

Minutes
Reorganizational Meeting of the Milton School Committee
prior to the Regular Meeting of the Milton School Committee
Via Zoom
April 27, 2022

Committee Present: Vice Chair; Ada Rosmarin, Dr. Elizabeth Carroll, Beverly Ross Denny, Dr. Celina Miranda, Annamma Varghese, Betty White

Staff Present: James Jette, Superintendent of Schools; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources; Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Milton School Committee Reorganizational Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order - 7:04pm

Superintendent Jette

- Congratulated and welcomed new School Committee members
 - Annamma Varghese
 - Dr. Celina Miranda

Superintendent Jette

- Invited members to make a motion to nominate the School Committee Chair.

Ms. White nominated Ms. Rosmarin to be Chair of the School Committee.

Second: Dr. Carroll

- Ms. Rosmarin accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Congratulations to the new Chair of the School Committee Ada Rosmarin.

Chair Rosmarin

- Need to nominate a Vice Chair, asked for nominations.

Ms. Ross Denny

- Nominated Dr. Carroll for Vice Chair of the School Committee.

Second: Ms. White

Dr. Carroll accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
April 27, 2022

Committee Present: Chair; Ada Rosmarin, Vice Chair; Dr. Elizabeth Carroll, Beverly Ross Denny, Dr. Celina Miranda, Annamma Varghese, Betty White

Staff Present: James Jette, Superintendent of Schools; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources; Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Regular Milton School Committee Meeting Agenda

1. **Call to order** -7:07pm.

2. School Building Committee Report - Chair Rosmarin

- Timing of the Statement of Interested was added tonight because the due date is on Friday
- Sean O'Rourke needed to attend the Warrant Committee Meeting this evening
- Requires approval by the Select Board and School Committee
- Select Board reviewed and voted on it last Wednesday

a. [Submission of Statement of Interest to Massachusetts School Building Authority](#)

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the Submission of Statement of Interest to Massachusetts School Building Authority, as follows:

Having convened in an open meeting on April 27, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Milton, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form to be submitted to the MSBA by no later than Friday, April 29, 2022 for consideration in 2022, for the Cunningham Elementary School, located at 44 Edge Hill Road, Milton, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

- Priority 2 - Elimination of existing severe overcrowding
- Priority 4 - Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments

The elementary enrollment in Milton Public Schools has grown by 24% (450 students) over the past fourteen years, since the last school building project was completed - from 1,873 students (in 2008) to 2,323 students (in 2022), far exceeding the capacity of Milton elementary school buildings;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the

approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Second: Ms. White

Dr. Miranda

- Asked if the Cunningham was just being used as an example, that it is an overcrowding issue in all the schools

Chair Rosmarin

- Confirmed yes
- It just wasn't just one of our schools but needed to provide an example of one school
- We have more classes than we have room for across the town

Dr. Carroll

- Applied twice before unsuccessfully
- Important change of rethinking the model
- Wondering are there other changes or updates that were added to strengthen the applications
- Was the proposal revised

Chair Rosmarin

- We have managed to maintain our quality of education despite the overcrowding
- We have not suffered as much as other school districts
- It is a competitive process
- At one of our meetings with MSBA, there was comment made that Milton have not moved to use portable classrooms yet so they must not be in that much trouble
- Tried to avoid the portable classrooms because they are so expensive and take up valuable playground space
- But we are at the point we may need to look at that option

Superintendent Jette

- Only so many districts are approved every year
- Our buildings are in good condition

Dr. Carroll

- What is the timeline to hear back
- What other options are we exploring in the meantime
- Just don't want to lose more time

Chair Rosmarin

- Approving the new model of the middle school helps the Building School Committee do the cost estimates
- There is a team ready to start the analysis
- We know what we want to build

Ms. Ross Denny

- Wanted to clarify something that Sean O'Rourke mentioned before, it is not a one for one funding subsidy. Believe it is 20 cents on the dollar.
- Securing this funding source should not deter us from proceeding with the school building project
- Delaying of the building will increase the cost
- We need to proceed with the project

Superintendent Jette

- It would cost more the longer we wait
- Portable classrooms could be 300k a piece
- Portable classrooms will have to go on the MPS property and will take away space

Dr. Miranda

- Submission of the SOI does not tie our hands to look at alternative process, can you confirm that

Chair Rosmarin

- Confirmed

Motion has already been made above and second.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

3. Finance Subcommittee Report - Ms. White

a. FY23 Fee Proposal

i. Transportation - Review bus contract

- Bus fees have not increased in five years
- Inflation clause, 3% increase
- Need to increase fees

Assistant Superintendent Dexter presented [proposed fees](#)

Ms. White

- Recommended \$325 per rider

Ms. Ross Denny

- This is a one full school year fee
- Entire school year, we have no control over the gas prices

Chair Rosmarin

- Modest increase is different from what was done in 2017
- Could go up again, reasonable amount to start with

Ms. Varghese

- Wanted to clarify that \$275 to \$325 increase would be for one school year

Ms. White

- Correct

Dr. Carroll

- Helpful to see the history of the fees

Ms. White made a motion to increase bus fees.

Second: Ms. Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

ii. Athletics - will be moved to another meeting, still in a discussion

Ms. Rosmarin made a motion to adjourn for the School Committee Meeting.

Second: Ms. Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.