

Minutes of the School Committee
Open Public Budget Forum
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: March 21, 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.

Dr. Donahue called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. There were no members of the public who wished to speak at this forum. Dr. Donahue moved to adjourn this portion of the meeting.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

The public budget forum was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Call to Order

The Chair called the March 21, 2018 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after removing 4b, the Transportation Advisory Report; and adding Chair B, School Committee meeting paperwork. Ms. Varela asked if the public presentations on school space needs could be discussed. Dr. Donahue agreed.

Citizens Speak: None.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Pierce Middle School Grade 8 Washington Field Trip Approval (Attachment) (Vote)
Assistant Superintendent Janet Sheehan. Dr. Donahue moved approval.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley said Passport to the Arts; musical concerts and science fairs are occurring at each of the schools. In the Parent Series, on Wed, March 28th, Dr. Celine Coggins will speak about standardized testing. Ms. Varela asked if there would be automated calls on this topic and was told this would occur.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review (Attachment) Ms. Gormley reviewed her goals. Dr. Donahue explained that there have been some changes and edits to the one-year and multi-year goals. He explained that the School Committee will not be evaluating the Superintendent on the multi-year goals, but that it is important that they be reviewed.

District Improvement Goal #1 (Social Emotional Goal) read, "SEL is the process through which children and adults develop the skills needed to effectively manage themselves and their relationships with others. Through a Whole Child, Whole School approach, we will create school environments and classroom practices whereby children, parents and faculty appreciate and apply the concepts consistent with enhancing the emotional intelligence and social competencies of students. Help facilitate the development and implementation of a MPS SEL Action Plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

Dr. Craghead asked for a clarification on the implementation. Ms. Gormley said that in June, the action plan will be ready and she will edit this goal to reflect the implementation.

District Improvement Goal #2 (Increase in Staff of Color - Revised) read, "Develop additional strategies for recruitment and retention of new and veteran teachers of color to increase the population of teachers of color in the long-term. Ensure that 17% of all new teacher openings are filled by well-qualified candidates of color by the commencement of the 2017-18 school year.

Ms. Gormley said that Ms. Sheehan has worked on this goal and noted that this goal has been achieved. Ms. Sheehan noted the partnership with UMass/Boston and the Minority Recruitment Fair were factors in achieving this goal. Dr. Craghead asked for a ballpark percentage of teachers of color and was told 9%. She inquired how many teachers might need to achieve 10% and was told approximately three. Ms. Gormley and Ms. Sheehan discussed the new teacher mentoring program. There was more discussion among School Committee members about this goal.

District Improvement Goal #3, Athletic Participation, read "Increase the athletic participation of students of color by 5%. Complete by June 30, 2017. The revised date is June 30, 2018. Dr. Donahue explained that the data collection has been changed to how many students play on the team, not how many register. Ms. Gormley credited Cat DesRoche and Winston Daly of Citizens for Diverse Milton for their help with this goal.

District Improvement Goal #4 Digital Technology. (Revised) To read “Develop, fund and execute a long term Technology Professional Development Plan. The plan will provide teachers with the knowledge needed to redesign lessons in innovative ways. This plan will enhance and improve academic achievement for Grades K-12. Implementation will occur in the 2018-19 school year.

Ms. Gormley credited Mr. Melanson for his work on this goal. Dr. Craghead asked about the enhance and improve language. She wanted to know if improved MCAS scores, for example, could be attributed to technology improvements. Ms. Gormley said she would work on a revision. Ms. Eberhardt suggested changing and /or expanding the goal. She said this only addresses Professional Development. But, she said, we are implementing an entire technology plan, as well as a BYOD plan. This only addresses the teacher piece. Ms. Gormley said she will work with Mr. Melanson on this goal. Ms. Rosmarin suggested language similar to the SEL goal.

District Improvement Goal #5 Differentiated Instruction. "Develop and utilize differentiated instruction practices, such as extension projects, differentiated literature in the same classroom, online coursework, Honors/AP blended courses to further challenge students in the MHS Honors and College Prep levels by 2018. Ms. Gormley noted that this could be turned into a SMART goal and could be linked to evaluations. Ms. Varela said the biggest issue is that at middle and high school levels, there are fewer leveled courses. At the high school level specifically, she would like to see a College Prep, Honors I and Honors II levels. This is an area of concern. Ms. Eberhardt said she hopes that technology could provide more opportunities for differentiated learning. Ms. Gormley said she will work on this goal to make it more measurable. Ms. Gormley talked about the Calculus Project and the Bridge Program, which identifies students who need support and provides that support.

