

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Committee Present: Dr. Kevin Donahue, Chair; Sheila Varela, Vice Chair; Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead, Ada Rosmarin and Betty White.

Staff Present: Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools; Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources.

Call to Order

The Chair called the December 6, 2017 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after adding "Guest of the Superintendent"; adding a discussion of an upcoming field trip to Italy under the Chair's Report; removing Policy Subcommittee Report; and removing the Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee Report.

Guest of the Superintendent

Nina Zimmerman, an 8th-grader at Pierce Middle School, came to read her award-winning poem about John F. Kennedy. School Committee members congratulated her for her success.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Standards-Based Report Cards. Amy Gale, Collicot Elementary Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator and Catherine DesRoche, Tucker Elementary Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator came to discuss Standards-Based Report Cards. Ms. Gale discussed how Ms. Rosmarin was one of the driving forces behind this. They described how this initiative began during the 2014-15 school year with a report card committee. It began with a pilot in kindergarten classrooms and moved to Grades 1-5 in 2016-17. Standards-based reporting strives to achieve the following:

- * Promote equity through student achievement and accountability
- * An objective tool to measure a student's progress towards proficiency in the MA curriculum frameworks
- * Provide clear information for students, teachers and caregivers on what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each grade level.
- * Support students, teachers and caregivers in monitoring progress towards mastery of grade-level standards.

Dr. Craghead said her daughter received one of these cards and was surprised at the level of detail. Ms. White asked if this report card will change the way the upper grade levels grade. Ms. Gale said she cannot speak to what will happen at PMS, but reiterated that all MPS teachers use standards-based teaching methods. Dr. Craghead also noted that teachers have the ability to write their own comments. School Committee members asked questions regarding this way of preparing report cards.

Ms. Gormley announced several personnel changes in the district. Pierce Assistant Principal Anna McReynolds will be retiring, along with Glover Administrative Assistant Susan Doyle and Cunningham Administrative Assistant Annie Dutton. Moving into these positions will be Ms. Downes and Ms. Kinsella, along with the appointment of Serena Burke to Residency, Karyn Vivieros to Facility Rentals and Stephanie O'Keefe as Communications Specialist.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Discussion of Field Trip/Italy. The trip is still being planned, pending approval by the School Committee. There is a chance that the Dec. 20th School Committee meeting will be canceled. At issue is the refund date for the Italy trip is the 21st of December and School Committee needs to give final approval to this trip. School Committee members discussed the time line for this trip.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY19 Fee Proposal (Attachment) (Vote) Colleagues voted to raise preschool fees and also raised the family cap for summer school. This will affect families who have more than two kids at the four-class max. Dr. Craghead moved to approve the fee schedule.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: FY19 Budget Presentation (Attachment) (Vote). Dr. Craghead said this presentation is the result of months of work. Due to the recent successful override and with the enrollment trends, the district is asking for a new position, which is included in this presentation. Dr. Pavlicek began the presentation with enrollment figures. There is high growth at the elementary schools right now, which poses a challenge to find service and staff. He outlined the budget by category and showed how the school budget has grown. He showed what is happening to enrollment, and then began to discuss the detail of the FY19 school budget proposal. He showed how one quarter of the school budget is used to fund special education. Ms. Gormley outlined how one-time funds could be used. Enrollment trends were again discussed, as well as emerging needs. At the elementary level, they will need at least 6 positions in the next 3 years. At the high school, they are requesting one position to address class size; and a transitions teacher at the high school. A preschool coordinator has also been requested. There was discussion about the pros/cons of having an MPS bus fleet. Dr. Craghead moved to approve the FY19 budget presentation.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Attachment) (Vote)

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #22 dated November 30th, 2017 in the amount of \$423,902.80

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-1 (White)

Facilities Subcommittee Report

Dr. Donahue said they talked about the impending space crisis at the most recent meeting. They went over some of the options on how to deal with this. He said they are putting together spreadsheets with pros/cons/costs. This topic will move over to finance subcommittee, where they will drill down on costs and present this spring. He said they have discussed the Kidder Building and concluded it would not be the best options for the MPS for a number of reasons. The library trustees asked the School Committee to discuss this. Dr. Craghead asked, is it that the cost to become ADA compliant would be cost-prohibitive? Dr. Donahue said yes. Dr. Pavlicek said the building is 4,000 feet, which could accommodate a maximum of three classrooms. Discussion ensued about the Kidder. Also, through Sustainable Milton, the district will pursue a grant for additional recycling bins.

Health and Wellness Subcommittee Report

Ms. Eberhardt discussed the recent subcommittee meeting on November 17th. At this meeting, they received an update from PE/Health Director Noel Vigue. He spoke about the status of PE at each grade level. Right now, PE is offered once a week for 45 minutes. Mr. Vigue spoke very highly of the PMS as being a model school for physical education, and noted they are using the Michigan curriculum. He spoke about the high school being a "work in progress." It is a sports-based model, not as much skills-based. Ms. Eberhardt said it is a good improvement to have separated the AD position from PE. Another issue on the table is to update policy and to have measurable goals in Health and Wellness.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Jan 6: Diversity and Data Report; Jan 17: 20-year facilities management plan. There will be a space presentation in the spring.

Dr. Donahue asked committee members if they would like the NESDEC presenter to come in at the same time as facilities? Discussion ensued as to whether this would be needed. Ms. Varela said, they just heard his presentation last year. Don't know if we need them to come back. Dr. Pavlicek said there are other vendors, but this would cost \$10,000 to do this. Last year, we changed the methodology, and they came to present on that data. This year's presentation would be roughly the same. Ms. Varela asked for a presentation from the new AD? Ms. Gormley said we have him scheduled for Feb 7th.

Ms. Gormley noted that Kindergarten, Grade One and Preschool Info Nights are upcoming.

The Chair moved to adjourn.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.