

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: Wednesday, January 17th, 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 January 17th meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:01pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing Item 5a (i) and switching Item 4 and 5a.

Citizens Speak: None.

Superintendent's Report

Guest of the Superintendent:

- A. Pierce Middle School student Josh Ricciardi, a sixth-grader, read an essay about children with disabilities inclusion and bullying. School Committee members congratulated the student for his essay. Ms. Gormley mentioned that Josh's grandfather was a former school committee member Mr. Oldfield.
- B. Facilities Advisory Committee Report. Carl Contesti with Drummey, Rosane & Anderson Inc., along with Bill Ritchie, Town of Milton Facilities Director, came to present a report on the condition of Milton Public Schools buildings. Mr. Contesti outlined the Asset Management Plan for the school's buildings. To view the plan, click here: https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/6715/1680/4559/Asset_Management_Plan_2.pdf Dr. Craghead asked about Page 10. She wondered why Tucker, being one of the smaller schools, requires more funding for maintenance. Mr. Contesti said it was related to the sprinkler system. Ms. Varela asked how these repair and maintenance items could be budgeted for. Dr. Pavlicek noted that most of these items are capital projects and would require approximately \$2.4 million per year. Ms. Eberhardt asked if the Consolidated Facilities Department needs to be expanded in order to complete the projects.
- C. Citizens for a Diverse Milton Response to Diversity/Data Presentation. (deferred)

Topic One: 2018-19 School Year Calendar (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Gormley noted that parents have requested this in order to plan vacations, etc. Dr. Pavlicek said the 2019-2020 calendar is very close to this current year's calendar. There were a few changes with PD days being moved, which extends vacation one day for students. Two additional PD days in February have been moved. Dr. Donahue moved to approve the calendar.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. White

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Approval of Milton High School Annual Music Department Field Trip (Attachment)
(Vote)

Ms. Sheehan presented on behalf of Dawn Sykes, requesting final approval for 81 students to go to Philadelphia with the music department. In accordance with policy, she has submitted an itinerary of the trip, a safety plan, Cost is \$478 per student, with fundraising proposals. Dr. Donahue moved approval of the field trip.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley noted that her E-blast will go out tomorrow with all the most recent updates.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Milton School Committee Subcommittee List (Attachment) Dr. Donahue said in some of the advisory committees, they will replace the word "subcommittee" with "advisory committee." Dr. Craghead noted she is no longer on Facilities Advisory, but Ms. White should be added. Ms. White also noted that she is on Inclusion Task Force. Ms. Rosmarin asked why the voting members are listed for Health & Wellness. Ms. Eberhardt explained that it is required to list the voting members. Ms. Varela said she thought everyone on the committee is a voting member. She suggested adding a sentence at end of charge to explain this. Ms. Rosmarin noted that the other advisory committees should list members "for this year only." She also suggested adding "for 2017-18" to the title page. Dr. Donahue suggested that they defer the vote and come back with a clean copy of this document.

Guests of the Superintendent, Item C (deferred from above)

Citizens for a Diverse Milton Response to Diversity/Data Presentation. Members of CDM came to speak about the recent Diversity/Data presentation. Winston Daly spoke first, saying he is pleased with the report. He noted there has been a great focus on getting initiatives out, particularly the Tucker basketball league and the new music lesson program. He said enthusiasm will fade, but he wants to keep these programs sustainable. He said CDM looked at the numbers in the AP classes and is concerned that representation of students of color is so low, especially with open enrollment. There is a Harvard program looking at this at the high school. CDM would like more info on this. Ms. Green observed that CDM noted demographic trends, particularly an increase of 54% to 62% of children of color at Tucker, which is more than all the other schools combined. The # and the %age is higher. Also, a decrease in children of color at the Pierce which is going in the opposite direction. They would like to engage on this topic. For staff, the

