of last year
- talked about visits in upcoming Finance Meetings, Facilities & Technology - will be part of discussion for the Capital Budget request
- Community Schools and Special Education will also be meeting
- School Committee will be voting on the budget around Thanksgiving

Superintendent Jette

- Will confirm dates with all departments for the upcoming meetings
- ### **b. Approval of Vendor Warrants**

Dr. Craghead made a motion is made to approve

- Vendor Warrant #5 payable on 07/29/2021 in the amount of \$146,690.84
- Warrant 6 (consolidated)
- Motion is made to approve Vendor Warrant #7 payable on 8/12/2021 in the amount of \$302,909.40

- Motion is made to approve Vendor Warrant #8 payable on 8/19/2021 in the amount of \$349,508.47
- Warrant 9 (consolidated)
- Motion is made to approve Vendor Warrant #10 in the amount of \$678,708.54 payable on 9/2/21
- Motion is made to approve Vendor Warrant #11 in the amount of \$109,787.33 payable on 9/9/21

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

7. Old Business

None

8. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated and approved

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 9:31pm.