

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
March 2, 2022

Committee Present: Chair; Margaret Eberhardt, Vice Chair; Ada Rosmarin Dr. Elizabeth Carroll, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Beverly Ross Denny, and 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 - 6:30pm

2. Adjourn to Executive Session

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to return to open session to discuss:

- To discuss negotiation strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the MEA, Unit A, since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

3. Return to Open Session - 7:00pm

4. Approval of The School Committee Agenda

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

5. Superintendent's Report

a. Update on Math Curriculum

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/8316/4727/0921/MPS_K-

[5_Math_Curriculum_Review_Update_-_SC_Meeting_-_March_2_2022.pdf](#)

i. K-12 Mathematics Director Brian Selig

MPS K-5 Math Curriculum Review Update

Slide information shown below:

- Overview of Process
 - a. Learn & Prepare
 - b. Investigate & Select
 - c. Launch
 - d. Implement & Monitor
 - From DESE’s Evaluating and Selecting High-Quality Instructional Materials Quick Reference Guide and IMplement MA Process

Phase I: Learn & Prepare (Summer 2020 → Spring 2021)

- ★ Establish a curriculum council, selection timeline, and final decision-making process
- ★ Develop a common understanding of MA Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework (along with research articles, such as Five Reasons Instructional Materials Matter for Equity and The Mo(ve)ment to Prioritize Antiracist Mathematics) among curriculum council members
- ★ Establish our local lens
 - Identify local parameters for our decision (budget, grade levels, content area, etc.)
 - Develop our vision and goals for instruction and assessment
 - Set priorities to guide the decision-making process
- ★ Plan for stakeholder engagement throughout the entire process
- ★ Understand the market landscape: What are the options?

Phase II: Investigate & Select (Fall 2021 → Spring 2022)

- ★ Narrow the choices: Use the parameters to identify a subset of programs that can be deeply investigated
- ★ Investigate each program using our vision and priorities to rate them
 - MPS K-5 Math Curriculum Review – Program Investigation Details
- ★ Gather data from other districts, stakeholders, and publishers
- ★ Make a final decision – by mid-April
 - Synthesize and analyze evidence of meeting priorities
 - Communicate the decision and plan for implementation to all stakeholders

Phase III: Launch (Spring 2022 → Fall 2022)

- ★ Procure materials and plan for distribution
- ★ Set implementation goals for assessments, pacing, and monitoring
- ★ Set expectations for use and collaborative planning
- ★ Determine an plan for observation and coaching
- ★ Train teachers, support staff, and administrators

Phase IV: Implement & Monitor (Fall 2022 →)

- ★ Provide ongoing training focuses on the curriculum design, instructional practices, and planning at the unit and lesson level

- ★ Monitor student engagement, feedback, and performance on assessments
- ★ Make adjustments as needed based on quantitative and qualitative data

Dr. Carroll

- Thanked Brian Selig for the presentation and for leading this rigorous process in seeking out our elementary math curriculum
- Asked Mr. Selig if he could clarify and explain where the rubrics came from, did they come from your team or another source?

Brian Selig replied

- The language is not our own, it derived from National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- Transcendent publication in Math Education
- Teacher Centered instruction transitioned to Student Centered
- Much of the work to date has been rooted in that text

Dr. Carroll

- Had a question about the mention of other districts implementing some of these different curriculums, the initial Professional Development and support for preparing to implement to launch. Is that included in the purchase price of the curriculum?

Brian Selig replied

- Yes, it is included in the cost, it is impossible to purchase a curriculum without some level the Professional Development
- Can customize to individual district needs

Dr. Carroll

- Mentioned the intention of selecting a curriculum that we invest in for that 5+ years
- When did we adopt our current elementary math curriculum
- Want the community to understand that it is a necessary transition that we reach beyond the lifespan of the curriculum we have

Brian Selig replied:

- Don't have the exact number of years but want to say it could be 20+years
- Everyday math has been all that has been mentioned in the curriculum over the years

Assistant Superintendent Sheehan

- Although we have had Everyday Math for many years, we have updated through Math 4, maybe 8-10 years ago

Superintendent Jette

- Replied it was 9 years ago

Brian Selig

- Long period of time lapse
- Significant amount of change has come to math education at the elementary level
- What we have now is outdated

Dr. Carroll

- We talk about striving for excellence for our students
- This is a clear example of what needs to be put into action
- As an early elementary parent, thankful for you doing this work
- The new curriculum will be translated into French as well

Ms. Rosmarin

- Thanked Brian Selig and team
- Looking forward to seeing this roll out
- What are we thinking in terms of the implementation roll out, will this be all grades K-5 or a couple of grades at a time

Brian Selig

- Think there is urgency
- Intent to have the new curriculum across K-5 in the fall
- Need to benefit from a curriculum, can be a rocky transition for both teachers and students
- The curriculum will be unfamiliar
- Notable better, it is worth it
- Professional Development is critical to the success
- Both roll outs have merit, push forward for all elementary grades for the fall

Ms. Rosmarin

- Agreed since the current curriculum is outdated
- Want to do the best by our students

