

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
January 19, 2022
Agenda

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 School Committee Agenda.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

3. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

- a. Glover School Site Council Presentation - https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/8416/4304/0227/2022_Glover_Elementary_School_Site_Council_Presentation.pdf

Ms. White

- Looking at the kids and all the hard work everyone is doing, wanted to thank you for all that you do
- Thank you, the kids are so lucky to be surrounded by caring adults

Ms. Ross Denny

- Big fan of Principal McDavitt, saw the change in the culture at Glover that took place when she joined the community
- Amazing job
- Thank you for your focus on reflecting the data and your partnership with Ms. Maselli
- Shows that the district is growing that reflects equity
- Thankful that Lauren Vanacore can work with all the elementary schools
- Capacity of supporting students and addressing the disproportionality
- Looking forward to the end of the school year to see what you have learned from the data

- All of teachers are using i-Ready and Lexia, the more conversations teachers have about our students the gaps will narrow for every group and sub group

Ms. Rosmarin

- Thanked Principal McDavitt and the Site Council for their wonderful work
- It has been a quite couple of years that we have been through
- Seeing the fall data and looking at where kids are, looking at the huge gain in the short time is encouraging winter data
- We can meet the goals we are setting
- Also thankful for Lauren Vanacore's work with the schools
- Personalize learning with the help of wonderful teachers, Lexia and i-Ready programs that are providing all kinds of information coming together at the right time
- Looking forward to seeing where we are the end of the school year

Dr. Craghead

- Have been affiliated with Glover for some time, the leadership before Principal McDavitt was inconsistent
- The energy Principal McDavitt brought was tremendous
- Principal McDavitt has proven to be an amazing thoughtful force for change and compassion
- Glover is in good hands
- Principal McDavitt has an amazing team, it is clear with the results we are seeing
- Encouraged by the growth that your teachers and staff have been able to make in a short period of time
- Lauren Vanacore is doing amazing work, she is just one person and able to work with all four of the elementary schools

Dr. Carroll

- Thank you for the excellent presentation
- Wanted to highlight what stood out, starting with your three goals and the way you presented them
- Really appreciated the way you talked about the goals and the foundations
- Mindset shift that is underway in Milton
- Investing in safe and supportive learning environments in making equitable and inclusive spaces our diverse learners
- These pieces are all intertwined

- So much more to do to integrate the pieces and you are having those conversations, as we are as a district
- How you combined the data in an accessible way with details was easier to follow
- Combined with the joy piece
- As a district it's not either or, either data driven or joyful community
- Taking joy in the data in your presentation and showing the progress
- Believe we can come to a place in the district that we can celebrate our data
- i-Ready and Lexia, those were investments as a community
 - have been worth the investment
 - can track richer understanding of our students
 - seeing the progress
 - looking at new resources and tools, looking of similar results

Chair Eberhardt

- Connection over time for learning for children and families
- Still lots of joy in the learning for the students
- Hopeful for families
- Principal McDavitt knows all the kids, that piece where you invest you can't measure
- Thank you for all of your dedication to the children and all of your hard work

b. **Milton Public Schools Equity Steering Committee Report** - Meg Matthews, Shelley Sturdivant and Monique DeBarros -https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/5816/4304/0228/Equity_Power_Point_2.pptx.pdf

Meg Matthews

- Equity Steering Committee has been meeting since Summer of 2021
- Members of the Family and Community Subcommittee
- Survey will be going out soon, to gain some community buy-in to move forward

Ms. White

- As we look at the data that talks about the bully information, MCAS performance (with students having disabilities) and discipline referrals, how do we look at the data with confidentiality

Superintendent Jette

- Names are not shared
- Survey was anonymous
- Elevated a concern of growth of improvement that needed to be made

- Forms have been made accessible to report anonymously
- School Counselors will probably have the names so safety plans can be set up

