

Milton School Committee Meeting Minutes
Milton Access Cable Studio, Milton High School
June 7, 2023

Committee Present: Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Carroll, Vice Chair; Dr. Celina Miranda, Mark Loring, Bao Qiu, Beverly Ross Denny, Anna Varghese

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

1. **Call to order the regular Milton School Committee meeting of June 7, 2023 - 7pm**
2. **Approve June 7, 2023 agenda**
Updated
3. **Citizen Speak (Policy BEDH-15 minutes)**
None
4. **Superintendent's Report - Dr. Garth McKinney**
 - a. Tucker Elementary Interim Principal
 - Dr. William Carter
 - 20 years of Teaching and Administrative experience in Public and Private Schools
 - Taught Math in Boston and Medford schools
 - Also Department Head
 - Administrative Experience
 - Dean of Students
 - Director of Student Support
 - Principal
 - Doctoral Degree From Boston University
 - Masters of Education Degree from Salem State College
 - Bachelor of Science in from Northeastern University
 - Licensed Educator
 - Wanted to thank Cat DesRoche who demonstrated strong leadership this past year
 - Cat DesRoche will be returning to her role K-8 Literacy Director
 - Thanked the screening committee
 - Introduced and welcomed Dr. Carter to the School Committee Meeting

Dr. Carter

- Excited to be here
- Has worked in education for 22 years
- Feels strongly about excellence in education
- Committed to all students achieving their highest outcomes regardless of their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status
- Earned Doctorate in May 2022
 - Incredible experience while working full time
 - Looking forward to working on how do you create school spaces for students of African descent, especially males students to achieve high outcomes
 - Coming to the Tucker Community is a wonderful fit and excited to be in a space where there is rich diversity
 - Want to ensure all students achieve high outcomes
 - All about the kids and to make sure they shine
 - Supporting in the process of having high academic and behavior standards
 - Want to be a supportive and caring leader for the students and faculty

Dr. Carroll

- Exciting to have Dr. Carter here and looking forward to getting to know him
- Welcomed Dr. Carter to the Tucker Community
- Kids are very excited to meet you

Dr. McKinney

- Dr. Carter and Cat DesRoche will be meeting with the Tucker Community next week

b. NEASC Update, MHS Principal Karen Cahill

Principal Cahill

- Shared a brief summary report from NEASC
- NEASC's visit was back in December
- According to the report - Milton High School meets the standards required in the below categories:
 - Learning Culture
 - Student Learning
 - Professional Practice
 - Learning Support
 - Learning Resources
- Meet the standards for accreditation
- Proud of this report, it is a reflection of work of our staff and the district
- Four priority areas were also focused on:
 - Development shared commitment student center learning

- Multi-Tier systems for support
- Facilities
- Making sure our school improvement plan is reflecting the needs of the building
- Have worked on our strength and weaknesses
- NEASC has also provided accommodations and recommendations
- This is a draft report but was happy to share with School Committee
- Will come back at a later date when the official report is complete

c. Update on Powerschool - Dr. McKinney

Summary shared below:

Why the transition to PowerSchool/Schoology/Performance Matters

- The PowerSchool ecosystem consists of a Student Information System, PowerSchool SIS, Schoology Learning Management System, and Performance Matters, a data warehouse and assessment creator.
- Over the years, we have heard from many staff - teachers, administrators, support personnel - about the need for our systems to “talk to each other.” Teachers have student grades in one platform (Rediker Gradebook), but they have to navigate to another platform to see student assessment data, such as MCAS, iReady, Lexia, SAT, AP, and other teacher created assessments (Otus). We also have teachers using Google Classroom to disseminate information and course materials to students and families. On top of that, our 20+ years old Student Information System (Rediker/Admin Plus) is past its prime in terms of usability and accessibility and does not “speak” with other systems easily. Moving from our array of platforms to one integrated ecosystem will help us to streamline many of our core student information and data processes. Students, teachers, and families will also have a much more updated look and feel in their user experience as well.
- In Spring 2022, the district evaluation team spent time exploring several systems prior to selecting PowerSchool. We surveyed other districts, cross-checked the DESE reporting requirements for SIS, and experienced two comprehensive days of demonstrations from the vendor(s) presenting to families, teachers, and administrators. We looked for a new SIS ecosystem that would provide these key functions in an integrated environment to support the new Strategic Plan.
 - SIS (repository for student and staff information, scheduling, and state reporting)
 - LMS (Learning Management System)
 - Teacher gradebook/report cards
 - Common assessment/data platform
 - SEL surveys
- In order to pursue the goal of personalizing learning for our students, we need a comprehensive and easy-to-use LMS to organize and help keep track of students’

