

**Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Remote Access**  
**September 7, 2022**

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

Staff Present: Janet Sheehan, Acting Superintendent; Amy Dexter, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Dr. Garth McKinney, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources

**1. Call to order - 7:03pm**

Chair Rosmarin

- Requested to share a moment of silence for 7th grade Pierce Middle School student Amaya McDonough-Rocha who passed away unexpectedly on August 29, 2022
- Thoughts and prayers are with Amaya and her family at this sad time

**2. Approve September 7, 2022 Agenda**  
Updated

**3. Superintendent's Update - Acting Superintendent Sheehan**

a. Back to School Update

- Great opening last Wednesday for our students
- Thanks to the teachers, faculty and staff
- Thanks to the parents as well
- Thanks to Assistant Superintendent Dexter for the buses
- Boo Hoo/ Yahoo after the kindergarten drop off
- September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month
  - working with the Michael McHugh Foundation again this year
  - Milton Glows Gold
- Please watch for communications of events for the Glows Gold

Enrollment

- 4349 Students (enrollment)
- Open Houses Scheduled for all schools
  - dates will be included in school newsletters and the superintendent blog
- Check district wide calendar for upcoming events

b. Spring Data Presentation - link available on the Milton Public Schools website

- i. Director of Data and Analytics Vy Vu
- ii. PreK-8 Literacy Director Lauren Vanacore

### iii. K-12 Math Director Brian Selig

Dr. Carroll

- Just wanted to confirm this data was from last spring

Vy Vu

- Confirmed yes

Member Ross Denny

- Was there an intervention between the winter and spring
- What was done differently

Acting Superintendent Sheehan

- Early Learning Coach - started after the first fall assessments
- Strategic in our targeted instructions
- Structure for our MTSS, has become stronger year to year
- Inclusion specialist leading the effort (Maureen Butler)
- Curriculum Accommodations plans for students
- Monitor progress in the classroom
- Evaluate and put supports in place
- System has been refined over time

Lauren Vanacore

- Skill set measured

Member Ross Denny

- What has happened here, people would have thought it would be impossible
- Think that idea that our families shouldn't think that our children can not achieve at high levels
- This is a step in the right directions
- Kudos to all the teachers and program directors
- Optimistic about the MCAS

Dr. Carroll

- Acknowledge that the middle school paints a different picture
- The longer the students have been with Milton - higher

Member Varghese

- Great to see the data and the gains
- Would be wonderful for the community to see
- Losses are minor
- What can we do to make sure we are challenging

Lauren Vanacore

- Using this data to looking at the strengths and weaknesses
- Data meetings on the calendar
- Lexia Rapid discussions
- Curriculum updates

Brian Selig

- Curriculum and Instruction is a solid place and heading in the right direction
- Gains to be celebrated but there is still work to be done

#### **4. Citizen Speak Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)**

None

#### **5. Chair's Report - Chair Rosmarin**

##### **a. Milton School Committee Goals**

- Goals shared
- Thanked all the members for working on the specific goals

### **DRAFT School Committee Goals 2022-23**

#### **Facilities Goal**

Provide sufficient dedicated classroom and other related educational space to maintain high quality learning experience and outcomes for students through the expanding enrollment challenge facing MPS.

- Communicate with the community through School Committee meeting presentations and through School Building Committee public forums, to build understanding, both among MPS families and other Milton residents, of the schools' overcrowding and need for resources to implement a short-medium term solution, i.e. modular classrooms
- Ensure FY24 budget allocation provides necessary resources for adequate classroom space to avoid and/or address significant increases to class size in short-medium term
  - Work with an architectural consultant to explore the use of modular classrooms and what is required for their installation by November 30, 2022.
  - Prepare to secure modular classrooms for FY24
- Through our representatives on School Building Committee and regular presentations and discussions at School Committee meetings, support the work of the School Building Committee to make progress toward planning for a new school to be built as the long term solution we need to address MPS enrollment situation

#### **Measurable Goal Alignment**

Ensure the superintendent and leadership team review the benchmark data associated with each area of the strategic plan and establish multi-year growth (through SY2025) targets by October 31, 2022. This data will allow MPS to measure growth and assess progress towards our goals. This data will also allow us to determine whether or not to continue with our course of action or make a course correction. The data that will guide the identification of targets including:

- Spring 2022 MCAS
- Spring 2022 iReady
- Spring 2022 Lexia Rapid
- Intellispark
- SY2021-22 MPS Alleged Incident Reporting Form
- Equity Audit Survey Results\*

\*The superintendent and leadership team will have to determine the data from the equity audit that will be used as goals, as well as determine growth trajectories.

### **Budget Goal**

Develop a sufficient budget to meet the district's needs.

