

Milton School Open Public Budget Hearing Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
April 6, 2022

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 - 6:30pm

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to open the forum, and will need a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

Dr. Carroll was absent during the vote.

2. Open Public Budget Hearing

- a. FY23 Budget - [Presentation](#) available on MPS website - Assistant Superintendent Dexter
 - Shared budget requests and recommendations

Chair Eberhardt - opened the forum up for questions.

- Reminded the community that the open chat cannot be used during the open meeting because not everyone can see the chat, it would be a violation of the Open Meeting Law
- If there are questions, please raise your hand to speak and you will be recognized

Dr. Carroll joined the meeting.

Jill Clark -26 Harold Street

- Are there any major changes in staffing from last year
- Are the staff being proposed with increases and are any being eliminated

Superintendent Jette

- We have asked for additional staffing
- Math Interventionist, Reading Specialist, Supports
- SPED Teachers, Instructional Aides, PMS Guidance, Adjustment Counselors
- Early Childhood Educator
- Additional positions listed in the presentation
- No eliminations of positions

Assistant Superintendent Dexter

- Confirmed there are no cuts scheduled
- Funding available for positions through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)

Colleen McCarthy -

- Questioned eligible rollover line listed in the budget- can you clarify the ARPA
- Is that budget that we have
- Given we are coming out of a 2 year learning loss, how is it identified that one Interventionist, and one Reading Specialist - how did you come up with that number for the district
- How many new positions are being proposed

Assistant Superintendent Dexter

- Consider the Roll Over Budget took every staff person and initiative in place today and rolled it forward including wage increases
- Any legally mandated positions would also be included in the rollover
- For other needs above roll over, School Committee, Administration, and Leadership team identified needs that are not currently in place
- We have sources of funding that have been approved by the Select Board
- ESSER and ARPA funds can be used in relation to the pandemic
- The need is there because of the pandemic and the unfinished learning
- Interventionist would be included in the funding
- If they are not on staff yet, we are in the process of filling the positions
- Additional positions will be available through funding

Assistant Superintendent Sheehan

- Can certainly put a list of staff together that is being funded through grants

Ms. Ross Denny

- MCAS data from the Spring 2021, the group that showed gains were in Special Education
- Town Meeting has to approve the budget
- Hope you would be an advocate out in the community

Assistant Superintendent Dexter

- Beyond the Bell is a program also available for additional help after school

Dr. Craghead

- This budget has been presented and supported by the Select Board but the vote was not unanimous

- Some discussion to revisit, would urge all to support the budget
- Reach out to your Town Meeting members as to how important the budget is for the Milton Public Schools

Chair Eberhardt adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

*Additional meeting minutes on the next page for the regular scheduled School Committee meeting.

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
April 6, 2022

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 - 7:10pm

2. Approve the Agenda

Second: Dr. Craghead

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

3. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

a. [Pierce Middle School Site Council](#)

Ms. White

- Familiar with the Calm Classrooms
 - Have given the students some important tools
 - Helpful for teachers as well
- Math Intensive Study Elective
 - We have to teach all students math
 - Does this elective challenge all levels

Mr. Selig

- IS Math Classes
 - Multiple entry points to gain access and engage
 - Commitment is to provide opportunities to be challenged based on their level
 - Tried to select task to connect to their math classes
 - Engage in hands on activities, discoveries based activities
 - Classes are intended for anyone interested in doing more math
 - Does not exclude anyone

Ms. Ross Denny

- Really enjoyed my time on Site Council
- Significant difference in the conversations we are having at Pierce
- All are working together

- Pierce has a pleasant school culture
- Going in the right direction
- Mozaic Club - how is that going as a component with your work with DEI
 - how are kids progressing

Dr. Fish

- School Improvement Plan Goal
 - Development of student leaders
 - Have seen small decline in participation in Mozaic Club
 - Work done last year, support with the 5th grade transition will be offered again this year
 - Looking to pair the students with 6 grade students

Ms. Ross Denny

- The School Reporting System
 - Does that data roll up centrally

Dr. Fish

- Incident reports go directly to the school
- Can look into sharing the data across the district