positive news is an increase in staff of color at Collicot and Pierce. CDM had questions about the total #s of gender vs. Race. They also, observed a steady 5 year increase in the # of teachers (15%) in teachers of color. Also, regarding teaching staff of color in Milton vs. State, we're behind the state and asked, why are there not stronger results? Mr. Navin said his overarching comment about the report. We remember when there was no such report, and we appreciate it. It gets refined every year. As you go through the tables and charts, there's often a comparison to some other reference point (state, district, subgroups, etc.) -- we recommend that more thought be given to how those reference points are used. We don't recommend dropping them, but if you say compare low-income to all students, it masks the difference between that subgroup and highest performance groups, because that subgroup is included. Also, there are patterns to be found, such as consistent underrepresentation of African-American students. We would like to drill down further, for example, break out by gender -- African American males compared to African American females. White males compared to white females, etc. Compare those sub-subgroups to one another. The CDM members state they believe the Diversity Policy calls for a plan. Although there have been initiatives, there is not a plan per se. We should use this data to drill down. They hope that next year, there will be a plan. The CDM members said they would like to voice their concern about the recent hiring of the athletic director. Dr. Donahue indicated that this was not the forum to discuss specific positions or individuals. CDM states they have been working with MPS for years to hire new staff and want a transparent process to protect the integrity of the hiring process and ensure the right message is sent to the public. Ms. Lattimore said she believes that transparency has been a problem. She said they want to work cooperatively with the schools, but trust is strained at some point, so they want to be sure that this point is heard.

Ms. Eberhardt thanked them and asked Ms. Green to clarify her comment about enrollment trends at the the Pierce. She stated that at Tucker, the # of students of color and percentage goes up. At Pierce, the # and percentage goes down. Ms. Eberhardt also noted that Mr. Daly's point about sustainability and how to "stack" these programs was valid. Ms. Rosmarin asked if they are members of their schools' Diversity Committees and if they report back to CDM.

Regarding a plan, Ms. Rosmrarin said that one of their goals is working with a task force on Cultural Competence. This will be coming out more. By March, there will be a draft available for review and feedback.

Ms. Guise also said the Tucker Project is a program that offers group lessons for students in either clarinet or violin. We got grant money from Ms. Damiani. Our concern is that we are trying to find other sources. The school community should find resources to keep this going. About 12 students who may not have been able to pay for lessons. Regarding a plan, Mr. Daly said he's concerned with tracking the success of students over time. Do kids who do well in elementary continue to do well in middle and high school? Is it based on income? Why is there a drop-off in their success?

Dr. Donahue thanked the CDM for their comments and their work and enquired what elements they would want in a Diversity Plan. CDM indicated that they would like to seen an analysis of measures that have succeeded and failed.

Finance Subcommittee:

Dr. Craghead said the committee met on Jan 8th. She said she will skip the salary schedule and fee schedule. The committee was updated on grants and awards to date. (Dr. Craghead read the list of grants)

Topic One: FY19 Fee Increases (Attachment) (Vote). Dr. Craghead noted a raise in tuition for Gile Road Preschool -- raised from \$3,750 to \$4,000. (highlight in yellow); as well as the music program registration fee. From \$40 to \$45 registration fee, to be used towards repair of instruments. Dr. Craghead moved to approve the amended FY19 fee schedule to include the preschool tuition fee increase; and the increase the registration fee per session to \$45.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. White

Discussion: Dr. Donahue said the "change" column should reflect the \$5.

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Approval of Vendor Warrants (Attachment) (Vote). Dr. Craghead moved to approve Vendor Warrant #28 dated Jan 11, 108 in amount of \$471,483.24.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 5-0-1

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Second Reading of Policy IHAMD, Wellness Policy. Ms. Eberhardt moved to approve the health and wellness policy as presented.

Move: Ms. Eberhardt

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: First Reading, Policy BEDG, Minutes (Attachment). All additions are noted in red. There will be a second reading and vote at next meeting.

Strategic Planning Advisory Committee

Ms. Rosmarin updated the committee on the work of this Advisory Committee. She handed out a "crosswalk" document on how the goals of SPAC are aligned with School Committee goals. They are developing a 3-5 year plan. Vision statement, goals, objectives and activities and have selected a template. Dr. Craghead asked about the times of task force meetings. School Committee members discussed the role of the SPAC and the goal-setting process. Ms. Gormley noted that her understanding is that the strategic plan is in sync with the school committee goals. Dr. Donahue said that there are goals that continue year to year.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Donahue made omnibus motion to approve all minutes on the agenda.

- November 9, 2017
- November 15, 2017
- December 6, 2017
- January 3, 2018

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Edits: None

Vote: 6-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Varela asked, could our Athletic Director, Mr. Madden, come back and explain Bay State League divisions. Dr. Donahue said he would like to hear other info, too, about collegiate athletics, etc.

Summer Salaries Adjustment for next meeting.

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for February 7th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 .pm .