

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
October 6, 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; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources; Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. Call to Order-7:02pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the Oct 6, 2021 School Committee Agenda.

Dr. Carroll asked why the Subcommittee item would be moved to another meeting.

Chair Eberhardt did not have a chance to review before the meeting. The Subcommittee item would be moved to the next School Committee meeting.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

3. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

- a. Dual Enrollment – Milton High School and Quincy College - Presentation link on the MPS website.
 - i. Karen Cahill, Milton High School Principal
 - ii. Brian Selig, K-12 Math Director
 - iii. Meghan Cassidy, Assoc. Vice President of Student Success & Partnerships, Quincy College

Dr. Carroll

- Exciting to think about the possibilities for our students
- Questioned about the cost, is there scholarship option
- How to ensure the cost would not be a barrier for the students
- Is there a funding resource

Principal Cahill

- Student needs to have an invested interest in the course
- Receiving a high school and college credit
- Have not discussed fundraising

- Unfortunately financial aid may not be available
- It is being offered at a lower cost than the college course

Ms. Cassidy

- Financial Aid would not apply
- Registration fee has been reduced
- Always looking for any grant opportunities for students
- Last year a grant was received for HS dual credit courses but that was offered last year
- We are consistently looking to support students

Dr. Carroll

- Did somebody mention that Milton Foundation would be an option to explore
- Can't allow a students to be shut out because they can't afford the course
- Don't want to leave students behind

Ms. Ross Denny

- Does every High School partner have an identical contract
- Do some aspects vary

Ms. Cassidy

- The MOA shared with all high schools is the same, the only differences are the courses being offered for that district
- All agreements would be one academic year at a time

Ms. Ross Denny

- What other services will Quincy College provide for these students

Ms. Cassidy

- Academic leadership and faculty
- Direct contact with faculty
- Resources and materials will be shared
- Be as involved as much as the high school would like Quincy College to be
- Coordinate programs
- Students can come to see the campus

Ms. Ross Denny

- Concerned that there will not an opportunity for flexibility in the agreement that reflects the benefit Milton will be providing

Ms. Cassidy

- If there was a discussion to add to the agreement, Quincy would be comfortable doing so; the college is becoming more aware of the pathways
- Happy to pull from other programs, confident Quincy could deliver

Dr. Craghead

- Do not want to tie motivation to money
- Always looking at the scholarship options for the students
- MFE may be something to consider
- Questioned, teachers will have access to academic leadership, direct contact with the faculty and materials. What makes this a college course? Is there a Syllabus?

Ms. Cassidy

- A lot a collaboration between the college and the high school teachers leading up to the dual enrollment classes
- Currently the dual enrollment - honor leveled, working with the instruction/teachers
- Share statistics with the high school to compare with their curriculum
- The Syllabus will cover all content, courses would be aligned

Brian Selig

- Other dual enrollment programs, students are required to travel to campus, but for Milton High the MPS teachers would be here to teach the students with collaboration with Quincy Faculty
- Don't want the cost to be an issue for our students
- Understand the concerns of the cost

Ms. White

- What is the scheduling/timing
- When would the program begin

Brian Selig

- Would be a full year course
- Looking at the 22-23 school year
- Accepted curriculum in place

Ms. Eberhardt

- Appreciate the presentation
- The community wants to hear that we are taking steps
- This is one to take to the steps to create opportunities
- Want to support students financially

- Believe the community would be involved to help the students
- Hope we can grow the partnership

Ms. Ross Denny

- Hopeful that the Dual Enrollment could work after more discussion into opportunities

Principal Cahill

- Programs of Studies will be reviewed and updated for the 2022-2023 school year
- Do believe this is a great opportunity for our students

b. DESE End of Year Report

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the DESE End of Year Report.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Assistant Superintendent Dexter

- This takes the actual financial expenditures and revenues for the school
- We also reach out to the Financial Director of the town who reaches out to departments on the town side
- They report an estimated cost how they supported the schools
- End of the day DESE will use the calculation to make sure we are meeting the minimum