Ms. Ross Denny

- Thanked Brian Selig for taking the time to implement such a rigorous plan
- Have had the benefit of being a part of the Curriculum Instruction Advisory Group
 - the good thing is we do have precedent of other schools that have done well in their first year of implementation

- It might be bumpy, we do have a track record of being successful
- Now we have planning time district wide, teachers can learn from one another
- Will be much more prepared than they would have been years ago
- Read the Ed Report, current math curriculum did not meet in terms of being rigorous
- It is very important we use this opportunity to offer this curriculum to our students as soon as possible

Chair Eberhardt

- Years ago Everyday Math out was rolled out backwards, starting with the 5th grade
- Looking forward to the new curriculum
- How are you aligning with the Middle School curriculum
- What are the outcomes when they get to Middle and High School, would like to see some connection

Brian Selig

- There have been a number of publishers that have tried to appeal to desire for consistency and offer programs K-12
- The flaw in that is, not often of the same equal quality at the levels
- Should get the best we can for the age level we have for K-5
- Feel confident with our middle school curriculum and transition

b. District Updates

- Thanked all the families, students faculty and staff with the transition back from vacation
- 2 students impacted by Covid
- 2 faculty and staff impacted by Covid
- Moving in the right direction
- Vaccination Clinic, February 24th
- Kim Coughlin and Charlene Roche, on February 26th worked at the schools to hand out the at home rapid kits
- Looking forward to the transition of mask optional
- Want to support all families and students
- Want to be sure all faculty, staff and students feel comfortable continuing to wear mask
- Thanked all parents for their understanding and cooperation
- Still have mask to provide
- Mask are still required in the nurse's office
- All purifying machines will remain on, and windows will be cracked open
- Vaccination Clinic on March 5th at Milton High School, March 26th at Pierce Middle School (9am-3pm)

Ms. Ross Denny

- Received a question about how does mask optional work at lunch
- What plans are in place to make sure students feel safe

Superintendent Jette

- It is tight in some of our cafeteria's, do our best to socially distance, but no longer guidance at this time
- Nothing different during lunch, except if the students decides to wear their mask
- No silent lunches
- Students with any concern should reach out to their building nurse

Other updates:

- Grade One Information Night will take place March 9, 2022 at 6:30pm
- Pre Registration for Kindergarten just completed, 326 have registered
- 142 preschool students registered
- Numbers are growing in schools
- March 17- Parent/Teacher conferences will be in person
 - will provide other opportunities for families to reach out to teachers to meet virtually at another time
- 10th graders - ELA MCAS on March 22nd and March 23rd

Ms. Rosmarin

- If parents prefers a remote parent/teacher conferences, just wanted to confirm that is an option

Superintendent Jette replied

- Yes, parents/guardians should reach out the week before or after to schedule time to meet remotely or could call the teacher as well
- Should set up with their individual teachers
- Mask optional as well for the conferences

Ms. Ross Denny

- Know the Leadership Team spoke about the Open House in person as well
- Appreciate the options
- For working parents it can be challenging to leave work in the middle of the day for the meeting, it would be good to have the default option for zoom, last conference set up was helpful

- If online would be so much easier for families but still have the other format in person as the secondary option

Superintendent Jette

- A lot of information will be in the Blog tomorrow
- Exciting to return to mask optional
- Reach out to principals with any concerns
- Want everyone to be comfortable in school

6. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

None

7. Chair's Report - Chair Eberhardt

a. Mid-Cycle Review of District/Superintendent

- Brief overview of the process
- Sent out all the things to consider to the School Committee, let me know what items you would like information on
- Any additional information in relation to the goals you want to share?

Ms. Ross Denny

- The School Committee and Superintendent have goals, in any way we can treat it as a progress update, where are we relative to those goals would be helpful
- Also talked about supervision and evaluation, especially for the central office staff
- Some kind of data of staff receiving feedback
- Community engagement would be important, engaging in a meaningful way

Dr. Carroll

- Questioned the recruitment/retention hiring piece, would like to have more information on that piece, not sure what that might consist of
- How both the Superintendent and School Committee track the goals that we set, we did receive the reports, wondering if it would be helpful to identify what follow up has occurred in response to those reports to identify where we are
- Is there a time frame or process where we would do a mid-year check in on the goals of that we set for The School Committee

Ms. White

- Professional Development is often planned in advance
- Demands on the teaching staff, curious how you are planning the Professional Development with our resources and time frame

Chair Eberhardt

- Yes, would be a good idea to add the midyear check in, we have not included that before
- All great ideas

8. Policy Subcommittee Report - Dr. Carroll

- Have a red line version from the last meeting
 - a. Policy IC, School Year/School Year Calendar - Redline listed below

IC

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

REDLINE for 3-1-22

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent after sharing and discussion with the Milton Educators~~Teachers~~' Association and then submitted to the School Committee for approval by May 1st of each year.

The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education:

1. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Each elementary and middle school student will be scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
2. Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Every secondary school student will be scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

State and federal laws require schools to make reasonable accommodation to the religious needs of students and employees in observance of holy days. Mass. General Laws Chapter 151B, section 4 (1A) addresses this issue with respect to employees. With respect to students, Mass. General Laws Chapter 151C, section 2B reads in relevant part as follows:

1. Any student in an educational or vocational training institution...who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or

study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study or work requirement which he may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this section.

