

**Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Via Remote Access**  
**September 21, 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** - 7:02pm
2. **Approve September 21, 2022 Agenda**  
Approved
3. **Superintendent's Update** - Acting Superintendent Janet Sheehan
  - a. School Updates
    - Transportation Update - Assistant Superintendent Dexter
      - 1460 students registered
      - 647 high school and middle school, 813 are elementary students
      - Wait list of 82 students
      - 27 students offered seats today, to be taken off the waitlist
      - Those who lived furthest away are offered the seats first
      - Last year we brought on an 11th bus
      - Trying to solve the issue
        - Wild Cat Den flyers - could help with the afternoon
        - First Student - perhaps any availability of a higher capacity of a bus - do they have larger buses?
        - High School - Doors open at 7am could drop off earlier
        - First Students - talking about getting a afternoon bus for High school and Middle school
        - Working hard on the transportation
    - Good News that Principals have been sharing
      - Strong focus on teaching and learning
    - Tucker - Principal Catherine DesRoche
      - Students have a new schedule for technology support
      - Can access learning tools early on
      - Grade 3 students are writing fictional stories
    - Collicot - Principal Holly Concannon
      - Excited to see new math program up and running
      - Students are participating in fall math and literacy assessment
      - New grade 5 schedule that integrates french and english students for lunch and science

- Glover - Principal Karen McDavitt
  - Spoke for all of the elementary schools to report
    - Our students are benefiting from Math Interventionist support while using IReady data
    - Pre K and Kindergarten students are benefiting from early learning and literacy coach support using the Heggerty Reading Assessment data
    - IReady, Lexia and Heggerty Assessments are strengthening our capacity to use data to inform instruction and personalize learning
    - These positions have been made possible through the federal funding that has come to us over the past few years
- Milton High School - Principal Karen Cahill
  - Has a student who scored a 5 on her AP exam - it was the highest score reported throughout the world
- Reminder that Milton Public Schools are partnering with Michael C. McHugh Foundation - Glow for Gold initiative
  - Milton High School football game - Glows Gold game
  - Budgets in offices to support the foundation
- Open Houses taken place
- Late start Professional Development scheduled for Friday
- September 28th at 6pm - Katie Greer speaking at Milton High School
- Next School Committee Meeting is October 12th

Member Ross Denny

- Thanked Acting Superintendent Sheehan for her comprehensive report
- Nice to hear all the wonderful things happening in the schools

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

None

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

##### a. Status of Remote/Hybrid/In Person School Committee Meetings

Chair Rosmarin - opened the discussion

- All have learned over the course of the pandemic, having remote participation has increased community access to the School Committee Meetings
- Easier for people to join
- Do lose the opportunity to build better relationships not meeting in person
- School Committee voted unanimously during the School Committee Retreat to have our meetings Hybrid
- Discussion across town about the Hybrid Option
  - Milton Access Studio is not equipped for a hybrid format
  - Shared additional information - cost estimate would be \$40,000
  - Converted three rooms in town (2 rooms at Town Hall and 1 room at Counseling and Aging)

- The equipment needed to convert a room would not be available until next fall
- Hybrid meetings require 2 to 3 access staff
- Counseling and Aging set up is the largest room available
- Would need to pay the cost for custodial staff as well
- Room at town hall could accommodate but it is a small room for a crowd the other room is under renovation and used by the Warrant Committee
- High School Auditorium could be an option but the same issue of the equipment not being available until next fall
- Community Forum formats are also being explored
- This year is a transition year, people are starting to meet in person

Dr. Carroll

- Acknowledged that it is regrettable that we are in this situation as a town
- Need to plan to be proactive to provide the opportunity for the community to engage
- Perhaps can work with the town more for the resources
- How was it determined that those were the three rooms for the hybrid option
- Maybe open the discussions with town
- Have heard from a few members of the community wondering what the plan is about going back in person for the meetings
- Can we explore a way of trying different things, would rather not default to zoom
- Don't feel comfortable choosing one over the other
- Perhaps schedule in person meetings now and then

Member Varghese

- In the meeting yesterday with MPEG discussed the possibility of using one of the town rooms to have meeting
- Trying out the space
- Have also had members of the community reach out and ask when School Committee is going back in person
- Coordinate the space with town officials
- Want the community to join, to welcome them to share their thoughts and concerns
- Would like to explore different options

Dr. Miranda

- This is a town issue, not just a School Committee issue
- Applaud you for have these conversations with others
- Should be an equitable process
- Working with others on the solution of the use of the rooms
- Increase access as much as possible, hybrid would be the best option
- Don't hold back for organizing forums
- Maybe offer some in person meetings
- Need tolerance for the messiness of the new normal

Member White

- Ideal to offer the flexibility between zoom/in person and hybrid
- Been to meetings in the town conference room, and the space can be tight
- Watched the meeting online, the microphones don't work very well

Dr. Carroll

- Wanted to thank Dr. Miranda for her comments
- We are in this recreating the way we work
- Help all do the best that we can and keep working on a solution

Chair Rosmarin

- Have to be willing to try things out and reflect on things
- What works and what doesn't
- Keep trying until we find what works best for us
- Felt it was important to open up and discuss it again

**6. Finance Subcommittee Report - Member White**

- a. 2% COLA Adjustment for FY23
  - i. HRS
  - ii. Milton Community Schools

Member White made a motion to approve a 2% raise for HRS and Milton Community Schools.

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

b. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Member White made a motion to approve vendor warrant #5 dated August 18, 2022 in the amount of \$117,531.14

Member White made a motion to approve vendor warrant #7 dated September 1, 2022 in the amount of \$677,456.99.

Member White made a motion to approve vendor warrant #10 dated September 22, 2022 in the amount of \$789,333.15.

Second: Dr. Miranda

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Member Ross Denny made a motion to approve vendor warrant #9 dated September 15, 2022 in the amount of \$164,502.47.

Second: Chair Rosmarin

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

7. **Policy Subcommittee Report - Dr. Carroll**
- First Reading, Policy AC, Non-Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation
  - First Reading, Policy AC-R, Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation
  - First Reading Policy GBA, Equal Employment Opportunity
  - First Reading, Policy GCF, Professional Staff Hiring
  - First Reading Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
  - First Reading, Policy JFBB, School Choice
  - First Reading, Policy JIC, Student Discipline
  - First Reading, Policy JICA, Student Dress

Dr. Carroll

- Policy Sub Committee unanimously approved the updates to the policies included from the recommendation from the MASC
- MASC sends newsletters to school committees to inform them of updated policies
- MASC offers guidance
- Dr. Carroll reviewed the policies with the School Committee to align with our district
- Next Policy Meeting will be October 11, 2022
- More conversations will take place over the policies
- Next meeting School Committee will vote to approve the policies

8. **Facilities Advisory Committee Report - Member White**

- Reached out to Principals to recruit new parent members
- 5 new parents are looking to get involved and participate
- Bill Ritchie gave a presentation during the Facilities Advisory Committee meeting
  - Discussed the needs of the district - building a new school, temporary solutions or short term solutions around our overcrowding
  - Reviewed the option of the modular classrooms
  - Cost would be expensive (doubled in cost over the years)
  - Proposed build modular at one site instead over 6 different areas
  - Looked at sites at Glover, Pierce and High School to evaluate which would be the best spot
  - The cost of the proposals would be over a million dollars, after the review decided that the site at the High School would be the best option.
    - 1.6 million for the site work
    - 8 classrooms
    - play ground
    - 5.3 million - 6.7 million construction cost
    -
  - Pierce Site
    - 4 classrooms
    - cost 3.5million - 4.5 million plus the site work cost
    - downside is that the site is very narrow
    - and second site would be a distance away for students
  - Glover Site
    - 8 classrooms

- cost 5.3 million - 6.7 million
- downside - reconstruct the fire lane and increase traffic significantly

- Modular classrooms still may not happen until spring 2025, depending on the funding from the town
- Need to meet with principals, develop educational plans - how do we use this space
- Do we use this space for Preschool?
- Still have to go back and discuss with educators on the space
- Modular classrooms have a long life space, and further down the road can be used for other school needs
- Who will be in charge of the modular space? Facilities, school committee?

Chair Rosmarin

- Looking for some legal advice for the charge of the School Building Committee
- Either way we will be coordinating and collaborating together

Dr. Carroll

- Good to hear the updates
- Feel like it is so important that we look at the time frame
- 2025 still seems far off
- This has been an ongoing issue
- Need to work together to help the town understand the issue

Chair Rosmarin

- Are the costs projected today's cost or 2025 cost?

Member White

- Replied, the proposed costs are today's costs
- If delayed, cost could increase

## 9. **Approval of Minutes - Chair Rosmarin**

a. August 24, 2022

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes dated August 24, 2022.

Second: Member White

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-1

Dr. Mirand abstained - absent during the August 24, 2022 meeting.

b. September 7, 2022

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes dated September 7, 2022.

Second: Member White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

**10. Next Meeting Agenda Items**  
Updated

Member Varghese

- Asked that a survey be sent out to parents/guardians for feedback about the late start Professional Development day, how it worked out for the families?

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to adjourn to Executive not to return not to return to Open Session to discuss strategy for negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent of Schools) Pursuant to M.GL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(2 ).

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.