- Meet with Principals, Site Councils and Department Heads to identify funding needs in the Fall of FY23 for FY24 budget
- Advocate with the school community, the Select Board, the Warrant Committee and other stakeholders and educate all about the needs of our school children as we develop the budget
- Present our budget to community forums and to town meeting to answer questions and advocate for a successful vote at town meeting
- Participate with other town departments to evaluate the need for an operating override if necessary and communicate how this will impact town services

### **Communication and Community Engagement Goal**

Improve community engagement through clear and transparent communication and creation of opportunities for community involvement.

- Communicate clearly about the role of the School Committee and laws that govern our work, to help create realistic expectations for the community.
- Hold a series of four community forums on each of the three pillars of the MPS strategic plan, plus the FY24 budget. The forums will allow School Committee members to hear community concerns and priorities while building understanding in the community of how the strategic plan and budget support academic excellence and all the goals of the district. The School Committee will conduct targeted

outreach in collaboration with MPS Communications Director to ensure the community is aware of these opportunities:

- October 6, 2022 – Personalized Learning
- November 9, 2022 – Safe and Supportive Schools
- January 11, 2023 – Equity
- February 8, 2023 – MPS FY24 Budget
- Highlight stories of great things happening in MPS, including through featured guests at School Committee meetings, while also addressing areas that have room for improvement.

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Milton School Committee Goals.

Second                      Member White

Roll Call Vote:            6-0-0

**6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Member White & Member Ross Denny**

a. Lunch/Recess Aide Pay Rate for FY23 - Increase rate to \$18.00

Member White made a motion to approve the FY23 rate increase for Unit C- Lunch/Recess Aides

Second:                    Dr. Miranda

Roll Call Vote:            6-0-0

b. Applied Lessons Fee Increase

\*Memo shared:

This is a proposal to increase the fees for our Applied Music Lesson Program. The fees have not increased since September of 2016. Below is a table breaking down the proposed increase in lesson fees.

Private

\$25 per 30 minute lesson

15 lessons at \$25 plus registration fee of \$45= \$420

\$30 per 30 minute lesson

15 lessons at \$30 plus registration fee of \$45= \$490

\$5 per lesson increase \$70 total increase

Semi-Private

\$15 per 30 minute lesson

15 lessons at \$15 plus registration fee of \$45= \$270

\$19 per 30 minute lesson  
15 lessons at \$19 plus registration fee of \$45= \$330  
\$4 per lesson increase \$60 total increase

For reference, here is a comparison to other schools within MMEA Eastern District that offer similar programs: Lincoln-Sudbury: \$40 per 30 minute lesson Concord-Carlisle: \$35 per 30 minute lesson Wayland: \$30 per 30 minute lesson Weston: \$34.50 per 30 minute lesson.

Member White made a motion to approve the proposed fee increase for the Applied Music Lesson Program.

Second: Chair Rosmarin  
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

c. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Member White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #7 payable on 9/1/2022 in the amount of \$677,456.99.

Second: Member Ross Denny  
Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

**7. School Building Committee Report - [Sean O'Rourke](#)**

- Presentation Link available on the MPS website

Chair Rosmarin

- What would the estimate be on the amount of time to build a school?

[Sean O'Rourke](#)

- We need the land
- Number of dominos
- Goal to get into Town Meeting in December
- Then we have to meet at state level (which could be in the spring)
- Could be looking at 7 years, which would bring us to 2030

Dr. Miranda

- Thanked Sean for all of his hard work
- We continue to have the over crowded issue, we need to find a temporary solution to the problem
- Impacting the lives of our students
- Need to determine a solution that makes sense

- Significant problem that needs to be addressed

Member White

- Been in touch with Bill Ritchie, he is prepared to discuss the specifics of the temporary solutions
- He is working on the cost involved of installing portable classrooms
- Discussion/meeting will take place in two weeks

Chair Rosmarin

- We do need to shift our thinking of our plan away from “short term” to “temporary” solution
- Seven years is not “short term” but will be “temporary”

Member Varghese

- In terms of temporary solutions, have we looked at cost associated (Chair Rosmarin) replied yes, Facilities is working on the cost
- Numbers at each school, might be helpful to see each students in each classroom
  - show the community the overcrowded
  - the breakdown would be helpful

[Sean O'Rourke](#)

- Class sizes and metrics, keep in mind, at the elementary level, a lot of the students are spread out into spaces that were not classrooms before in order to keep class sizes down

Dr. Carroll

- Helpful with the reminder in setting our goals
- Addressing the educational space, have been doing a good job and maintaining class size
- Understand the cost of the necessary choices

**8. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Updated

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to adjourn from The School Committee Meeting.

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.