Dr. Craghead

- Wanted to thank and commend Assistant Superintendent Dexter and those who worked with her on this report

Ms. Rosmarin

- Also wanted to thank Assistant Superintendent Dexter

Assistant Superintendent Dexter wanted to thank Lisa McDonough, MPS Budget Analyst - she is my right hand person, and she pulled this all together and is a great support. Ms. Dexter also wanted to thank everyone in the business office.

c. District Updates- Superintendent Jette

- Great news on the Transportation, we have additional funds for another bus
- Assistant Superintendent Dexter and Laurie Dunn working with First Student on hiring a driving, looking to start on Tuesday, Oct 12, 2021
- Please pay attention to your emails for all those on the waiting list
- Phone alert will direct you to your email

Dr. Craghead

- Assistant Superintendent Dexter and Laurie Dunn have worked so hard to make this happen
- Also wanted to thank the families for their patience
- Great news for the community

Chair Eberhardt

- Appreciate all the efforts made to get the extra bus

Superintendent Jette

- MPS Testing Program, Test and Stay Program will take place
- On boarding and training has happened and the extra nurse has started
- We need parents consent in order for their students to be tested
- Few more details to be worked out

Ms. Ross Denny

- Relief for so many families that have children with allergies

Dr. Carroll

- Wondering 60% threshold, how close are we to 60%
- Is there something that will be communicated in the blog about the parent consent, can a text alert also be sent out

Superintendent Jette

- Kim Coughlin have been working on the numbers, don't have the information tonight
- Could do an universal alert
- Will get the information out to the community

Ms. White

- Talk about the cost and the financing

Superintendent Jette

- CIC Health is paying for the Nurse
- Fee is also associated by CIC Health and the state
- District will have to provide some supplies

Superintendent Jette

- Busy past couple of weeks
- Open House - Back to School Nights

- Leadership Meetings
- MCAS meetings, data protocols
- Met with individual Principals and Department Heads
- Plan to meet in the afternoon on Nov. 2nd during Professional Development what the next steps for supports for instructions in the classroom
- Accelerated expectations from the State discussions
- Goal is to make sure every student is reading at grade level by third grade
- Make sure parents are monitor their students' progress, reach out to guidance, Principal or Adjustment Counselor if you have concerns

Chair Eberhardt asked when Vy Vu would be giving a presentation to the community about the data.

Superintendent Jette replied hopeful to have Vy Vu join the School Committee meeting in November.

Superintendent Jette welcomed Assistant Superintendent Sheehan, she has hit the ground running meeting with Leadership teams.

Ms. Rosmarin asked after Citizen Speak if the School Building Report can move up to present.

4. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

None

5. School Building Committee Update – Sean O'Rourke and Principal Fish

- Presentation Link on MPS website

Ms. Rosmarin

- School Committee role is responsible for choosing the program
- School Committee recommendation is key
- Important to hear from Principal Fish as well

Principal Fish

- Handful of advantages and opportunities for our students having a second middle school
- Two Middle Schools and introducing the 5th grade to the middle school
- Helps to zero in on the focus of our students having a lower and upper middle school campus
- Great opportunities and challenges for the district

Ms. Ross Denny

- What would the enrollment look like?

- Reasonable goal to have Pierce not be bursting at the seams
- Is it possible to make this building a flexible space?
- How did the neighborhood meetings go?

[Sean O'Rourke](#)

- 5th and 6th Grade estimate would be about 700-750 students
- 7th and 8th Grade estimate would be about the same
- Believes the spaces can be a flexible space
- Land was the biggest obstacle
- Neighbors are showing mixed feelings
- Land is conservation land, looking to switch the land

Dr. Craghead

- Wonderful and creative solution
- Moving pre-k and central offices is a great solution
- Looking at the plot of land, worried about the size of the land and what will be built

[Sean O'Rourke](#)

- Not sure exactly what will be built for fields or use for the middle school

Dr. Carroll

- Questioned going back to the concept stage and using resources, how does this change affect the timeline, will this cause a delay
- Need to keep remembering to discuss the budget timeline and perhaps need to add to the agenda

Ms. White replied that Bill Ritchie is working on the budget and will be presented soon.