Superintendent Jette

- Steamline incident reporting
- Brad Spindle (data reporting to the state and DESE)
- District wide the data is pulled
- Training has taken place with the reporting system
- Conversation taking place in how to align
- Still ongoing
- Reporting from outside is very easy for the Principals to review
- Even verbal incidents reported are added into the system to keep it consistent

Ms. Ross Denny

- Under performing category - 17%
- Do you have a profile, who are the students and why are they struggling

Cat DesRoche

- Discussing next year, how to effectively and efficiently get TIER II and TIER III support to students
- How can it be best paired
- Members of various subgroups

- Moving out of the below grade level
- Have always seen a subgroup of students even before Covid

Brian Selig

- Have a disproportionate number of students of color on IEPs
- What is the cause and reason, spend a great deal of time on what that is and how to address it with Special Education
- Looking closely at our model of instruction
- How can we better service for our students
- Maximum use of service given to all students

Ms. Rosmarin

- Great work happening at Pierce
- Efforts seen from Restorative Justice Coach and students
- DEI work with students and families is wonderful to see the co-leadership model
- Restorative Justice Coach - who is funding the position, do we need to keep an eye on the funding

Cat DesRoche

- Funded through Special Education and overseen by Susan Maselli
- Allocated in response to the disproportionate discipline issues

Susan Maselli

- IDEA Grant - Program
- 15% is addressed for the discipline disproportionality

Ms. Rosmarin

- Screeners - Math and Reading - have we been using long enough to see how they relate to our MCAS scores and data

Cat DesRoche

- Have had a conversation with Vy Vu about the screeners
- Screeners not correlated as a structural assessment
- Not asking questions in the same manner as MCAS
- We do use it in conjunction with other data for skills and strategy - looking at grade level standards
- Not used as a predictor

Brian Selig

- i-Ready
- Correlation studies - utilization to predict how a student will do on MCAS
- Has not been long enough to say if the tool can be used, need more time for routine
- Students need to produce valid data across the board
- Very different assessments
- MCAS are aligned to materials taught - given across the state
- i-Ready vary on grade level
- We continue to evaluate and utilize the tools

Dr. Carroll

- Model of co-facilitating with staff and parents/community members - interested in learning more about that
- Can this be a potential model to raise awareness
- Thank you for sharing and innovating
- Working with data - supporting students - how are the high achieving students being challenged
- Strategic Plan mentions Personalized Learning is a core pillar
 - Interested that the community can understand what personalized learning looks like at Pierce when using iReady and Lexia Rapid
- School Quality Review
 - Revealed the need for safety and sense of belonging for LGBTQ+ students
 - Interested to learn about the intervention and support system in place

b. Preliminary Approval of Pierce Middle School Field Trip, Canobie Lake, June, 22, 2022

Dr. Craghead made a motion to give approval for the Pierce Middle School Field Trip to Canobie Lake on June 22, 2022.

Second: Ms. Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

c. Personnel Updates: - Superintendent Jette

i. Recommendation for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources

- Screening Committee
- Conducted Interviews
- Selected 12 for the interviews
- Hosted a public forum with the community
- Recommending Dr. Garth McKinney for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources

- Looking for approval to move forward

Ms. Ross Denny

- Will Assistant Superintendent Sheehan be available to overlap with Dr. McKinney to assist with the transition

Superintendent Jette

- Replied yes, days can be scheduled to assist with the transition

Chair Eberhardt made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Garth McKinney for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

Dr. Craghead abstained from the vote.

ii. Appointment of Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- 25 Candidates applied
- 3 people came in to interview with the screening committee
- 1 candidate stood out and then interviewed with a smaller committee
- Claire Galloway-Jones was the strongest candidate and comes to MPS highly recommended
- Looking at the transitions and a start date
- More information to follow

4. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

Kristan Bagley Jones

- Great presentation this evening
- Thank you to the Administration team
- Can't imagine being on the School Committee over the past few years
- You guys have listened, responded to people and have responded to a lot of anger
- There have been times when I was disappointed in some of our Miltonites and how they have treated you
- Wanted to say that I have your back and want to acknowledge all that you do, thank you all for that
- My favorite people are leaving the School Committee tonight, really wanted to acknowledge Elaine and Margaret for all the work they have done
 - Appreciate all the work you have done, don't think I have ever seen Elaine flustered, you gave us your expertise, knowledge and wanted to say thank you
- Margaret, wanted to apologize and say thank you
 - Really pushed Margaret to run for School Committee
 - Tremendous respect and one of the hardest working volunteers
 - Glad you have been a part of the School Committee
- Every single one of you deserve the credit for keep showing up
- Big thank you to all of you