learning progress. An educational Learning Management System is an all-in-one platform for teaching, learning, assessing, and reporting grades and data. It is a central hub for communicating with students, teachers, families, and administrators.

What is included in the PowerSchool Suite?

- PowerSchool SIS is a student information system for educational institutions. The solution helps drive efficiency in your K-12 educational institution by monitoring daily operations, reporting tools, gradebook management, and real-time insights into classrooms.

Schoology Learning Management System that allows teachers to...

- Administer online curriculum materials.
 - Track and report student data and information.
 - Deliver online instruction within a blended classroom environment.
- Teachers focus on...
 - Increasing student engagement.
 - Creating deeper learning experiences.
- Providing opportunities for communication and collaboration.
 - Assigning and collecting work electronically.
 - Fostering 21st Century Skills and Digital Citizenship.
- Engage with learning materials and the school community inside and outside of the classroom.
- Safe and monitored teacher/administrator/parent online environment.

Performance Matters brings together all your student data in one integrated platform, giving you a more holistic view of student data trends and ongoing instructional gaps as you work to identify, address, and eliminate unfinished learning. Performance Matters hosts third party data and also allows users to create assessments with tech enhanced questions that mirror MCAS exams.

Member Ross Denny

- Can you export the historical data from Rediker into PowerSchool?
- What insurances has PowerSchool made to secure the data sources that other districts have had issues with when hijacked?

Dr. McKinney

- Will keep Rediker in the background for another year

- Data will all be archived and then transferred to PowerSchool
- Will confirm with Bob Pattison and pass along the security information to School Committee

Dr. Carroll

- Over the summer School Committee will be talking about what we are aiming to do next school year in terms of community forums
 - You mentioned sharing information with parents and families
 - Great if we could provide an information session for parents and guardians - Personalized Learning
- Data Dashboard - is it the same as Performance Matters?

Dr. McKinney

- Data can be stored there
- Also pull from Lexia and iReady
- Can keep track of the metrics
- Vy Vu has created a separate website as well

Member Loring

- Are you planning on using PowerSchool as the primary communication?
- Will the Parent/Student Portal be able to login as well?

Dr. McKinney

- In PowerSchool teachers can email parents/guardians
- Yes, parents and students will be able to see their grades in real time at the secondary level
- Will also be an attendance tracker - Dashboard view

d. Preliminary Field Trip Approval for Pierce Middle School – Quebec City, May, 2024 - Dr. McKinney

Information Sheet shared below:

Educational Objectives of the Field Trip

- to experience a different style of learning by bringing our Francophone World curriculum into life,
- to practice French in a French speaking country,
- to expand students' worldview,
- to increase student motivation and build a deeper connection with the learning in class

- to create lifelong memories.

Description of How the Safety of Students will be Maintained

- There will be approximately a 10:1 student to chaperone ratio throughout the trip.

Proposed Budget Including Cost to Students and Sources of Finances (Including Fundraising)

- Student cost is \$900, which includes coach buses, hotels, and all necessary site admission prices
- Students will be participating in a number of fundraisers, including:
 - Yankee Candle
 - Midland Fundraiser (Cookie Dough company)
- The Pierce Middle School PTO will be asked to support the trip through scholarships as needed

Estimate of the Number of Students and Adults Participating

- Up to 100 students and at least 10 school chaperones (administrator(s), teachers, school nurse).

