

**Milton School Committee Minutes**  
**Milton Access Cable Studio, Rm 245**  
**Milton High School**  
**April 12, 2023**

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

Staff Present: Dr. Garth McKinney, Interim Superintendent; Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business

1. **Call to order** - 7:03pm
2. **Approve April 12, 2023 Agenda**  
Updated and approved
3. **Superintendent's Update**
  - District Updates
    - Thank you to Chair Rosmarin and Member White for their tireless work, years of service and dedication to Milton Public Schools
    - Both of you will be missed
    - Have been busy filling positions within the district
    - Successful Professional Development across the district
    - Spring break next week
    - Town elections coming up at the end of April
4. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 Minutes)**

Kevin Donahue - School Street

  - Congratulations to Betty White and Ada Rosmarin on six tremendous years on the School Committee
  - Hard to put into words what is like to serve on the School Committee
  - Privilege of working with you both
  - Betty, your insights around town politics and your wealth of knowledge is like nothing else
    - Very few problems Betty couldn't help with
    - Focus on student perspective was always helpful
    - Helpful knowledge of budget
    - Thank you for all of your time and effort on School Committee
  - Ada, there was not a problem that you could not tackle
    - Worked on the strategic plan, you turned it into a reality in a short amount of time
    - Your work on the School Building Committee continues to be incredible
    - Thank you for your involvement, helping and guiding us
    - Humanizing comments, labor negotiations and policy issues
    - Grateful to have worked with you
    - Thank you for all of your hard work over the years

Lynda-Lee Sheridan - 87 Clifton Road

- Both dedicated their entire careers to education and children
- The number of lives they have touch through the years is remarkable
- Impacted so many lives
- Know how many hours this job requires, you did it lovingly and diligently
- Thank you for 6 wonderful years
- Also wanted to thank Bill Ritchie since I missed the last meeting
  - He is wealth of information
  - Huge asset to this community
  - Makes his work with the schools and town look so easy
  - Congratulations to Bill on his retirement

Daniel White

- Thank you to Betty and Ada tonight
- Betty (mom) makes Milton a great place to live
- Wanted to say thank you
- Betty grew up in a house involved with town politics and so did I
- Worked very hard to shape Milton
- Since she has been on School Committee, I have seen her work on various subcommittees, long days and nights
- Hope I can continue on her legacy
- Congratulations on your 6 years of hard work and contributions to the Town of Milton

Alan Rosmarin - 32 Columbine Road

- (Ada's husband)
- Improving education and working with children has been Ada's lifetime effort
- Chose to stay home to raise our children
- Needed to continue to build and lead early childhood education programs
- Founder and Director of MECA
- Important part of the building plan years ago
- Involved in the building committees
- So proud of Ada and what you have done
- Success measured by the people we work with
- Training, mentoring and learning from others
- Look at all of you, devoting yourself to the children of Milton
- The future is bright for our children because of you
- Thankful as your husband, and you have earned some rest
- Encourage the rest of the committee to continue the fight to improve the lives of children

#### Dr. Carroll

- Thanked everyone for sharing
- Honored to share on behalf of my colleagues and the district
  - Member White
    - Advocate for students, schools and the town of Milton
    - Possess a gift for guiding people
    - Since 2017 you have worked tirelessly on School Committee
    - Being an active member has kept Member White busy on subcommittees
    - Worked hard with Finance Subcommittee to present budget at Annual Town Meeting
    - Commitment goes above and beyond
    - I'm sure you will continue to be involved in town politics
    - You will be missed on the School Committee
  - Chair Rosmarin
    - Dedicated her career to education
    - Improving early childhood education
    - Worked with Milton Early Childhood Alliance - started full day kindergarten
    - Milton Public School and community will forever be grateful
    - In 2017 you joined Milton School Committee
    - Participated and chaired subcommittees
    - Developed the Strategic Plan
    - Part of the School Building Committee advocating for a new school
    - Over the past year you have chaired the School Committee
    - On behalf of the School Committee, thank you and your presence will be missed

#### Description of Gifts

- Member White
  - Landscaping project - Committee members are planning to beautify the bench area at Milton High School that your family had installed in memory of your father
- Chair Rosmarin
  - Excited to share that Milton Foundation for Education in the process of funding a communication tool in the playground
  - Colorful board to express their feelings which will support inclusion
  - This will be dedicated to you
- Thank you both so much

#### Member White

- It has been a honor and privilege to work with you all collaboratively
- So fortunate to work with such a group
- Thank you to Charlene Roche and Laurie Dunn for all of their support
- Glenn, thank you for coming back, don't know how I would have gotten through this budget process without you
- Role of a School Committee member is such a time commitment
- Thank you to other former members Sheila Varela, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Dr. Kevin Donohue
- Thanked Town Administrator for all of his help
- Sean O'Rourke, thank you for being a superstar and thank you to all members of the School Building Committee and Facilities Advisory Committee
- Ada- could not have imagined these 6 years without you
  - thank you to all the current School Committee members
  - we are all here for the children of this town
  - please keep the children in the forefront

#### Chair Rosmarin

- Thanked everyone here and the Milton Public School community
- Hope the entire town will provide a warm welcome to our new Superintendent
- Encourage the community to support the new schools
- First step is to vote yes on the land swap
- Honor and privilege to serve on the School Committee
- Look forward to spending time with my growing family

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

- Approve Statement of Interest for Submission to School Building Authority
  - 4th time we have done a Statement of Interest
  - First step in the funding pipeline
  - No financial commitment at this time
  - We know this is a competitive process
  - Only 10 out of 54 projects across the state were accepted last year
  - 1 cent on the sales tax
  - Limited funding

- Up against a number of districts
- Hope we are approved
- SOI is due this Friday, April 14, 2023

#### Statement of Interest

- Focused on Cunningham (SOI) specified to focus on one school
- We understand we have overcrowding in all schools

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the Statement of Interest for Submission to the School Building Authority.