[Sean O'Rourke](#)

- Always looking at plan B
- Open to any solutions to solve the overcrowding problem
- We are further ahead than before, not setting the committee back

Ms. Eberhardt

- Have questions and reservations about the new plan
- How does this address the academic needs, developmental needs and community needs of the different age groups
- Would like to discuss more, asking students to make transitions more can be challenging
- It is creative and imaginative, but have real developmental and academic questions

Ms. Rosmarin

- Initially had the same concerns
- But after meeting with Superintendent Jette and Principal Fish felt this was a great solution

Principal Fish

- Sure there could be more research to be done with the transitions
- Maybe look to the other communities to see how they have worked through this overcrowding
- A lot to be learned through the research
- End of the day it is a real challenge that needs to be addressed
- There will be opportunities and challenges for the district
- This is a preliminary part of the conversation, there is a lot of work to be done

Superintendent Jette

- Need to secure the land
- Determining if it is Middle or Elementary School
- Middle School will alleviate the pressure that will eventually trickle up to the high school
- 40B projects are proposed could be more students
- Pre-K students will have more space
- Need to determine if it is going to be grades 5-8 or split 5&6 and 7&8

Ms. Rosmarin

- Have engaged DRA to do the drawings of both the elementary and middle school

Sean O'Rourke

- Unfortunately no time right now on a decision to be made
- Will be an expensive project

6. Chair's Report - Chair Eberhardt - Agenda items moved to next School Committee Meeting.

- a. Milton School Committee Goals 2021-2022 - moved to next meeting
- b. Appoint MASC Delegate - Moved to next School Committee Meeting
 - Conference is November 3rd-November 5th
 - Ms. Ross Denny will confirm later if she can attend
- c. MASC Resolutions - moved to the next meeting

7. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant # 14 dated September 30, 2021 in the amount of 455,392.63.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant # 15 dated October 7, 2021 in the amount of \$258,431.95.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

Dr. Carroll

- Community members have asked where they could understand where the Vendor Warrants are and how we can share the information

Dr. Craghead

- Vendor Warrants are all money that is spent
- Digital copies are sent to the School Committee every week
- If anyone wants a copy it can be given to anyone interested
- Money spent on:
 - refs for games, pencils, white boards, elevator inspections, etc

Chair Eberhardt

- School Committee has the responsibility to sign the payroll and vendor warrants

Assistant Superintendent Dexter

- Several level of approval
 - Principals, Department Heads, Town Administrator and approval of Select Board
 - Multiple levels of approval

8. Policy Subcommittee Update - Dr. Carroll

a. Anti Racism Resolution - Reviewed changes discussed

Ms. Rosmarin

- The changes broaden the equity across many areas that were not addressed in the original
- Important for our community to respect different opinion and perspectives

Ms. Ross Denny

- Would like to ensure that this is posted perhaps in the Superintendent blog or MPS website
- Quality of the revisions, would like to have the community to review

Ms. White

- Very powerful and transformational from the last
- Younger generations are looking to move Milton forward in the right direction

Superintendent Jette

- It is the resolution not the policy just to be clear

Dr. Carroll

- Think we eventually adopt the resolution it sends a good signal to launch the process of forming a policy
- Appreciate the feedback
- This is the first reading of the policy, what is the next step

Chair Eberhardt replied that if there are no changes or updates the Resolution can be voted at the next School Committee meeting.

9. Approval of Minutes

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve Milton School Committee Minutes dated September 22, 2021.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Ms. Rosmarin made an edit to the minutes.

10. Old Business

None

11. 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:

- 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 9:55pm