Dr. Carroll

- Thanked the Steering Committee for joining the meeting, for volunteering their time to this committee and all the work you have done
- Accept your call to action, committed to move in the right direction
- Wanted to voice the accountability of this work
- Understand the reasoning behind being deliberate and intentions
- Understand it takes time to seek buy-in from the community
- Common definition of Equity is phase I
- Think about what does it look like at MPS, we still have a lot to do to build out the phase I
- Appreciate all your work you have done, eager to understand the concrete steps and plan

Ms. Ross Denny

- Thanked the Steering Committee for volunteering all of their time
- Significant commitment
- Thankful for including in the mission statement the understanding the work around equity is to support for all learners
- Providing some definition around the type of students we need to be concerned about
- Questioned when we do have this common definition, what is our next step as a committee?
- Can we add this to our strategic plan, if it is not already there

Shelley Sturdivant

- This definition needs to be on the same page going forward and will be part of the Strategic Plan
- Meeting to prioritize the plan
- Monthly meetings scheduled and will take place tomorrow to discuss our top three goals

Meg Matthews

- We have some calibrating to do, there has been a shift of leadership
- Ms. Prak-Martins has resigned and we are excited to have Superintendent Jette working with us
- Looking forward to filling this position, working with somebody who is committed to working with us full time and help us lead the group of volunteers

Ms. Rosmarin

- Nice to see you and meet who are involved in the quality steering committee
- Wanted to affirm that the definition of Equity will be a part of the strategic plan
- Thankful for the work you are doing, it is meaningful for our community
- Equity is one of the three goals in the Strategic Plan
- Setting the district on the right course
- Beginning with the definition is a critical step
- Questioned how do the different groups relate (Anti-Racist Team & Cultural Competency), how are we pulling all the pieces together. Important to have us all working together in the same direction

Superintendent Jette

- We have a very robust Strategic Plan, trying to streamline the sub committees
- Have had conversations to consolidate to make sure we are all working in the same direction
- Will be having this conversation with the Steering Committee tomorrow on how do we make a better connection between the groups

Dr. Craghead

- This was a presentation that needed to be seen, gives a sense of where things were
- Thankful for your time and volunteering
- Appreciate you reaching out all across the community for feedback on the definition
- Think this is the way to go, appreciate all of your efforts

Monique DeBarros

- Thankful for the feedback
- Have had a lot of the same questions you asked tonight
- Wanted to say we are committed to the work
- The definition is from the ground, need to see it go up
- Part of the beauty of the group is that we are a mixed group (have students and parents sharing)
- Personally invested
- Really appreciate this group
- We do need some anchor to bring all the work together to understand the why's and the what's

Meg Matthews

- Importance of accountability
- Welcome the opportunity to continue to come back and report on the work
- How do we build this into the School Committee agenda
- Share the sense of urgency, eager to move forward

Chair Eberhardt

- Thanked the Steering Committee
- Love the start of the definition, it is the missing piece that will bring us more people into the conversation to move us forward
- Director Prak-Martins has spoken before about needing the common language and the common understanding of the definition

c. District Updates - Superintendent Jette

- Reported to the state 127 students were positive and 3 staff
- We are trending in the right direction
- Many have heard that the DESE has a new testing initiative, asking the School Committee for permission to participate in the new testing
- Deadline is Friday to sign up even though it was just announced yesterday
 - Sent survey to staff to opt in
 - If we sign up by Friday they will ship the I-Health testing kits, starting Monday
 - Testing every two weeks on Wednesday's, staff and students will receive a tests (this is optional)
 - At home test, highly sensitive to the virus
 - If positive you do not need a backup of a PCR
 - I-Health test is something we look forward to participating in, will be less contact tracing
 - A lot of time has been spent on test and stay
 - More information to follow in the blog to the parents tomorrow
- Great move going forward
- Talked about a mobile vaccination clinic, but can take up to two-four weeks to plan

Ms. Rosmarin

- Must come as a relief for our nursing staff
- Do we know how many tests we have administered during the test and stay program