District Improvement Goal #6. (High Quality Professional Development) This reads: “Ensure that all staff has the opportunity to engage in high quality professional development in the following areas by June 2018. Cultural Competency, Subject vs. Level Specific, Vertical Intra-Discipline Integration, Inclusion Policies and Best Practices, Measuring and Monitoring Outcomes and Competency, Technology Integration, Differentiated Instruction, and Personalized Learning. Ms. Gormley and Ms. Sheehan talked about implementation of this goal, and noted that licensed paraprofessionals may also participate. School Committee members discussed this goal. Ms. Eberhardt said that allowing teachers to visit other classrooms, or even other districts to observe teaching techniques could be helpful. Ms. Gormley agreed that this type of observation, especially in-house or in-district, should be encouraged.

Student Learning Goal #7: Narrow Proficiency Gaps. This reads, Narrow academic proficiency gaps for subgroups by 25% by June 30, 2017, as measured against the Spring 2016 MCAS/PARCC Results presented at the 10/5/16 School Committee Meeting and the Spring 2016 MCAS/PARCC Cohort Analysis presented at the 10/26/16 School Committee meeting. Ms. Gormley noted that there is a conference in Taunton to discuss the new formulas in assessment data. There will be new baselines and districts need to wait for DESE to release these. For right now, it is difficult to assess this goal in the middle of the baseline changes. Dr. Donahue agreed that we cannot compare these two tests at this time.

Student Learning Goal #8 Increase College Matriculation Rates of Subgroups. This reads, Increase college matriculation rates of subgroups (including African American/Black and students with IEPs) so that the percent of subgroups matriculating in college mirrors their share of the high school population by June 2018. Ms. Gormley noted that this goal was first proposed by Dr. Craghead.

Goal #9 Transition to TeacherPlus Grade Book and Standards-Based Report Cards. In March of 2017, all MHS teachers transitioned from Grade Quick to the Rediker Gradebook. In November 2017, MHS went live with their Gradebooks. This allows families and students to view their grades through the Plus Portals at any point. In August of 2017, all PMS teachers transitioned from Grade Quick to the Reiker Gradebook. And in January 2018, Pierce went live with their Gradebooks. In Winter 2017, all elementary teachers transitioned from a traditional report card to a standards-based report card. All elementary schools currently used Report Card Maker for their Standards Based Report Cards.

Goal #10 Administrators Plus Parent Portal. Provide teachers with more effective means of communicating with parents/families through Administrators Plus Parent Portal. Complete by May 31, 2018.

Ms. Gormley credited Mr. Melanson and Mr. Kelly who worked on this goal.

After the presentation, Dr. Donahue said the plan is that at the next meeting, the School Committee will have re-revised goals for #1-4 and #7 and they will vote those re-revised goals. In the meantime, he asked members to look at the supporting evidence from the Superintendent.

Ms. Eberhardt said, in addition to these goals, all the work that's going into achieving these goals is incredible. Being on subcommittees and advisory committees, she said she can see that these goals are just one small part of the work that is getting done. Ms. Varela echoed this sentiment.

* Dr. Donahue noted that he would like to reduce the amount of paper being used at meetings. Less paperwork is good. He suggested that Charlene email the packets to members who choose this option. Ms. Varela said the green folders don't really need to be printed.

Finance Subcommittee:

Dr. Craghead said the last meeting was spent discussion the Transitions Program, an emerging need at the high school. If we are looking at this from a financial angle, we can justify it, since we are spending approx \$4 million on out-of-district placements. This is an important topic.

Dr. Craghead moved to approve Vendor Warrant #38 dated 3/21/18 in the amount of \$482,211.22

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Dr. Donahue

Vote: 5-0-1 (White abstained)

Also, Ms. Varela asked for presentations of the budget. Even though it is not an override year, we should do budget presentations at each of the schools. She thinks it is important to discuss the budget and talk about emerging needs and enrollment trends. Get the stats and the metrics. Whatever happens with respect to the facilities, parents need to be engaged.

Ms. Eberhardt said this might be hard to schedule. Members agreed this should be done by the end of the school year.

Policy Subcommittee

Topic One: Second reading of Policy JICH. Ms. Eberhardt said the committee originally voted on this in August. They have added verbiage about a new screening law, the op-out. The edits were in red, but no longer are. She entertained a motion to approve Policy JICH as amended.

Move: Ms. Eberhardt

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

*Ms. Eberhardt noted that she will be revising the field trip policy to add #s.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Donahue moved approval of the minutes of February 7th, 2018.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Eberhardt

Vote: 6-0-0

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Members asked to hear from the PTO leadership. They would also like to schedule a speaker to discuss the BRYTE program. Ms. Varela asked to give a transportation update on the 18th.

Dr. Donahue moved to adjourn to Executive Session to approve Executive Session minutes 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