

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: February 7, 2018

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 February meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02pm.

*Dr. Donahue asked for a moment of silence for community members Herb Voigt, Festus Joyce and David Lyons.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing Item 12; and adding Item 6b (Milton Times response.)

Citizens Speak: Laurie Stillman came to Citizen's Speak to promote tomorrow night's Parent Speaker event. Dr. Ruth Potee will speak on Feb 8th at 6:30 on the topic of "Under Construction -- The Adolescent Brain and High Risk Behaviors." Dr. Potee is a passionate advocate to help communities. Ms. Stillman also reported that MSAPC received a grant to continue their work.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Milton High School 2018-19 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) proposal. Principal James Jette, Vice principal Ben Kelly and Educational Technology Administrator Alan Melanson came to discuss the BYOD initiative. Mr. Melanson said the plan to provide devices would begin in Fall of 2018, where they can either bring in their own device or they can borrow one from MPS. This plan will improve student achievement, improve college and career readiness, increase student-centered learning; improve digital citizenship; and allow for assistive technology. The initiative will also help with personalized learning, and allow for project-based learning. The team also discussed professional development, a timeline and the budget. Ms. White asked how this would affect the curriculum and Mr. Melanson discussed how they have a plan to imbed this within the existing curriculum. Ms. Craghead asked about the amount of professional development and wondered if there was enough time to train the whole staff. Mr. Melanson assured her that he could. To view the presentation, click here:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/1915/1866/2065/School_Committee_BYOD.pdf

Topic Two: League Alignment and Tournament Qualifications. MHS Athletic Director Ryan Madden began his presentation by recognizing the Division I student athletes who recently

signed letters of intent. Mr. Jette noted that there are also athletes who will be competing in D2 and D3 colleges. Mr. Madden then reviewed the fall highlights, with success by many MHS teams. Regarding league alignment, he reviewed the historical division of the Herget and Carey Divisions. The MIAA will re-align the divisions based on geography. Mr. Madden also explained the Sullivan Rule. Ms. Varela asked about the football schedule and how that might be impacted. To view the presentation, click here:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/4715/1866/2088/School_Committee_Athletics_PPT.pdf

Topic Three: Milton High School Program of Studies (Attachment) (Vote). Ms. Gormley noted that Mary Kelly initiated the approval of Program of Studies by the School Committee many years ago. Mr. Jette said that one edit is that the district is no longer sending home scheduled progress reports. Dr. Donahue moved to approve the Program of Studies.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley reported that her E-blast will be sent out on Thursday with all the Happenings included.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Milton School Subcommittee List (Attachment). Dr. Donahue asked members to look over the list for edits. He thanked the Policy Subcommittee for their work on this. He moved approval of Subcommittee and Advisory Committee List.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Milton Times Response. Dr. Donahue said he has been asked whether the district intends to pursue an override as a result of the Milton Times article on space needs. Ms. Varela said she is not opposed to clarifying. She said they have never mentioned an override, as a committee. Dr. Donahue said that at no point in time in the discussion, did the school committee expect, plan to request, or investigate and override. Dr. Donahue expressed gratitude and thanks to the town for the recent override. He thanked Dr. Craghead on the finance committee for managing the budget process this year. He reiterated that there has been no conversation about pursuing an override.

Finance Subcommittee:

Topic One: Update of Meeting with Warrant Committee. This subcommittee has met twice: On Jan 29th, a Q&A with the school subcommittee of the Warrant Committee. They discussed SPED spending, food services, the current teacher contract and transportation. On Feb 5th, they were updated on FY19 budget. They will meet with the Warrant Committee soon. The

subcommittee reviewed expenditures for Transportation, etc. On tonight's agenda, we have to approve Second Quarter Report.

Topic Two: Second Quarter Report: Dr. Pavlicek noted that there are a few items that are concerning. \$200K over budget for SPED transportation. Also, ED Assists for SPED is higher. Click here to see the documents:

Memo:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/4515/1866/2080/Second_Quarter_Report_Memo.pdf

Page One:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/4515/1866/2073/Second_Quarter_Report_1.pdf

Page Two:

https://www.miltonps.org/application/files/3615/1866/2077/Second_Quarter_Report_2.pdf

Dr. Craghead moved to approve the Second Quarter Report as presented.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Three: Approval of Vendor Warrants.

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #30 dated 1/25/18 in the amount of \$591,215.46.

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Warrant #32, dated 2/8/18 in the amount of \$307,162.71

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-1 (Ms. White abstained)

Policy Subcommittee Report

Topic One: Second Reading, Policy BEDG, Minutes. (Attachment) Ms. Eberhardt noted the first line, second paragraph, last word should say "manner," not "matter." She moved to approve the policy as edited.

Move: Ms. Eberhardt

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 6-0-0

Transportation and Traffic Safety Subcommittee

Ms. Varela noted, at the last meeting in January, Ms. McDavitt came to present a parking expansion plan at Glover. There are problems with pick-up and drop-off, which creates safety problem. An interim solution has been to stagger dismissal times. Car line first, bus students second, walkers. The proposals have been to give four options to alleviate congestion. There is an inadequate amount of parking for staff and visitors. Rep. Driscoll was at the meeting. Ms. Dunphy from the Tucker was present at the subcommittee meeting to talk about the issues on Oak and Blue Hill Avenue. She said it is dangerous for crossing, and would like flashing lights or a traffic light. She would like no parking on Oak Street. However, Mass DOT or DCR controls some of those roads. This has been presented to Mass DOT, but also needs to be brought up to townwide traffic commission. The good news is that our request for more crossing guards has been granted. Two additional guards have been hired. At Glover, crossing Brook Road at Canton Avenue, even with the re-design, is still difficult. There was neighborhood opposition to a stop sign. Ms. Varela said she was very grateful that Rep. Driscoll was at the meeting. Dr. Donahue asked if lighting was being considered.

Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Eberhardt said the advisory committee met on Jan. 26th. There was an update from Ms. Stillman on the grant. There are two components, one for MPD for post-overdose response team. Another for the schools to work on Transitions. There is a group to help establish this program. The numbers are about 49 students would be helped, this year, with this type of program. Adjustment counselors, guidance counselors, etc. are making a plan on how to implement this type of program. This grant allows the district to plan. Ms. Eberhardt said they got an update from the town. They have hired a part-time nurse (16 hours/week). Also, created "Healthy Milton," which advocates healthy lifestyle.

Facilities Advisory Report

Regarding a future space/facilities issue, the Facilities Advisory committee came up with a list of potential solutions, which they presented to finance subcommittee. Dr. Donahue suggested a formal discussion on this topic. They will plan next steps and present a timeline at the next School Committee meeting on 2/28. Also, this group has been working with Sustainable Milton to find a spot for a filling station at MHS.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Discussion of facilities and space. Invite the scholar/athletes from Patriot Ledger to come to meeting. Ms. Eberhardt noted she would be late at the next few meetings. Ms. Varela asked about upcoming dates for election and re-org. Ms. Varela is not going to be at April 11th meeting.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of MEA Unit A Grievance 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 February 28th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.