General Plan or Schedule for the Field Trip (Including Number of School Days Missed)

- Students will depart by bus on May 9th from Pierce Middle School and will be in Quebec City until May 12th. Students will return to Pierce Middle School at approximately 9:00 p.m. Students will miss two days of school.

Procedures for Emergency Notification to Superintendent and Parents in the Event an Emergency Should Occur

- The principal (or designee) will serve as the direct line of communication between the field trip participants, families, and the superintendent.

Procedures for Students to use if Separated from Group

- Students will get a yellow wristband with an emergency contact line (24/7). Before each free time, local guides will explain the procedure, and indicate meeting points and times. Students will always be asked to be in groups of 4 minimum.
- At the hotel, a security guard is present on each floor during the night.

Nursing Services for All Students Less than High School Age

- A Milton Public School nurse will attend the trip as a chaperone.

Member Loring

- Asked how many students would be in the 7th Grade French Class?

Dr. Pavlicek

- About 125 students will be in the 7th Grade French Class

Member Qiu

- Asked if this was the first field trip to Quebec?

Dr. Pavlicek

- Replied no, MPS has gone on Field Trips to Quebec in the past

Member Varghese

- Asked if parents would be chaperoning or will it just be teacher/faculty?

Dr. Pavlicek

- Replied it would just be faculty chaperoning

Dr. Miranda

- In terms of fundraising, is that to offset the \$900 per student cost?

Dr. Pavlicek replied yes.

Dr. Miranda

- Would the PTO be able to fund any student that wants to go but won't be able to afford the cost?

Dr. Pavlicek

- Principals would work with the PTO to identify scholarships and students

Member Qiu

- Does the student need to fill out an application form to participate or are they automatically enrolled? Is there limited space?

Dr. Pavlicek

- Not limited to 100 students, it is probably an estimate

Dr. Carroll

- Is this trip using a company to organize the trip?

Dr. Pavlicek

- Most likely working with a company to plan the trip
- PMS will join a School Committee Meeting at a later date to provide more information and answer questions

e. 2023-2024 Hiring Update

- Provided The School Committee with handouts
- Dr. Pavlicek will be staying with us for another year which is great news
- Hired Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel and Director of Pupil Personnel
- New Athletic Director has been hired
- Caroline Morgan has been hired as the Assistant Principal at Tucker
- Dr. William Carter - Tucker Interim Principal
- Interviewing - Director of Fine Arts and Pierce Assistant Principal
- 14 positions posted currently
- Good shape going into the summer
- Schedule a strategic metric presentation in the fall

5. **Chair's Report** - Dr. Carroll

- a. Summer Retreat Draft Agendas - shared below

Milton School Committee/Milton Superintendent Summer Training and Retreat

HW: Read *The Governance Core* (Campbell & Fullan, 2019) and prepare to present two chapters with SC partner.

Part I: Wednesday, July 26, 5:00 - 8:30pm

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 5:00 - 5:45 | Dinner/Connections |
| 5:45 - 6:15 | Our Moral Imperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our “why,” as individuals and as an SC team ● Grounding definition of governance |
| 6:15 - 7:45 | Exploring <i>The Governance Core</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expert Group Jigsaw arranged for pairs to present two chapters (2-3, 4-5, 6-7) ● Emphasis on systems thinking, strategic focus, and the “manner” section |
| 7:45 - 8:30 | Rising to the Occasion (chapter 9) |

- Explore what this means for us as a team
- Establish protocols to facilitate clear communication and connection

Part II: Wednesday, August 2, 5:00 - 8:30pm

- 5:00 -6:00 Dr. Burrows' Entry Plan
- Connect to purposeful approach and superintendent case studies (Ch.3)
- 6:00 - 6:30 Dinner
- 6:30 - 7:15 SC FY23 Goal Assessment
- Assess progress on FY23 goals
 - Determine what needs to be carried forward and refined as FY24 goals are developed
- 7:15-8:30 FY24 Goal Development
- Revisit calendar for timing of SC goal approval and Supt goal approval
 - Supt evaluation timeline and process
 - Budget timeline and process
 - Strategic Plan
 - Establish meaningful assessment plan to reflect progress on the three pillars
 - Determine crosswalk between plan outcomes, goals, and CO presentations and deliverables (in context of Entry Plan structure)

Member Ross Denny

- Operating Protocol - Business Analogy
- Operating Agreements help dictate the nature of the relationships
- MASC - has come up with guiding principles on how School Committee should work together
- Would be helpful to read the article as a group and talk about whether or not we think it is appropriate
- Maybe add to the agenda?