Dr. Kevin Donahue - School Street

- Margaret and Elaine - 6 years of dedicated service to the town of Milton
- Elaine - you were our financial guru and budgetary back bone
 - worked together for 5 years
 - poured over the budget warrants
 - fought for the funding we needed
 - displayed talent in our negotiations
 - students and families are lucky
 - you are kind, thoughtful, diligent
 - now your family gets you back full time
 - missed working with you and look forward to seeing you at social gatherings and at Town Meeting
- Margaret you are the social and emotional heart of our committee
 - Worked together for 5 years
 - Thoughtful, caring insightful comments to keep us on track
 - Thank you for all the hard work you have done this year as a chair
 - All is exhausting work
 - Presented the community in a productive way while tackling hard issues
 - Your time will be remembered well
 - Learned from you as a parent at a personal level
- I'm sure the past 6 years have been difficult
- You did it for me and my family
- You did it for our town, we are a better community because of your service

5. Chair's Report - Chair Eberhardt

a. Mid Cycle Review of Superintendent/District

- Thank everyone for helping, submitted comments and thoughts
- All was placed into a document and shared with Superintendent Jette
- Asked if anyone had questions or comments

Ms. Rosmarin

- Superintendent Jette guided us through the pandemic
- Trial by fire coming in as a new Superintendent
- Led us with grace, strength and positive attitude
- Brought staff along with you
- Proud of our teaching staff, coming along with every phase that we asked of them
- Successful during a challenging time
- Thank you for communicating around the Development of the Strategic Plan

Ms. Ross Denny

- Many people in the public don't how difficult it is to be a central office administrator

- Especially as a Superintendent, working 12hr days/weekends
- Difficult job even before the pandemic
- Appreciate the fact that you stood up in year one
- Participated in training on your own and have shown leadership as an administrator
- It will still be hard, pleased to see a transition in the way administrators in central office and the schools have been able to think about the greatest challenges
- Positives changes
- Superintendent can not do everything, if you leverage what your team brings, providing a space to solve problems and having discussions will be key to long term success
- Still work to do around sub groups, and but if we bring the right people together with realistic timelines - staff is capable of doing the work
- Staff has respect and admiration for you
- Confident under Superintendent Jette's leadership we will see great things for our students

Ms. White

- Opening day, Superintendent Jette stepped into a challenging time in our history with no hesitation and great enthusiasm to take this position on
- Worked tirelessly with staff, reaches out to parents and works with town officials
- Successful budget this year because people appreciate your hard work
- Despite the challenges, have seen staff step up and support our schools
- Work is very much appreciated and you have made terrific progress on the goals
- Happy to see the progress our district has made under your leadership

Dr. Carroll

- Understated the magnitude of the challenges you have faced the past two years
- Being a new Superintendent is even harder over the past two year years
- Huge accomplishments on your behalf
- Agrees with Ms. Ross Denny's statements
- Hopes School Committee can support you as you read through the comments you received
- Celebrates the success you have had
- Looking for any support or clarification please don't hesitate to follow up with School Committee
- Thank you for all of your work

Dr. Craghead

- When we selected Superintendent Jette for the position, there was unanimous relief and gratitude that he had stepped up
- Talked to a lot of our School Committees in other districts regarding their relationships with their Superintendent, you are relatively unique with the support and trust of so many different stakeholders in the Milton Public Schools and community
- Teachers know you have their back and believe in them, you trust and believe in them and that goes a long way
- Maintain a high level of quality
- Staff support love and support

- Wish you all the best and know you will do great things for the Milton Public Schools

Superintendent Jette

- Thank you all for your positive feedback and comments
- Remiss if did not give credit to others in the Central Office who have been right there
- We do have a tremendous faculty and staff across the district
- Look forward to addressing the feedback
- Thanked the families that believe in the Milton Schools and welcome any conversations
- It's all about the students success

b. Discussion of School Committee Forum Dates

- Will add more forums for the community
- Updated

Ms. Ross Denny

- Three topics the public would find interesting based on emails
 - Unfinished Learning
 - Personalized Learning
 - Race and Equity

