

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2022
Via Zoom

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

1. Call to order - 7:02pm

2. Approve May 25, 2022 Agenda

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the May 25, 2022 agenda.

Second: Ms. White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Chair Rosmarin

- Moment of silence for everyone impacted by the recent violence in our country
- May 14, 2022 in Buffalo, NY - 10 people were killed, 3 were wounded
- May 15, 2022 in Laguna Woods, CA - 1 person was killed, several others injured
- May 24, 2022 in Uvalde, Texas at Robb Elementary School - 19 students and 2 adults were killed
- We need to continue as a district our work on diversity, equity and inclusion
- All in the Milton Community should feel safe, seen, heard and valued
- Grateful to the entire Milton Public School leadership, faculty and staff for their courage and support of our students during this very difficult time in our history

3. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Jette

a. District Updates

Superintendent Jette

- Often times we see the aftermath of something tragic and offer support that go into place
- Milton Public Schools have been proactive to make sure we are developing positive relationships and keeping tabs on our students
 - Social and emotional learning
 - Identify and make connections
 - Strategic Plan, social and emotional plans and equity
 - Support students when they are having a hard time

- Adjustment Counselors have been doing curbside assistance to support students the past two summers
- Keep students connected
- MFE Celebration - for Calm Classrooms
- Lobbying for smaller class sizes
- Pierce Middle School- offer connection time to all students
- Diversity, Equity and inclusion for all students
- All students should feel welcome
- Come together as a community, be respectful and learn from each other
- Diversity is our strength
- Partnership with Milton Police is strong
- Security Council Team in place
- Ongoing security and alerts (Be Safe, security plans in place)
- Proactive steps are being taken
- Encourage any family member that you feel like your child is in distress or see anything concerning on social media to please reach out to administration

Ms. Ross Denny

- Grateful for the proactive stance taken by the faculty
- Reality is this behavior is taught or found online
- Schools have assumed the responsibility to encourage children to look at the world in a different way
- Encourage love, appreciation, respect and understanding of people and different cultures
- The incident in Buffalo, when we live in a country where a grandmother can not go to the grocery store without fear of losing her life because of what she looks like, the Milton Public Schools is on the right path in terms of our insistence that this work happens
- Wanted to thank Superintendent Jette for continuing this work
- Do not want a single Milton Public School student to feel not valued and celebrated just because of the color of their skin

Dr. Carroll

- Role as a community in our opportunity to stand up and say what we stand for as a community
- Thank you to our neighbors for the courageous conversations
- Thanks for all the families for organizing the standout this evening to recognized the second anniversary of George Floyd
- Beautiful job for providing space for the community
- Thank everyone who participated
- Unity Night at Tucker tonight

- Feels good in spite of all the grief, fear and worry. Milton is holding spaces and are there for each other
- Support faculty and staff who are supporting our students
- We are all in this together
- Important to keep this work front and center
- Belonging matters

Dr. Miranda

- Applaud your leadership
- Stepping up and naming what we are seeing and the pain that it brings
- Rally as a community and district to continue emphasis the importance of taking care of children and families
- Emphasize the importance of the social and emotional learning
- Need to pay attention to the Mental Health well being
- There is a lot of stress out there, we need to be paying attention
- Owe it to our young people to give them a sense of belonging and also respond and listen
- Always grateful for the schools and the safety to the schools
- There is a reason it is difficult to get into our schools, it for the safety for our kids
- Thank you, we are on the right path

Ms. White

- Thanked Superintendent Jette and the leadership team for setting the tone
- Focus on the children
- What can be done to help all of our children
- Sad that the students have to participate in these drills but it is the reality
- Schools should be full of joy and learning
- Keep moving on and improving
- Keep taking care of our children

Superintendent Jette

- Encourage faculty and staff to stay focused and spirit, we know you love working with children
- Getting updates from Principals on how things are going in the schools
- Extend thanks to everyone for their words of encouragement on such a sad day

Superintendent Jette

- We have two key members of our leadership team here with us this evening
 - Claire Galloway Jones - Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - gave a description of Claire Galloway Jones' resume

- Ms. Galloway Jones spent the day in the Milton schools meeting with members of our faculty
 - scheduled to start with the Milton Public Schools on Jul 1, 2022
- Dr. Garth McKinney - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources
 - gave a description of Dr. McKinney's resume
 - scheduled to start with Milton Public Schools on Jul 1, 2022
 - has already reached out to Janet Sheenan for date and information
- Welcome both to the Milton Public Schools

Chair Rosmarin

- Welcomed both Claire Galloway Jones and Dr. McKinney
- Wonderful to have you here and looking forward to working with you

Member Ross Denny

- Welcome to the district
- You are joining at a wonderful time where we doing critical work just about to take off
- DEI work up and running off the ground
- Excited to have you on board

Member Varghese

- Welcome and looking forward to working with you

Claire Galloway Jones

- Thank you for inviting us this evening
- Today I had a wonderful day meeting members of the leadership team in the district
- Very excited to join Milton Public Schools
- Work with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is work that is really close to my heart
- Truly believe this work is successful through building relationships and partnerships
- Looking forward to spending time with members of the community
- Important to keep the children at the center of the work