(Excerpted from memo from Commissioner Jeffrey Riley, August 21, 2021
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=26188>)

In the case of religious holidays that are not recognized with a holiday (day off) in Milton Public Schools:

1. Whenever possible, Milton Public Schools will avoid scheduling district- or school-wide meetings (eg. Kindergarten Information Night) in conflict with a religious holiday, even if it is not a school holiday.
2. Parents/guardians are asked to notify teachers, in advance, when a student is planning to be absent in order to observe a religious holiday. In addition to absence from school, any absence from extracurricular activities, due to the observance of a religious holiday, will be considered as an excused absence.
3. Whenever possible, reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of students and employees in observance of holy days shall be made (eg. in the case of someone who is fasting for Ramadan).

For the information of staff, students, parents and guardians, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session; holidays and vacation periods; professional development days; and parent conferences.

LEGAL REFS: [1]

M.G.L. 4:7; 15:1G; 71:1; 71:4; 71:4A; 71:73; 136:12

Board of Education Regulations for School Year and School Day, effective 9/1/75

Board of Education, Student Learning Time Regulations, 603 CMR 27.00, Adopted 12/20/94

CONTRACT REF: Collective Bargaining Agreement

REC'D: NESDEC Adopted: April, 2006

Dr. Carroll made a motion to discuss the proposed revisions to Policy IC.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Chair Eberhardt

- Thanked the Policy Subcommittee for this work
- Think the idea of gender neutral pronouns can be done
- Aligns with all our other policies

- This policy should be shared with parents and guardians at the beginning of the school year

Dr. Craghead

- Agree with the changes that you are making
- Disappointment that way the Mass General Law reads
- We had a good discussion about all of the added language, came up with some good changes

Dr. Carroll

- Wanted to thank Superintendent Jette for his input in the discussion
- Superintendent Jette was able to shed light for us on how to update the policy in an inclusive way
- Goal in revising the policy was to bring it into alignment to the practice in place in MPS
- Accommodating all students
- Will vote on the IC Policy at later School Committee Meeting

9. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead

- Finance Subcommittee met on March 1st
- Brief meeting, agenda FY23 Budget and APRA - no update at this time
- In the process to meet jointly with the Select Board
- Process of setting up meetings with Warrant Committee/ School Subcommittee to answer any questions they have
- Looked over the recommendation of Capital Improvement Planning Committee - Capital Budget FY23 - what the school would receive
- Dr. Craghead announced - stepping down as Chair of Finance, we voted on new Chair which will be Ms. White who has agreed to take over as Chair of Finance
- Ms. White will also will be signing the Vendor Warrants and Ms. Ross Denny will be a backup to secondary signer of the Warrants if Ms. White is not able to sign
- Have been serving 6 years of on Finance, 5 years being the Chair
- Know that Finance will be in the capable hands of Ms. White

a. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Dr. Craghead made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #36 payable on March 3, 2022 in the amount of \$209,177.25.

Second: Dr. Carroll
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Chair Eberhardt

- Wanted to thank Dr. Craghead for all of her years on Finance

Ms. Rosmarin

- Also thanked Dr. Craghead for her years of services leading through finance and the annual budget
- Coordination with the Select Board and Warrant Committee
- Expressed appreciation for Dr. Craghead's leadership

10. School Building Committee Report - Ms. Rosmarin

- Two public forums scheduled - March 3rd at 7:30pm and March 10th at 4pm
- Families and community members welcome, invitations have been sent out to the school community, anyone is welcome to participate
- Will discuss enrollment growth we have seen and efforts taken to address will be presented
- Will be doing more forums as we get closer to Town Meeting
- Presentation to Warrant Committee on Monday, March 7th - Articles of parcels of land
- Hoping to have a successful vote at Town Meeting in May

Chair Eberhardt

- Will you be reporting out at a School Committee Meeting, and asking the School Committee about the configuration of the building
- When you have the forums, will be discussing configurations

Ms. Rosmarin

- Replied yes, the grade configuration will be discussed at the forum
- Plan to come back on March 16 to discuss to School Committee
- Community has opportunities to ask questions
- Have done quick polls at the end of each public forum
- In the polls, we offer the options of the elementary school or the new middle school and other (their recommendation)

11. Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Report - Ms. White

- Met on February 18th
- Wellness Coach that Ms. Morgan has the grant for, come in and met with us to review our self assessments on the wellness policies

- Made some recommendations, but overall suggestion would be to increase the language in the policy, add as an addendum
- [Jackie Morgan](#) and [Natalia Perez](#) will put into a format to have available at the next meeting
- Will come to School Committee in April to vote on the recommendation/Policy

12. Approval of Minutes

a. February 16, 2022

The School Committee Minutes moved the approval of the February 16, 2022 minutes to the March 16th School Committee meeting.

13. Old Business

None

14. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to adjourn the School Committee Meeting.

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm