

Milton School Committee Minutes
January 11, 2023
Via Zoom
7:00pm

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

Staff Present: Janet Sheehan, Interim Superintendent; Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Dr. Garth McKinney, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources

1. Call to order - 7pm

2. Approve January 11, 2023 Agenda
Updated

3. Superintendent's Update - Superintendent Sheehan

- Discussion of the Annual Report
- Thanked Stephanie O'Keefe for all of her hard work and coordinating this effort
- Submitted to the town and will be published
- Will be available on the MPS Website

a. 2021-2022 Annual Report

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Annual Report.

Second: Member White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

b. Draft 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

- Submitted proposed dates for early release days as opposed to the late start days
- Updated the bottom of the calendar with the religious holidays, adding Christmas to the list - December 25th
- Discussed a parent email regarding the Columbus Day Holiday and sharing the history - Still a Federal Holiday - Looking to restore Columbus Day to the school calendar
 - included other districts that have included Columbus Day on their school calendar

Dr. Garth McKinney - shared feedback regarding late start Professional Development

- Shared feedback from staff
- Challenging coming in later - condensing the schedule
- Challenging for parents' schedules
- Appreciate the collaboration time
- Early release days provides consistency
- Will add more to the calendar instead of the late starts

Dr. Carroll

- Appreciate the incorporated feedback
- Have heard the concerns regarding the late start
- Adding early release days, 4 are Friday afternoons is less challenging
- 2 questions

- Early Release - can the language be changed to Early Dismissal instead of Early Release? (Direct question from a teacher)
 - Sounds a bit negative
- Feedback received regarding Election Day (can this be a Professional Development) for teachers
 - Would help with security concerns as well
 - Minimize traffic

Superintendent Sheehan

- Discussion has been considered in the past regarding the November date
- Can revisit changing the date

Assistant Superintendent Pavlicek

- The March Professional Development day does fall on the election day this year

Member Varghese

- In favor of changing to early release
- Could we come to a compromise with Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day

Chair Rosmarin

- Can refer back the question of Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day to Policy Committee for a recommendation to discuss and then come back to School Committee with a recommendation

Member Ross Denny

- Agree to have this discussion with Policy Subcommittee
- Making sure we have multiple voices at the table
- Happy to attend the meeting

Dr. Miranda

- Would require a lengthy discussion
- Would like to have more conversations
- Can attend the meeting as well

Dr. Carroll

- Happy to add to the Policy Meeting Agenda
- Important to consider carefully in an inclusive way
- Open to learning more
- Question about the timing, already have a full agenda - would be able to bring this to the committee in February
 - What is the timeline?
- Would like to add Claire Galloway-Jones to the meeting

Chair Rosmarin

- Have time for the discussion, in terms of planning we want to get out dates to our community
- Can readdress again in February
- Discussion of the dates and holidays listed on the bottom of the calendar

c. District Updates

- School Visits went well with the Superintendent Candidates
- Upcoming Preschool and Kindergarten Information Nights (Info on the website)
- Remind families on January 16, 2023 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- Late Start on January 17th - Professional Development
- January 19,20 and 21st Pierce Play “State Fair” Production at Pierce Middle School
- January 25, 2023 - School Committee on Equity - Hybrid Meeting - link to follow

4. Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)

None

5. Chair’s Report - Chair Rosmarin

a. Superintendent Search Update

- Dr. Peter Burrows has accepted our offer of the Superintendent of the Milton Public Schools - subject to contract negotiations
- Community can view the Milton Access TV website (on demand)
- Thanks to the Screening Committee
- Number of opportunities for the community to be involved
 - Thanks to everyone for all the emails
- Had 3 strong finalist
- Wishes Dr. Cushing and Ms. Murphy well
- Shared background/resume of Dr. Burrows
- Grateful to Superintendent Sheehan for her time and service
- Look forward to concluding negotiations with Dr. Burrows

6. Policy Subcommittee Report - Dr. Carroll

- There were several policies in Section D that were scheduled for a second reading tonight (First Reading was at December 21 meeting)
- Dr. Carroll quickly reviewed the proposed changes

Dr. Carroll made a motion to approve the second reading of the following policies:

- a. Second Reading Policy DBC, Budget Deadlines and Schedules
- b. Second Reading, Policy DEC, Federal Funds Supplement not Supplant Policy
- c. Second Reading, Policy DH, Bonded Employees and Officers
- d. Second Reading, Policy DI, Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
- e. Second Reading, Policy DIE, Audits
- f. Second Reading, Policy DJA Authorized Signatures
- g. Second Reading, Policy DJ, Purchasing
- h. Second Reading, Policy DJE, Procurement
- i. Second Reading, Policy DK, Payment Procedures
- j. Second Reading, Policy DKC, Expense Reimbursements

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

7. Finance Subcommittee Report - Member White

- Met yesterday with Leadership and Dr. Carroll
- Presenting the Preliminary FY24 Budget that will be presented to the Warrant Committee

a. FY24 Prioritized Budget - Presentation

Dr. Glenn Pavlicek - shared slides

- Cost to Maintain Level Service
 - 3.35 increase
 - 5.13 increase to the General Fund
- Cost to Maintain Current Program
 - 61,361,362
- APRA Funded Positions in FY23 Requiring funding in FY24
 - PreSchool Coordinator
 - 504 (ADA) Team Chair
 - Elementary Reading Specialist
 - High School Math support Teacher
 - Kindergarten aides from .8fte to full time
 - 2 part time nurses
 - 1 preschool teachers
 - 2 board Certified Behavioral Analysts
 - 3 Special Education Aides
- Mandated Special education Needs
 - Therapist
 - Speech Therapist
 - Occupational Therapist (half time)
 - Physical Therapist (half time)
 - Estimated cost - \$160,000
 - These are required by current IEP's
- Mandated Special Education Needs- Autism Spectrum Classes
 - Additional class at Collicot due to increased enrollment
 - One Special Education Teacher
 - Two Applied Behavioral Analysis Aides
 - Failure to fund these will result in outplacement at an even high cost.
 - Estimated cost - \$202,000
- Other Needs - SPED
 - Intensive Learning Classrooms (Tucker)
 - 3 Teachers for academically challenged younger students
 - Out of District Coordinator increased from .3fte to full time
 - Estimated cost - \$268,250
- Diversity, equity and Inclusion Needs
 - Equity Coach (1 full time)
 - Stipends for 6 Equity Faciliors (\$30,000)
 - Professional Development, Memberships Conferences (\$35,000)
 - Estimated cost - \$137,500
- Elementary School Needs
 - Additional Math Interventionist
 - We currently have two grant funded positions but a higher case load than they can service
 - Estimated cost - \$72,500
- Middle School Needs

- Technology Exploratory Teacher
 - Currently 70 Sections in excess of 25 students
- Grade 6 ELA Support teacher
 - Current ELA teachers have in excess of 125 students each
- Estimated cost - \$145,000
- Future Needs - More Exploratory Teachers
- High School Needs
 - Business/Career Tech Teacher
 - 27 out of 50 sections over 25 students
 - Estimated cost - \$72,500
 - Future Needs
 - PE Teacher
 - World Language Teachers (1.2fte)
 - Science Teacher
 - Math Teacher
- System Wide Technology Request
 - One Staff Member
 - We currently have a Director of Technology and three staff for 5 buildings and over 5,000 devices. This is fewer staff than 20 years ago.
 - Estimated cost - \$65,700
- Total Needs Based Costs
 - \$62,484,812

Member White made a motion to approve the FY24 Budget request for submission to the Warrant Committee.

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

b. [Nurse Substitute Rates - Memo Shared](#)

Currently we are having difficulty finding substitute nurses. Proximity to Boston hospitals and the ability to earn substantially more there is certainly a factor. Another factor, however, is that our current pay rate (\$168 per day) is not competitive. For example, Quincy pays \$225/day, Braintree \$260/day and Dedham \$250/day.

After reviewing a survey completed last spring by our Director of Nursing on the average daily sub rate for districts similar to us and discussing this at this morning's Finance Subcommittee meeting, it was agreed and voted that the daily substitute nurse rate for the Milton Public Schools should increase from \$168 per day to \$225 per day.

Member White made a motion to approve the daily substitute nurse rate for the Milton Public Schools from \$168 to \$225.

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

c. [Second Quarter Report -](#)

Salaries: Full year staff are showing payroll expenditures right around the 50% expended benchmark. Teaching staff have been paid for nine of 26 payrolls, so the expected percentage expended should be at 35%, which it is. Instructional Aides have been paid for nine of 21 payrolls, an expected percentage expended of 43%. These

expenses are on target as well. As this represents 79% of our total budget, we are on-budget for these expenditures.

Non-Salary Spending:

Policy and Administration spending is and will remain over budget due to legal costs. In the Instructional Services category, we are showing the budget fully expended, but this is due to the fact that the majority of this line is for Transportation expenses, which have been encumbered for the full year. Similarly, Special Education spending is showing as fully expended since we have encumbered all out of district tuition costs and known contractual costs for the full year. Technology costs are running high (84% expended) but a good portion of that cost is due to contracts which are paid at the beginning of the fiscal year. Facilities costs are on target but Heating costs bear watching through the winter.

In summary, there are no significant concerns with the status of this year's budget.

Member White made a motion to approve the Second Quarter Report as presented.

Second: Dr. Carroll

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

d. Approval of Vendor Warrants

Member White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #25 payable 1/5/23 in the amount of \$635,901.75.

Member White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #26 payable 1/12/23 in the amount of \$407,827.90.

Second: Dr. Miranda

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

8. School Building Presentation - Chair Rosmarin

- Sean O'Rourke - provided a presentation to Warrant Committee
- Presentation link on the MPS website
- Slides shared

Member Ross Denny

- Thanked Sean O'Rourke for finding solutions to a long term problem
- Great opportunity for the town
- Can you explain the Debt Exclusion relative to an Override?

Sean O'Rourke

- Debt Exclusion - Financing tool for the school project
 - Stays intact as long as the project is funded
 - If you do a 20 year Debt Exclusion, after 20yrs the debt will come off
 - Debt Exclusion expires
- Operational Override - once you do the override it is permanent ongoing
 - Operational will not expire

Member White

- Time frame question - when will we know the cost of renovating the building?

Sean O'Rourke

- DRA will be able to provide the timeline information

Dr. Carroll

- Waiting for the feasibility report
- What is the latest estimate of students would fit into the space

Sean O'Rourke

- 26 classrooms
- Based on current enrollment

Dr. Carroll

- At what point would we get input from the educators to set up the space to work well?

Sean O'Rourke

- Process to design the space will be close to year
- Input will be provided
- Meetings will be scheduled to discuss

Member Varghese

- 26 classes mentioned - is that based on our current student we have?
- Everything going forward, how long would it take to renovate?
- Can you add onto the space?

Sean O'Rourke

- Replied yes
- Referenced case study done 4 years ago
- Trying to work quickly
- Renovation could take up to 2 years
- Yes, possibility to add onto the space

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 8:35pm.