

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
November 17, 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

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the Milton School Committee Agenda.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

2. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

a. Guests of the Superintendent

i. School to Career Partnership - Presentation Link on MPS website

- Katherine Touafek and Joyce White

Ms. Ross Denny

- Impressed by the program
- Nice that the students have access to the program
- Asked how the student become of aware of the program and options on the calendar
 - Ms. Touafek replied
 - The information will be available on the school website
 - Communicate to the Superintendent and the Principals
 - Joyce White is the Team Leader
 - Have worked to staff over the past few years
 - Any students want the opportunity, they are welcome

Ms. Ross Denny

- Great opportunity for students to connect to their interest

Superintendent Jette

- Department Heads are aware of the program and communicate with the students
- Do have a number of students showing interest

Dr. Carroll

- So exciting to learn about the wonderful opportunities for the students
- What is the commitment for the student to participate?
 - Ms. Touafek replied
 - students can participate in one event or can join as many as they want
 - want to the students to explore as many options as they like
 - one thing that is asked of the students make up any work missed in classes while they are out of the building
 - Stem areas, offer 4 or 5 opportunities, sometimes that teachers can take a whole class
 - important that the teachers are involved, content is relevant
 - Also provide areas of Forensic, Finance and Performance Arts
 - Try to cover as many areas as possible

Dr. Carroll

- Do you know how many Milton students have participated in this program over the years?
 - Ms. Touafek replied
 - Hundreds if not thousands over the 20 years

Ms. White

- Remembered being at Pierce Middle School years ago and Mass Clean Energy Center came. The kids were exposed to all kinds of energy, students were broken into small groups
- Great to see the exposure and enthusiasm of the kids
- Diverse student body participating
- Survey given to the students
- At a young age there were connections being made
 - Ms. Touafek replied that they are encouraging middle school students to take challenging classes

Superintendent Jette

- Working on better promoting the program

Dr. Craghead

- Teach at a college where the students are coming in knowing their major
- These types of programs are so valuable to the students to get their hands on experience and to ensure that these fields are what they are interested in
- For a Stem orientated middle schooler, where should the student go and how can they access the program information
 - Ms. White replied
 - Information will be available on the website including contact information
 - Call Ms. White or email for information (teacher at MPS)
 - Prepare the student to talk and partner with their guidance counselor
 - Valuable experience

Ms. Eberhardt

- Training for teachers and importance of the programs
- Recognize the support needed for the students
- Open doors/opportunities for the students
- Grown over time
- Connections to real life experiences
- Do you focus on other careers as well?
 - Ms. Touafek replied yes just booked a Future Educators event for this spring
 - Looking at all fields
 - Great responses from students

Ms. Ross Denny

- How do you support students that don't want to miss school?
- Working with the teachers to support the students to attend the events
 - Ms. Touafek replied
 - Work with the teachers to allow the makeup work as well, students do communicate with their teachers

Student Athletes - Superintendent Jette

- Students Athletes, D1 Athletes Signing/Scholarships
- Four D1 signing this year
 - Nora Affanato - Loyola, Maryland for Cross Country and Track (on the zoom meeting)

- Sofia Manning - Temple University for Crew (on the zoom meeting)
- Brian Foley - UMass Lowell for Baseball
- Charlie Walker - Northeastern for Baseball

Ms. Rosmarin

- Congratulated the student athletes
- Very exciting news
- Asked how they pursued their sports scholarships during this past year since everything has been so limited

Sofia Manning

- Rowing machine workouts to stay motivated and strong during the off season

Nora Affanato

- Did a lot of running outside, helps to clear her mind and get in shape for the upcoming season

Ms. Ross Denny

- Congratulated the students on a job well done
- Real difficult to maintain a sport at these levels and to maintaining the GPA's to be considered for these opportunities

Dr. Craghead

- Congratulated the students
- How did you juggle and find the time to go to the meets, events and get all of your work done at the same time