- Superintendent Jette replied over 200 (a few weeks back) and has grown significantly the past few weeks (don't have the updated numbers at this time)
 - Lot of logistics still to be worked out on the distribution and when the tests will be administered
 - Can still receive these test regarding of your vaccination status
 - No penalty for not opting into the testing program, not requiring the students to participate
 - Still need to follow the guidelines if considered a close contact and isolation
 - A positive test would be recorded with the school, and parents should notify their pediatrician

Chair Eberhardt

- This is a great option for families/students and staff

Ms. Ross Denny

- Thanked Superintendent Jette and staff for showing up the past few weeks for showing up to school
- A lot of sacrifices were made
- Recognize this new proposed program will relieve burden from the school system
- The data from the state of the 98% of students were testing negative was before Omicron
- Need the reliability of getting the test on time
- If the state doesn't follow through with the test, what is our plan
- Asymptomatic spread is the issue

Superintendent Jette

- In terms of the last week, students stayed out of school when positive
- This program would be a test once a week
- State is stating they have the kits available
- We will remain in the test and stay program until the test arrive from the state for the new testing program

Dr. Carroll

- Agree the roll out has been bumpy from the state, logical to be conservative
- In support of the new testing program
- Hopefully the mobile vaccine clinic can take place at one of our elementary schools
- Continue to lag in our vaccination rates in our 5-11 year olds

- Could be an important benefit even if we have to wait a few weeks
- Thank you for staying on top of this fast moving situation

d. MHS Program of Studies

Chair Eberhardt

- Program of Studies was sent by Charlene Roche to read/review
- Will discuss and vote at the next school committee meeting
- The High School will come to answer questions

Dr. Craghead

- Questioned the Dual Enrollment being included in the Program of Studies
- School Committee has not voted on the Dual Enrollment yet

Superintendent Jette

- Reported that the Dual Enrollment had not been voted on yet
- Updates had been emailed
- Will need to vote on the Dual Enrollment before adding to the Program of Studies

4. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

None

5. Chair's Report - Chair Eberhardt

a. Revised Draft 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the Revised Draft 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

6. Strategic Planning Advisory Committee Report - Ms Rosmarin

- Advisory Committee to take on the challenge to streamline and update the Strategic Plan
- The current plan is a robust plan, in place for 3.5years, 6 goals and 59 pages
- Little overwhelming
- Right time to revisit and streamline, put the goals front and center
- Talked about the work, identify a team of volunteers among the staff to do the groundwork to put the draft together
- Susan Maselli and Karen McDavitt are leading the committee

- Plan is in draft form right now, want to have the opportunity to review before bringing to the School Committee on February 16th for a presentation with a possible vote
- Three goals very much align, Equity, Safe and Supportive Schools and personalized Learning
- All will work together to move the district forward
- Something everyone will understand and will be invested in over time

7. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

- a. **FY23 Budget Presentation** - Assistant Superintendent Dexter & Superintendent Jette- https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/3416/4304/0227/REV_School_Budget_presentation_to_SC_1-19-22_1.pdf

Dr. Craghead

- This is a combination of months of work
- Assistant Superintendent Dexter has gone through the budget, has done a stellar job, and has been working with Superintendent Jette and the Leadership Team
- Talking to the schools, comprehensive ideas of what was needed in the budget
- Thanked colleagues of the School Committee for their work
- Will see APRA listed, (American Rescue Plan)
 - Are still included in our budget because it has not been discussed or approved by the Select Board
- All crucial needs due to the pandemic
- All recognize money is tight
- Everyone needs more money in our town, it is our duty to advocate for our schools
- Need to present what our needs are for our schools
- The district needs to regain and ultimately move forward with the high level of success that we have seen before the pandemic
- Need to address learning issues, learning losses and social and emotional needs
- We are not where we need to be, it is going to take resources
- We are representing our Roll Over Budget and top ten priorities for FY23 also including all of our needs
- Interest of full disclosure and transparency trying to show the needs of the Milton Public Schools
- After the presentation is completed today, School Committee will be ask to vote
- Will also be presenting the budget to the Warrant Committee on Monday, January 24, 2022

Dr. Carroll

- Expressed the appreciation for the presentation
- Thankful for all the work you have done
- Questioned the possibility of spreading out the onetime cost of the new curriculum over more than one fiscal year? If not, would that cause a delay?

