

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: August 23, 2017

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

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 August 23rd, 2017 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:04pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after adding Item 5c and deleting Item 8.

Citizens Speak: None.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: SBIRT Screening. Head Nurse Margaret Gibbons came to speak about SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT.)) This is a structured conversation to identify the early risk factors in both high school and middle school students. It is not targeted screening. 28 staff members came to training today. This is targeted for Grades 7 and 9

Topic Two: Final Approval of School Handbooks (Vote). Ms. Gormley noted that Charlene Roche did a great deal of work on handbooks. The chair moved approval of recently amended student handbooks

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. White

Discussion: Ms. Varela asked if we could make a change during Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Eberhardt said she'd like to thank Charlene, and encouraged parents to read the handbooks.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Back to School Update: Ms. Gormley said there was a first leadership meeting this week. She recognized principals and administrators who worked all summer for hiring, as well as custodians and the maintenance department. She also recognized Janet Sheehan, who led administrative team in the hiring.

Happenings: Dr. Pavlicek is working on the bus routes. Bus passes are currently being mailed out. The Welcome to Middle School camp is underway. All elementary schools are hosting popsicle parties, etc. Ms. Varela said that people should know that Jane Barrett is the new

Transportation Director. Ms. Varela also asked about the implementation of the new reading program, and the “Reach for Reading” curriculum was explained.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: MPS District Goals. (Attachments) (Vote.) Dr. Donahue explained that these are the fruits of labor from the retreat. Dr. Donahue thanked the committee for their timely responses and moved approval.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. White

Discussion: Ms. Varela wanted to ask question about 2b, 3 and 4. What is the metric going to be? She thought that differentiated instruction would be increased. Ms. Gormley said she would meet with department heads to discuss this. Dr. Donahue said this stuck out to him also. They need more hard data for goal 2b. Ms. Varela said we don't need to increase the rigor in Honors classes, but we do in college prep. Ms. Varela also said for Goals 3 and 4, the 10% might be very high. She thinks groups should be encouraging students of color to go into teaching. Dr. Donahue said he's concerned about Goal #4. Ms. Eberhardt pointed out that this is not just about sports, it's about music, drama, also. Dr. Craghead said the percentage of faculty of color is 8%, so it's only going up 2%. Also, since we just got an override to reduce the user fees by half, let's see whether overall participation goes up. Perhaps now subgroups can join extracurricular activities. Dr. Craghead asked for a time frame extension for Goal #6.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Revised School Committee Calendars for 2017-18. Two dates need to be changed. Dr. Donahue moved that the committee change one meeting to Wed, the 27th and the other to Wed, Nov 8th.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: New Topic Category. Dr. Donahue said “Guest of the Superintendent,” will be used with our next agenda. This category could include invited students and coaches, drama, music, etc. We're going to put time suggestions in the agenda and see how that works. Also we should start talking about reviewing the presentations in advance. We'd like to see 15 minutes or less for presentations. For reporting purposes, we'll pencil in subcommittee and board report dates so we know when they're expected to report. Ms. Eberhardt said at subcommittee, the minutes should then go to Charlene and be distributed on a regular basis.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: FY 18 Budget. Dr. Craghead said they met yesterday morning and approved Sept. 13th as the day when the budget could be ready, but this issue is now moot, as it will be Sept. 27th. The FY18 budget is not yet ready because of some DESE coding. We looked at fee comparisons, especially looked at athletic fees relative to other districts. This was eye opening.

Our athletic fees (even cut in half) – put us right "in the mix," and we are lower than some. Some districts have zero. Some have \$4-500 to participate. Dr. Craghead's concern is that the family cap at \$750 leaves MPS in the high range compared to other districts. We looked at other districts' bus fees. Some districts charge nothing. Even at reduced rate of \$275, we are still high compared to others in the state. Dr. Pavlicek asked, do those districts ONLY bus students they have to? This will be researched.

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Vote)

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #5, dated August 3, 2017 in the amount of \$311,267.95

Move: Dr. Craghead
Second: Ms. Varela
Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #7, dated August 17, 2017 in the amount of \$193,552.42

Move: Dr. Craghead
Second: Ms White
Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #8, dated August 24th, 2017, in the amount of \$146,356.69.

Move: Dr. Craghead
Second: Ms. Varela
Vote: 6-0-0

Policy Subcommittee

Topic One: First and Second Reading, Directory Information Policy, JRB (Attachment) (Vote). Ms. Eberhardt explained this policy. Dr. Craghead asked, since email address is struck from the directory, why is it then not included in the "Does Not Include" section? She suggested we include it here. Ms. Eberhardt said it was never included in the "included" category, so therefore it does not need to be in the latter category.

Dr. Donahue invoked the expedited process for approval, and moved to approve Policy JRB.

Move: Dr. Donahue
Second: Ms. Eberhardt
Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: First and Second Reading, Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs, IHAMA (Attachment), (Vote). Ms. Eberhardt noted there are edits (in red) to include information about opioid use.

Dr. Donahue invoked the expedited process for approval, and moved to approve Policy IHAMA.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: First and Second Reading, Substance Use Prevention, Deterrence and Intervention Plan Policy, JICI (Attachment) (Vote). This is a large policy that Ms. Gibbons worked on, and was first approved on Nov 9, 2016. Note changes on Pages 16 and 20. Dr. Donahue moved approval.

Dr. Donahue invoked the expedited process for approval, and moved to approve Policy JICI.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Rosmarin

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Four: Immigration Resolution (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Eberhardt thanked the Policy Subcommittee for their work on this. Ms. Varela noted that the Diversity Committee had asked for this policy and/or statement on this issue. "The resolution affirming the provision of safe, welcoming and inclusive schools for all students without regard to race, religion, national origin or immigration status."

Ms. Varela said she was at a Diversity Committee event where people asked about this issue. Between the consult with our attorney and reviewing what other districts have done, we decided during Policy Subcommittee, that putting together a resolution would be an effective safeguard for students in our district. We have a formal resolution and also revamped the directory information policy. Dr. Donahue thanked the Policy Subcommittee for doing this. Ms. White asked Ms. Gormley, how do we communicate this to staff? How can we let teachers know about this? Ms. Gormley said all teachers will be trained and made aware of this. Dr. Donahue moved approval of the resolution

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Vote: 6-0-0

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee

Ms. Varela said there's major construction on Edge Hill Road. This subcommittee decided to hold a public forum on August 28th at Cu/Co cafetorium. MPD, MPS and the Town Engineer will be on hand. There have been no changes to car drop off/pick up, only to pedestrian traffic. This will go in the Eblast on Friday. Mr. Redden and Ms. Concannon will send out reminders, and it will be on the Milton PD website.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Donahue made an omnibus motion to approval minutes of April 26, May 3, and June 7th.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Donahue moved approval of minutes of May 17, 2017

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-1 (Dr. Donahue abstained)

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of approval of Executive Session minutes and negotiation strategy for non union positions, and to adjourn directly from Executive Session and not return to Open Session.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for September 6th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.