

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Cable Access Studio  
Date: Oct 25th, 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 25th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02pm.

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda with no changes.

**Citizens Speak:** Darryl Werner of Martin Road came to speak about Sustainable Milton. Their mission is to raise awareness and educate the public around all things sustainable. He asked the School Committee to count the number of trash receptacles in each school, including offices, restrooms, cafeteria, etc. -- then count the number of recycling receptacles attached or within 3 feet of the trash receptacle. He noted that in 2009, Sustainable Milton purchased stainless steel water bottles for elected officials, and asked town leaders to model good behavior by not using disposable water bottles.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: Superintendent's Guests. Performers from Milton High School Musical "Pippin," with lead performers Grace Varela and James DiSandro came to perform a number from the upcoming musical "Pippin."

Topic Two: Glover Site Council Report (Attachment) Principal Karen McDavitt came along with teachers, parents and guardians to present their School Improvement Plan. Glover has 586 students K-5. They house the STEP program and the Co-Taught program. To view the presentation, click this link:

[https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/7315/0991/2171/Glover\\_Elementary\\_School\\_Site\\_Council\\_Presentation\\_2017.pdf](https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/7315/0991/2171/Glover_Elementary_School_Site_Council_Presentation_2017.pdf)

Regarding budget requests, the Glover Site Council asked for additional resources for the co-taught classroom; adding Reach for Reading Online Assessments; K/1 FOSS Kits. Among the personnel requests, they asked for a stipend for the Social Emotional Coordinator, and expanded PD for all staff. Members of the School Committee complemented the site council for their work.

Topic Three: Pierce Site Council Report (Attachment) 15 minutes. Dr. Karen Spaulding came to present the School improvement Plan. She was joined by teachers Michael Cleary, Jeffrey Stoodt, as well as parent/guardians Katherine Boucher, Stephanie O'Keefe, Beverly Ross Denny and several students. They presented their mission statement, reviewed the Next Gen MCAS results and reflected on the School Improvement plan. The site council also introduced Next Steps, budget requests and a new program, "We are Pierce." Next, several Pierce students came to the table to talk about the Anti Defamation League Peer Leader Program. School Committee members and Mary Gormley praised the presentation. Click the link below to view:

[https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/8215/0991/2175/Pierce\\_Middle\\_School\\_Site\\_Council\\_102517.pdf](https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/8215/0991/2175/Pierce_Middle_School_Site_Council_102517.pdf)

Happenings: Spring MCAS scores have arrived and are being mailed out. The Milton Public Schools music and art department raised \$6,000 in hurricane relief for Puerto Rico. This Sunday is the MFE's Monster Dash. The high school musical, Pippin, will be performed this Thursday and Saturday. The next School Committee meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 9th. No school on Friday. MHS student rep Jasper Malcolm read the Athletic update.

### **Chair's Report**

Topic One: MASC Resolutions (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Donahue explained that this is a document of resolutions presented at the meeting on July 12th.

*Resolution One:* Movement of the Chapter 70 Funding Enrollment date to March 15. Ms. Eberhardt asked for detail on this. She was told the reasoning is that by mid-March, there will be a more stable estimate of your population. All in favor:

Vote: 6-0-0

*Resolution Two:* Reform of Circuit Breaker Funding. Dr. Pavlicek explained that any student for whom we spend more than \$45,000, the state picks up 75%. Also, if you have a radical change in your Circuit Breaker, it will make up the difference. You have to increase spending 25% a year. No specific recommendations from the state. Vote to support?

Vote: 6-0-0

*Resolution Three:* Litigation for Fair School Finance. Dr. Donahue explained that there has been litigation within the state seeking to show that the degree of funding is not reaching a minimum amount. Vote to support?

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

*Resolution Four:* Privatization of Public Education and the Oversight of Public School Districts, Including Small and Regional Districts. Dr. Donahue explained this has to do with vouchers for private schools, using public money, unless the private institution is a special needs school. Vote to support?

Vote: 6-0-0

*Resolution Five:* Use of Federal Funds. Vote to support?

Vote: 6-0-0

*Resolution Six:* Foundation Project. Vote to support?

Vote: 6-0-0

*Resolution Seven:* Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. Preserve ACA and Medicaid. This will require 100% reimbursements to cities and towns/public schools. Vote to support?

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Report of Executive Session Business. Dr. Donahue reported that in Executive Session at the last meeting, 3% merit raises were approved for Dr. Pavlicek and Ms. Sheehan based on Superintendent's performance reviews.

### **Finance Subcommittee:**

Topic One: FY17 DESE End of Year Report (Vote). Dr. Craghead said the subcommittee met on 10/12 and the topic was funding the SEL facilitator. At this point, we have enough monies to continue to fund Ms. Stillman's contract. This includes funding from contract adjustment, Title 4 grant, Title 1 grant and a DESE grant. This job is for a part-time consultant. They also discussed FY19 budget and budget calendar. All departments were asked to roll budgets forward, increase supply lines by 1%, utilities by 3% and 6% for special education. This cost is uncertain. They also looked at MPS budget calendar. At the last meeting on 10/23, they approved FY17 end of year report, and the first quarter report. They will look at FY19 budget priorities. Dr. Craghead moved to approve FY17 DESE End-of-Year report as submitted.