Dr. Craghead

- There is an incentive of the one time cost
- By stretching out, there could be a delayed the implementation

Ms. White

- Excellent presentation, work is really impressive
- Suggested the first slide that breaks down the different categories for the budget, you may need to understand who your audience is, think about adding a description for each category, that would be helpful
- When we talk about salaries at town meeting, people talk about Steps/Lanes and ask about how much the raises really are
- Be prepared to talk about how things are done in education
- If Sue Maselli could join the Warrant Committee, that would be helpful

Ms. Ross Denny

- Thanked the School Committee Members and the Administration for putting together the budget and the presentation
- Also thankful for the alignment of the goals with our needs
- There is a lack of awareness sometimes that we have high performance expectations for our schools but our budget doesn't always align with that
- As listed on slide #6, we are under spent compared to other peer districts
- If we want the high school ranking and the high achievement we aspire to gain, then we need to fund our school district to achieve those
- What has been presented in this budget reflects our capacity to actually meet those expectations
- Also commended the faculty and staff in our schools, that have been able to maintain our ranking in spite of a decline spending
- How can we use a mix of revenue to meet our needs so our schools are not inadequately funded, our Fire and Police Departments all the departments in our town deserve the resources that need to function adequately and meet the expectations of our citizens

Dr. Carroll

- Wondering if we could be prepared with comps of the teachers' salaries in comparable districts
- What is a Milton Public School Teacher coming in at, with Steps in Lanes as compared in our districts

Superintendent Jette

- The teachers contracts are a public document, the Steps and Lanes are listed on the salary page of the contract
- This is a negotiation year
- When you look at the \$75,000 (that is a plug number/average)
- Math and Science teachers can be paid differently than English and History teachers depending on certifications and degrees
- Milton is on par or maybe a little be lower than other districts

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the FY23 Budget as presented to take to the Warrant Committee.

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

Chair Eberhardt

- Thanked School Committee Members and Administrations for putting together an amazing budget
- Really crafts the things we have been talking about and the goals to keep the student at the center
- We will go out and advocate for the school budget and support the rest of the town

b. Acceptance of Donation from Copeland Family Foundation

Dr. Craghead

- Copeland Family Foundation donated \$63,974 towards the purchase of two Minotaur DRW O54MS school transportation vans
- Sold the two vans we previously owned because we were not able to transport students in those types of vans according to the guidelines
- Between the trade in value and the donations MPS was able to purchase two vans

- With these two vans, if used two/three times a week for athletics during the 10 week season and for clubs, MPS can save \$45,000-\$68,000 a year
- Cost for transportation for special events, clubs and athletics is astronomical, going to save a lot of money every year
- Great gift, and thankful for the Copeland Family Foundation for their donation

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve the donation by the Copeland Family Foundation in the amount of \$63,974.00 to be put towards the purchase of two Minotaur School Transportation Vans.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

c. FY22 ARPA Spending Bill Earmarks

Dr. Craghead

- State Senator Walter Timilty has secured for MPS from APRA funds
 - Milton School Building - HVAC Improvements, \$50,000
 - Milton Public Schools – Brooks Field Improvements, \$50,000

d. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve vendor warrant #29 payable 1/13/2022 in the amount of \$286,769.28.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:6-0-0

*Dr. Craghead left the meeting at 10:20pm due to the early scheduled Capital Improvement meeting the next morning.

8. School Building Committee Report - postponed to a future meeting.

9. Approval of Minutes - Chair Eberhardt

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes dated December 15, 2021.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote:5-0-0

*Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

10. Old Business

None

11. Next meeting Agenda Items

Updated

Chair Eberhardt

- Extended thanks to Director Prak-Martins, January 19, 2022 was her last day
- Thanked her for her work on equity, committees she formed and the work she did with the community
- Wished Director Prak-Martins well on her next phase

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

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Craghead was absent during the vote.

Meeting adjourned 10:32pm.