Sofia Manning

- Academics come first, teachers are great with the extra help sessions, need to be on top of the assignments

Nora Affanato

- Time management is important, it can be overwhelming
- Need to stay on top of all the assignments

Dr. Carroll

- Congratulated the students
- Such an experience of strength and motivation
- The community is proud of you

Ms. White

- Congratulated the students
- To be so successful over the past 18 months really speaks to your commitment

Chair Eberhardt

- Congratulated the students
- Very proud of all their hard work
- Happy to hear them called student athletes

MHS Musical Chicago – Superintendent Jette

- Students did an exception job
- Huge commitment, collaborative effort
- Outstanding job
- Semi pro's
- Community came out to support

Dr. Craghead

- Had family member go to the performance twice because they loved it so much, commented that it felt like a professional production

Chair Eberhardt

- Students were amazing
- Best quality

b. District Updates

- Covid numbers are rising
- Had a spike last year in the MPS schools
- Want people to be alert of the rising numbers
- Community needs to be aware of the guidelines
- Test and Stay Program up and running in school
- Test and Stay is allowing students to stay in school

Dr. Craghead

- What is the percentage of the parent consent for Test and Stay?

Superintendent Jette said he would find out the percentage and send it to the School Committee.

Dr. Carroll

- Ongoing clinics at Manet Community Health
- Appointments are recommended but not necessary
- Great experience recently with daughter

Ms. Rosmarin

- Wanted to encourage staff to get their boosters
- Want to keep everyone safe

Chair Eberhardt

- Thanked Superintendent Jette
- Also wanted to thank Kim Coughlin, all the nurses, faculty and staff for keeping all the learning in person
- It is a challenge, really appreciated all the efforts made
- Goal is to keep school open

3. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

- None

4. Chair's Report - Chair Eberhardt

- a. Update from MASC/MASS Conference

Ms. Rosmarin

- Participated remotely
- Joined different workshops
- Great opportunity to hear from other people and their challenging similar to Milton
- Uplifting to hear how everyone is working to meet the moment and the need
- Important to keep in mind that School Committee has a great responsibility to speak for the community
- How to keep moving in the right direction, continue to focus on core values
- Thoughtful and helpful presentations
- Served as the delegate of the representative from Milton

- Voted on 9 Resolutions
- Minor amendments but all passed

Ms. White

- Also attended virtually
- Attended the workshops
 - Building and advocate budget
 - Mental Health
 - Bus contracts, talk about electric buses - concerned about the financial impact
 - Discussion of Indian names for mascots across the Commonwealth
- b. Revised School Committee Meeting Calendar
 - The School Committee had a discussion on upcoming dates and items

5. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

a. FY23 Budget

Dr. Craghead

- Had a meeting on November 16, 2021
- Discussed and voted on the Sick Leave Policy for Non Union employees
- Discussed ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) and what is left, more updates to come soon
- Waiting to hear about our ARPA

b. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #20 payable on 11/10/21 in the amount of \$170,304.31.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #21 payable on 11/18/21 in the amount of \$506,519.37.

Second: Chair Eberhardt

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

6. School Building Committee Report - Ms. Rosmarin

- Still hopeful to get an Article into the Winter Town Meeting scheduled for February 28, 2022

- Still a fair amount to be done
- Article would be for a land swap
- Contract for the surveyors was just approved, they still need to survey the land
- Need to begin conversations around what would be acceptable for the swap
- Still working and hopeful, can be a stretch on the time, may have to wait until the spring
- Had a presentation and draft drawings of what the school would look like on the proposed parcel of land
- Exciting to see the drawings and to talk about the playgrounds and parking lots
- Working on a video about the overcrowding of our schools

7. Approval of Minutes

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the Milton School Committee Minutes dated Nov. 3, 2021.

- School Committee minutes were moved to the next meeting.

8. Old Business

None

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to adjourn from the Milton School Committee meeting.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.