

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: October 4th, 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 October 4th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02pm. He asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda with no edits.

Citizens Speak: None.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Tucker Site Council (Attachment). Dr. Elaine MacNeil Girmai came to present the Tucker School Improvement Plan to the School Committee.

Click here to view:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/9015/0837/7967/Tucker_School_Presentation_SIP_17-18.pdf

Members of the Site Council took turns making the presentation. They mentioned the override positions of a new Assistant Principal, a new Reach for Reading curriculum, additional instructional support and enhanced focus of a .5 district reading specialist. They discussed the mentoring program and outlined their goals for 2017-18. These include continuing the Artist in Residence Program, focusing on Social Emotional Learning and Social Work internships, and a grant-funded bullying unit through Second Step. Dr. McNeil-Girmai talked about an app which invites families, in their home language, to school events, which results in many more families coming out to school events. For Budget Requests, they asked for K/1 FOSS Kits. For personnel, they requested a preschool coordinator, a stipend for SEL Coordinator, and a stipend for Social Work intern practicum supervisor. They also requested that instructional aides in K increase from .8 to 1.0. For extended day, they would like to look into before and after school programs. Also, the group met with coaches/leagues in town to increase athletic participation. They explained "The Tucker Way," -- which will spread the spirit of Tucker throughout the community and allow students to take part in public service with the Animal Shelter, COA, Food Pantry, Parks, etc. Dr. Craghead commended the site council for their presentation. She asked, regarding Goal #1, is there a benchmark/goal? They said they would like to reach 70%. Ms.

White asked about the role of assistant principal and was told that Ms. DesRoche is working on student's unstructured time, and streamlining that time a little better. She will be bringing in more enrichment to ensure that the teachers can do their teaching. Ms. Varela noted the additional support from the override. Regarding the budget requests, for Reach online assessment, isn't that part of Reach for Reading package? The online assessments come separately. The recommendations that the consultants made was that the online piece would be overwhelming to teachers and students. They have the assessment in print format, but not online. For extended day, are they thinking within the context of community schools, or separate? Dr. McNeil Girmai talked about group music lessons as a pilot. Ms. Eberhardt asked about the Preschool Coordinator -- this would be district wide, right? As would the SEL facilitator? Yes to both. Ms. Rosmarin said she supported the idea of the Preschool Coordinator request and the full-time K aid request.

Topic Two: Advanced Placement/SAT presentation. Data Specialist Vy Vu, James Jette and Karen Cahill presented the most recent AP and SAT data. Click here to view:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/6015/0837/7972/2016-17_AP_SAT_presentation_Final.pdf

Ms. Rosmarin asked about the higher success rates for male students on these tests, despite the fact that girls take these tests at a higher number. Dr. Craghead was pleased by the 25% jump for the African American subgroup and 31% for Hispanic/Latino subgroups. Ms. Gormley noted that in many school districts, access to AP is restricted. Dr. Donahue thanked the presenters and added his congratulations for the successes of African American and Hispanic/Latino subgroups.

Happenings: Today was Walk/Bike to School Day. Ms. Varela noted that as part of this celebration, Wally the Green Monster came to greet students. Ms. Gormley said that the recent Celebrate Milton event was a great success. Three Pierce community members were recognized with Community Builders event. Also, 40 years ago, the Milton Academy Saturday Program was founded. This month, a Glover parent arranged a meeting with a Yale professor to discuss Transitions from 5th to 6th grade; and 8th to 9th grade. This project is now underway. Upcoming events are Grade 5 Info Night, the Music Department Mattress Fundraiser, the Boosters Swing for Sports, the Hurricane Relief concert, a Maria Trozzi presentation, and MSAPC is hosting underage drinking in Milton with Chief John King and Jennifer Rowe of the DAs office on Oct. 18th.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Milton Foundation for Education. Ms. Eberhardt updated the committee on the work of MFE. They are currently working on Discovering Justice program. The Monster Dash is upcoming, on Sunday, Oct 29th. The contest for the T-shirt drawing ended and the winner will be picked Monday. Ms. Eberhardt then read the list of sponsors for this event.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

Dr. Craghead said the committee is meeting on Oct 11th and will meet on Monday mornings going forward. No update.

Topic One: Approve Vendor Warrant

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Vendor Warrant #14 dated Oct 5, 2017 in the amount of \$762,598.58.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-0 (Ms. Rosmarin left room)

Health & Wellness Subcommittee Report:

Ms. Eberhardt said this committee said the most recent Speaker Series (Sara Ward) was a huge success. Laurie Stillman said this was timely and well-promoted. Maria Trozzi is next. She gave an update on ExSEL grant, which will provide lots of PD support for SEL. There will be a community meeting at BID-Milton to support campaign on underage drinking prevention. On Oct 25th, there will be an employee health and wellness clinic. She applauded the recent FoodPlay presentation on nutrition at the elementary schools.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report:

Ms. Rosmarin talked about revising the vision statement for the Milton Public Schools, which she will bring back in the beginning of November.

Policy Subcommittee Report:

Ms. Eberhardt gave the second reading for Policy BEDA. This policy was originally removed from the policy manual, but now it has been added back in. With no questions on this policy, Ms. Eberhardt entertained a motion to accept.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Next, there was a second reading of Policy BEDB-E. Ms. Eberhardt noted the addition of the "note" section, at the suggestion of MASC. This policy is about having the customary order of business on agenda. With no questions, Ms. Eberhardt entertained a motion to approve.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

The third policy, which got a second reading is BEDH, which is about public participation at School Committee meetings. Now, it's referred to as "Public Comment" at School Committee meetings. The wording was slightly changed, and it clarified how long Citizens Speak should be.

Move: Ms. Varela

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items

School Committee members discussed the schedule of subcommittees reporting out. The next scheduled meeting is October 25th. Dr. Donahue indicated there was potential for a brief meeting 30 minutes before Town Meeting on Monday October 23 in case we need to deliberate. He indicated he would inform the Committee should we need to have such a meeting.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel 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 October 25th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.