Dr. Carroll

- School Committee and Superintendent goals
- Have made some progress but could do more
- Make plans to do more
- Share with the community what has been done, help connecting the dots of unfinished learning - perhaps organize a forum for May
- Offer in person and virtual forums - make it inclusive and accessible
- Acknowledge the School Building Forums - is not School Committee but offer a lot of forums for the community discussions
- Community Engagement piece related to forums - want community members to feel heard and responded to
- Would recommend scheduling an Unfinished Learning Forum for May
- People know we have public meeting for subcommittee's - Curriculum and Instruction Committee has generated a lot of rich information thanks to Assistant Superintendent Sheehan and Ms. Ross Denny - perhaps could be another forum topic

Ms. White

- Could think about doing a survey for parents to ask for ideas for what kinds of forums they would like to have
- This is a busy time of the year, may want to look at it for the fall

Ms. Rosmarin

- Perhaps schedule events after Town Meeting
- Would like all to stay focused on School Building Project

6. Strategic Planning Advisory Committee Report - Ms. Rosmarin

- Current Strategic Plan has been in place since June 2018 - expires in June 2022
- a. [Slides/Overview available on the MPS website](#)

Ms. Rosmarin made a motion to approve the 2022-2027 MPS Strategic Phase One Plan.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call: 6-0-0

7. Finance Subcommittee Report - Dr. Craghead and Ms. White

- a. [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Funds](#)

Ms. White made a motion to send to the Select Board a request for ARPA funding for the roll over positions which is \$278,500 and the Needs Based Budget for \$719,186.

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

- b. [Approval of Vendor Warrants](#)

Dr. Craghead mad a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #39 payable 3/24/22 in the amount of \$243,328.76.

Second: Ms. Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

Ms. White abstained.

Ms. White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #40 payable 3/31/22 in the amount of \$341,710.98.

Ms. White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #41 payable 4/7/22 in the amount of \$129,826.99.

Second: Chair Eberhardt

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

8. Curriculum and Instruction Advisory Committee Report - Ms. Ross Denny

- Received formative assessment data - i-Ready and Lexia Rapid - at the elementary schools - All have improved across the grade levels
- Have seen improvement at Middle and High School levels in belonging
- Areas to celebrate and areas for growth
- French Immersion - Students with special needs can participate in the French Immersion program. If one student on an IEP or 504 plan is in the classroom, it is an inclusion class.

- High School Social Studies Curriculum update

9. Health & Wellness Advisory Committee Report - Ms. White

- Made great progress in rewriting goals and policies
- Going forward now to Policy SubCommittee, then School Committee
- Jackie Morgan shared an article that will be forwarded to you about the breakfast program

Ms. Rosmarin

- Due to the late hour of the meeting - recommend that all School Committee colleagues send comments of appreciation to Dr. Craghead and Chair Eberhardt for their time served on the School Committee
- Enormously grateful for your contributions for all the students and families of Milton
- As a token of appreciation for Dr. Craghead - The School Committee has made a donation in your honor to the Welcoming Schools - a bullying prevention program that embraces diversity
- To Chair Eberhardt thank you for all that you have done for the Milton Public Schools - as a token of our appreciation the School Committee will be planting a Rose of Sharon Shrub in honor of your devotion to the Glover School outdoor classroom
- Thank you both and we wish you well

Dr. Craghead

- All of you bring amazing skills to this job
- Great team to work with
- Thank you for all of your time
- Will send more comments
- Sincerely thank you for the graciousness, respectful civility and professionalism displayed every day
- Will miss all of you, it has been a privilege and an honor
- Dr. Donahue and Sheila Varela thank them for all of their work

Superintendent Jette

- Thank you both for your courage, time and service
- Thank you for your support, guidance and wisdom

Chair Eberhardt

- Best and worst of times
- Honor and privilege to work with you
- Nothing more important than education
- Encourage the community to be kind and keep the students at the center

10. Approval of Minutes - March 17, 2022

- Due to the timing of the meeting, the minutes were moved to be approved at the next School Committee meeting.

11. Old Business

None

12. 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 10:35pm.