Having convened in an open meeting on April 12, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Milton, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form to be submitted to the MSBA by no later than Friday, April 14, 2023 for consideration in 2023, for the Cunningham Elementary School, located at 44 Edge Hill Road, Milton, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories of which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

- Priority 2 - Elimination of existing severe overcrowding
- Priority 4 - Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments

The elementary enrollment in Milton Public Schools has grown by 24% (451 students) over the past fifteen years, since the last school building project was completed - from 1,873 students (in 2008) to 2,324 students (in 2023), far exceeding the capacity of Milton elementary school buildings; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Second: Member White

Vote: 6-0-0

b. Ratification of Unit B and D Contract

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to ratify the Unit B and Unit D collective bargaining agreements for 2022-2025.

Second: Member Varghese

Vote: 6-0-0

6. **Policy Subcommittee Report - Dr. Carroll**

a. Second Reading, Policy ID, Certified Therapy Animals

- Sent committee the updated version

Dr. Carroll made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy ID, Certified Therapy Animals.

Second: Member White

Vote: 6-0-0

b. Second Reading, Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest

- Definition of immediate family was questioned at our last meeting
- Questioned the language pertaining to relationship not residing in the same household as employee
- Attorney Joseph Emerson
  - Not something he would advise to include in the policy
  - Difficult and unadvisable to do
  - Language will stay the same at this time
  - Suggested making a change to make a pronoun gender neutral (second paragraph, "No employee of the Committee will engage in or have a financial interest in, directly or indirectly, any activity that conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his duties and responsibilities in the school district." **Change his to their**

Dr. Miranda

- Appreciate you to looking into the language
- Understand it is problematic

Dr. Carroll made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics, Conflict of Interest.

Second: Member White

Vote: 6-0-0

Did have a policy meeting yesterday - will bring forward another policy in regards to School Committee Communications with Superintendent, faculty and staff. It will be discussed at the May 10th meeting.

- Communication policy with parents and guardians

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

Member White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #37 in the amount of \$574,597.64 payable on March 30, 2023.

Member White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #38 in the amount of \$239,389.15 payable on April 6, 2023.

Member White made a motion to approve Vendor Warrant #39 in the amount of \$642,278.40 payable on April 13, 2023.

Second: Dr. Miranda

Vote: 6-0-0

**8. Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Report - Dr. Carroll & Member Varghese**

- Good meeting last week
- Goal was to hear updates
- Goal to compile a report for Dr. Burrows
- Continue to discuss health curriculum pilot - Michigan Model
- Supported through grants (Karen McDavitt)
  - Survey sent out to all who have been involved
  - Received positive feedback
  - Inconsistent due to staffing issues
  - Taking different pieces and working with them
  - Positive step forward
  - High School - inconsistent implementation
  - Undertaking needs to be under leadership - which would be proposed Health and Wellness Director
  - Heard updates from Head Nurse Kim Coughlin on the DESE framework
    - working with outdated standards
    - Kim Coughlin did indicate that the state frameworks are in the process of being updated
    - Shared that the district can apply for funding
    - Discussion including Milton Coalition intentions to ensure the health curriculum to be aligned to new standards outlined
  - Curriculum piece, need to keep an eye on staffing to make sure the kids receive what they need
  - SEL updates - doing work in the buildings
  - Transition to the Calm Classrooms
  - SEL Leads focus on trauma work
  - [Karen McDavitt](#) grand funding to work on trauma sensitive schools

- Community Assessments - wrap up around the end of April
- Milton Coalition April 27th presentation at the library - to share finding on their report
- Kim Coughlin reported that the completion of mandated screening is done in time for the first time in 10 years - due to nursing staff and funding
- Congratulated Natalia Perez on her position - Food Services Director
- Marti O'Keefe McKenna - Family Outreach Liaison
  - Transitions families into the district
  - Doing a lot of work for the schools
  - Developing relationships with staff and families

#### Member Varghese

- Marti O'Keefe McKenna has a crucial role within the Milton Schools
- Does her research
- Translates newsletters for families
- Helps families partner with Steel and Rye and resources
- Position has morphed over the years
- Great we have her

#### Member White

- It would be nice to have Marti O'Keefe McKenna come to a future School Committee meeting

#### Chair Rosmarin

- What grade levels is the Michigan Model?

#### Dr. Carrol replied

- k-12
- We are not able to access all the benefits this year
- Provide age appropriate information

### **9. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes dated March 1, 2023.

Second: Member White

Vote: 5-0-1

Chair Rosmarin abstained from the vote due to not being in attendance for the March 1, 2023 meeting.

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes dated March 22, 2023.

Second: Member White

Vote: 5-0-1

Member Ross Denny abstained from the vote due to not being in attendance for the March 22, 2023 meeting.



Chair Rosmarin

- The Third Quarter Finance Report - in our packets this evening - will be posted online since it was not able to be added to our agenda.

**10. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Updated

Chair Rosmarin made a motion to adjourn from open session and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of approval of minutes and not to return to open session and adjourn directly from Executive Session.

Second: Member White

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.