**Move:** Dr. Craghead

**Second:** Ms. Varela

Discussion: Dr. Pavlicek explained this is a simple EOY report required by the state and the chair has to sign it. Ms. Gormley recognized Budget Analyst Lisa McDonough for her work on this.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Two: First Quarter Report (Attachment) (Vote). The chair entertained a motion to approve first quarter report as submitted.

**Move:** Ms. Eberhardt

**Second:** Ms. Varela

Discussion: Dr. Pavlicek said this is a standard form, which tracks salary and non-salary funds.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Three: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #16 dated October 19 in the amount of 575,851.38

**Move:** Ms. Eberhardt

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 6-0-0

## **Strategic Planning Advisory Subcommittee Report**

### **Topic One: Vision Statement (Attachment)**

Ms. Rosmarin said that the mission statement was sent out to all staff for feedback. One suggestion was perhaps include some language for innovation. The mission statement reads: "We, the Milton Public Schools, envision a district with excellent instruction in every classroom, where learning experiences are aligned with students' individual strengths and needs, and where attention to academic and a social emotional growth are balanced so that every child achieves at high levels and develops a strong sense of self. We see a district of intellectual discourse and professional learning at all levels -- students, faculty and administration -- in which there are structures and processes for continual reflections and data-driven decision making. We know that such a district is achievable if: we facilitate instruction that instills a passion for learning, curiosity, and critical thinking skills, we are committed to cultural competency, we foster a positive approach to the behavioral health of children, and we build a strong partnership with families and the community." Dr. Donahue asked if they would add semi-colons to the last sentence.

## **Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee**

Ms. Varela said the subcommittee met this month. Carolyn Moran with the Safety Patrol group said the Cunningham/Collicot walk-to-school program and Safety Patrol programs are up and running. Safety Patrol will start in mid-November. Lee Toma is chair of Milton Bicycle Advisory Committee, and he said the PMS will be getting new bicycle racks from MAPC. Libby Dunphy asked for repainting of Tucker crosswalks, as they are looking for more visibility at intersection with Oak Street. Ms. Varela said the committee should consider a SRTS district-wide policy. There has been ongoing difficulty with buses. Communication about delays, etc. makes mornings difficult. The new crosswalk in front of Cu/Co is experiencing some difficulty and it will be looked at.

## **Policy Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Eberhardt said that Policy BDE and BDF were originally two policies, which were combined in 1998. It has been decided to separate these into two policies again. Regarding subcommittees, there should be only two basic ones: Finance and Policy. All the other subcommittees are "Advisory" -- which includes transportation, facility, health & wellness, etc. Both categories (subcommittee and advisory) must follow open meeting laws.

First Reading Policy BDE, Subcommittees of the School Committee

First Reading Policy BDF, Advisory Committees to the School Committee

Ms. Rosmarin asked, does the chair of the Advisory Committee have to be a School Committee member? Dr. Donahue said that a School Committee member should probably be at least a co-chair. Ms. Eberhardt pointed out that all of these follow open meeting laws. Dr. Donahue suggested editing the language to clarify subcommittee/advisory committee membership

guidelines, adding language to specify the number needed for a quorum, and adding language specifying if business could be conducted in the absence of a school committee member at the subcommittee or advisory committee meetings.

#### First Reading Policy, BHE, Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members

Ms. Eberhardt explained that this policy was written in 2005. MASC updated the language. This is the updated language.

#### First Reading Policy IJND, Access to Digital Resources

Ms. Eberhardt said this is another policy suggested by MASC.

First Reading Policy, JIH, Searches and Interrogations. Ms Eberhardt said the most recent is from 2004 and this has been updated for 2017. There have been questions from parents about cellphones. What are the policies/procedures? Who can look at them/search them, etc.? MASC said we should define the policy in the handbook. The law around cellphones is still in flux. Schools have policies about searching backpacks, cellphones, etc. Right now, there are policies how cellphones can be used, expectations, etc. Administrators should know these rules, also.

#### Re-Approval of Policy IJNDD, Social Networking Policy of the Milton Public Schools (Vote)

Ms. Eberhardt said this is the policy that oversees Social Networking Policy. She would like to have IT staff and others look at this first.

**Citizen Speak Topic Response:** Dr. Donahue asked if anyone had a response to Mr. Werner's comments. He plans to forward the request regarding recycling bins to Facilities. Regarding the change water fountains to filling stations for water bottles, Dr. Craghead said it's an issue of money, yes, but also an issue of compliance.

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** Ms. Varela asked if Facilities is reporting, and was told they will report on Nov 15th to discuss space issues. Ms. Gormley added a report on MASC.

#### **Citizen Speak (Round Two)**

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union Personnel and contract negotiations for MEA Union, the discussion of which in open session would compromise negotiating position; 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 November 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.