Dr. Carroll

- Asked Member Ross Denny if she could forward/share the article with the School Committee?

Member Varghese

- Is there criteria on how the information is to be presented at the retreat?

Dr. Miranda

- Informal time to talk about the book and coordinate with one another
- Discuss the highlights
- Loosely structured

Dr. Carroll

- Can put questions together for the framework

Member Varghese

- Would like to mix the School Committee Members that have not worked together on Committees so we are getting to know each other
- Good to build working relationships

6. Facilities Advisory Committee Report - Member Loring

- Met on May 31st
- Received a report from Chris Hayden - updates across the schools
 - Fire and Police Department updates
 - Refinishing of the Gym Floor at Glover
 - Maintenance on rooftop across the district
 - Summer Plans on maintenance
- As a committee we discussed classroom needs
- Current enrollment projections for next year - about the same as this year
- Varies space issues - Cunningham Library issues
- Potential Projects this summer
- Discussed short term space needs
- Talked about medium term plans - time between now and the future school
- Looking forward to bringing Dr. Burrows in on the conversations
- Update on Summer School Facilities needs
- ESY support and SPED needs discussed
 - Cooling spaces

Member Ross Denny

- Is the plan in the medium term to maintain classroom space in the Cunningham Library or do we have a plan to move into a more permanent structure?

Member Loring

- Currently no plan to move them elsewhere
- Need to look at what we need to do and what would the cost be
- We are looking at the next 5 year flex spaces

Dr. Carroll

- Will you be meeting again over the next few weeks?
- Will you be discussing the summer projects?

Dr. Pavlicek

- The larger summer projects are already under way because most of those are Capital Projects
- The smaller different uses of classrooms
- Minor modifications
- Principals will tell us what spaces are being used for what
- Depends on individual schools

Member Ross Denny

- When we talk about trailers - are those traditionally out of the Capitalized Budget?

Dr. Pavlicek

- We have never done trailers, those would be out of the Capital Budget
- Modification within the classrooms would not be part of the Capital Budget

Member Varghese

- Great we have so many volunteers with different backgrounds
- Looking at all alternatives options out there
- Thinking about our next steps

7. School Building Committee Report - Member Loring

- Discussed next steps - discussions related to the Land Swap Parcel
- What needs to be done in order to move forward for the State Agencies?
- Working on consolidating all documents
- Budgets allocation discussed
- Looking to create robust designs for the project
- Talked about additional properties that just came up
 - Discussed at the Select Board Meeting
- Property is called the Carr Estate
 - Members have done a site visit
 - Walked the site
- Going to look at the design as compared to the Land Swap project
- Off of Blue Hill Ave, would need to add sidewalks
- Another meeting next week to continue the conversations

Dr. Miranda

- The land is 2 parcels that need to be purchased together

- One of the parcels is historic which could add to the layer of complexity

Member Varghese

- If we were to purchase the parcels, would we have to maintain the historic home?

Dr. Miranda

- One for sure and needs to be maintained historically and needs a good amount of work which would add to the cost

Member Loring

- 7 million dollars total for the property
- Early discussions taking place

8. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Carroll made a motion to approve School Committee Minutes Dated May 24, 2023.

Member Ross Denny - noted an edit to be made on page 5 - second bullet should be - We now have our guiding document.

Second: Dr. Miranda

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Updated

Dr. Carroll made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session not to return to Open Session for the purpose of discussing strategy sessions for negotiations, collective bargaining sessions, or contract negotiations with non union personnel pursuant to M.GL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2).

Second: Member Ross Denny

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.