Dr. McKinney

- Thank you for the opportunity
- Excited to come to Milton on July 1st
- Ready for a smooth transition
- Looking forward to joining a great community

Superintendent Jette

- Both are very enthusiastic and passionate about their work
- Thank you for joining us this evening
- Looking forward to the weeks to come

Superintendent Jette

- Covid Updates
- Share MPS updates via slide show
- Testing will not be funding through DESE in the fall
- Will also be shared in the Superintendent blog
- Monitor daily/weekly

Dr. Miranda

- Will you have a cost might be for doing more testing ourselves

Superintendent Jette

- Not sure the cost will be available by the next school committee meeting

Cora Redman

- Mitigations mentioned (windows open and air purifiers) have not been enforced
- Can you tell us what the plan is to see that the plan is enforce better

Superintendent Jette

- Emails and communications have gone out to staff the the plan
- Principals were asked and told to make sure that all mitigations are in place
- Will be happy to follow up with teachers to make sure this is happening
- Air purifiers are in every classroom

Chair Rosmarin

- Surveillance program, has that been implemented the past months
- Also interested in knowing the cost of the self test after the state no longer supplies

Superintendent Jette

- Take home test kits have been available
- Optional
- All of these kits were made available through DESE

Member Ross Denny

- Leadership team could find a why to be sure the mitigation are in place in the classrooms
- Want to be sure all feel safe with and without the mask

- Maybe we need to brainstorm to be sure the mitigations in the classroom continue
- Thanked Cora Redman for sharing her concerns

Superintendent Jette

- End of the year activities will be listed in the blog tomorrow
- Annual town meeting coming up, encourage parents/guardians to join
 - budget will be discussed

4. Citizens Speak

Laura DelleChiaie

- Community Health Assessment - town wide
- Exciting news
 - Received funding community health assessment
 - Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Thanks to the efforts of Senator Walter Timilty and securing the funding through ARPA
 - Milton Health has never before conducted a formal assessment to uncover what health challenges services gap that exist in Milton
 - Better understand and address health needs
 - Will help develop a strategic health plan
 - Hope to develop new policies, procedures and resources and promote a healthier Milton
 - Board of Health Milton voted Milton resident Laurie Stillman as the Project Manager
 - Excited to be promoting a healthier Milton
 - Anyone interested in joining the Community Advisory team, accepting applications until June 15, 2022
 - Please contact the health department at 617.898.4886 if interested in joining

Chair Rosmarin

- Thank you for sharing the information

5. Chair's Report - Chair Rosmarin

- Summer Meeting Dates/Retreat Dates
 - First week of August
 - Discussed and updated
- Milton School Committee Subcommittee/Advisory Committees
 - Review the subcommittees

- Decided what subcommittees you are interested joining in by June 10th
- Subcommittee list was updated and sent out to all of you

c. Final 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

- Approved in draft form
- Review, small edit and discussed

Dr. Carroll

- Have heard concerns from parents regarding morning PD scheduled and late starts
- Stay open to feedback from parents/guardians

Superintendent Jette

- Also received emails regarding the PD days
- Advance notification would be given for parents to make plans
- Community Schools would also be available for students
- It would be a two hour delay, buses would be on the delay schedule as well
- Could work on providing snack, breakfast would not be available since it would be a 2 hour delay (approaching lunch time)
- All faculty and staff would be involved in the Professional Development

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar as presented.

Second: Dr. Miranda

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

6. Finance Subcommittee Report

a. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Member White made a motion to approve vendor warrant #46 dated May 6, 2022 in the amount of \$488,668.39

Second: Member Varghese

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Member White made a motion to approve vendor warrant #47 dated May 12, 2022 in the amount of \$302,762.62

Second: Dr. Carroll

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

b. Revised FY23 Operating Budget - ARPA Request

Member White made a motion to approve the Revised FY23 Operating Budget - APRA Request.

Second: Chair Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

7. Policy Subcommittee Report - Dr. Carroll

- a. First Reading, Policy AC, Nondiscrimination
- b. First Reading, Policy AC-R Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation
- c. First Reading, Policy ACAB, Sexual Harassment
- d. First Reading, Policy JICK, Harassment of Students

Dr. Carroll

- Sent to the School Committee - red lines provided
- Considering recommended revisions
- MASC ongoing efforts, allow policies to stay updated and aligned
- Read and discussed the 4 policies, one by one
- Do not need to vote, since it is the first reading
- Aligned with the State and Federal Laws

8. Strategic Planning Advisory Report - Chair Rosmarin

- Brief update
- Beginning plan for developing the next phases
- Superintendent Jette has reached out to a group people to form a Metric Advisory Group
- School Committee Retreat pushed to August so the Leadership Team Action Plan can be in place
- Hopefully all the pieces will be put together by the fall
- Wonderful step for the district

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated

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

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

