

Minutes of the School Committee  
School Choice Open Public Hearing  
Milton High School Cable Access Studio  
Date: May 16, 2018

**Committee Present:** Dr. Kevin Donahue, Chair; Sheila Varela, Vice Chair, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead, and Betty White. Not Present: Ada Rosmarin

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources. Not Present: Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the School Choice Open Public Hearing of the School Committee to order at 7:02pm.

Topic One: School Choice Presentation. Ms. Gormley gave a presentation on the topic of Inter District School Choice. She noted that Milton has historically voted against opting into this program, and it is typically done more in the western part of the state. She recommended against it. Dr. Donahue said the issue will be discussed during the regular School Committee meeting.

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. White

**Vote:** 5-0-0

The School Choice Open Public Hearing adjourned at 7:10

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Regular Meeting  
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**Committee Present:** Dr. Kevin Donahue, Chair; Sheila Varela, Vice Chair, Margaret Eberhardt, Dr. Elaine Craghead, and Betty White.

**Staff Present:** Mary Gormley, Superintendent of Schools; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources. Not Present: Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the May 16th, 2018 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:11pm.

**Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda after removing Item 4b (Five Year Curriculum Purchases); adding Item 5c (Summer Retreat) and Item 5d (Wilson Kindelan Update); and removing Item 7b (Second Reading, Policy GCF, Professional Staff Hiring); and also removing Item 8 (Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.)

**Citizens Speak:** None.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Topic One: Head Nurse Margaret Gibbons gave a presentation on SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment.) She discussed how SBIRT works, with private screenings done with students in Grades 7 and 9. Both parents and students have the ability to have the student opt out. Students who may be at risk are offered referral services.

At the end of the discussion, Ms. Gormley asked Nurse Gibbons to explain the recent Growth and Development talks at the fifth-grade levels. This year, for the first time, the talks were presented to boys and girls simultaneously. Last week, the Growth & Development Talk was presented at Glover, and the rest of the schools are upcoming. Nurse Gibbons said the presentation went very well.

Topic Two: 2018-19 Revised School Year Calendar (Attachment) (Vote) Ms. Gormley noted that one date needed to be changed due to MCAS. Dr. Donahue moved approval of the revised calendar. March 27 will be changed to March 20th.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. White

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Happenings: Ms. Gormley noted that this year's Teacher of the Year "surprise announcements" happened today. Members of the MFE visited classrooms to surprise this year's winning teachers. Congratulations to Jen Troy (MHS), Ramsay Cadet (Tucker), Liz Cardiasmenos (Glover), Amy Harkins (Cunningham), Sam Bullard (Collicot), Jen Rhodes (Pierce) and Jon Redden (Dr. Mary Grassa O'Neill Leadership Award). She invited the public to join the MFE next Wednesday, May 23rd at MHS (6pm reception, 6:30 program begins) to honor the winners.

Ms. Gormley also noted that MHS teacher Jessica Jarboe is a finalist for the 2018 STEM Teacher of the Year. Also, Kara Yifruue, MHS math teacher, is a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Ms. Gormley also updated the School Committee members and the public on the upcoming events in the Milton Public Schools.

## **Chair's Report**

Topic One: School Choice (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Donahue referenced Ms. Gormley's prior discussion of the School Choice program. He recommended that Milton Public Schools continue to opt out of the program.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Topic Two: June Presentation Dates (Attachment) After Dr. Donahue reviewed the many events in the month of June, Ms. Varela said it's important to meet to discuss space needs in the next few weeks. Dr. Donahue suggested the upcoming PTO leadership meeting would be a good venue. Ms. Varela said she would prefer that members of the public were also present. Ms. Gormley said she would like for Ada Rosmarin to present Strategic Plan at the same meeting. Discussion ensued about the format for this meeting. It was agreed to present these topics at the next PTO leadership meeting.

Topic Three: Summer Retreat. Dr. Donahue opened a discussion about this summer's School Committee Retreat. Ms. Varela would like to meet in June, before summer vacations begin. Dr. Donahue asked members to think about goal-setting and start thinking about a facilitator, etc. Ms. Varela suggested holding the retreat on a Saturday morning or afternoon and suggested 6/16 or 6/23. Discussion ensued about various conflicts. June 16 was a possible option.

Topic Four: Wilson Kindelan Update: Dr. Donahue said there has been no progress. At this point, he said it's becoming difficult to envision how the School Committee will move through the application process before September. He proposed crafting a letter explaining this to them. Ms. Varela asked, are they still planning to open in September? What happens if they do? Ms. Gormley said DESE regulations require the School Committee to approve the curriculum. At this point, we have no curriculum to approve. Ms. Gormley said she would investigate the consequences of what would happen should the new school open without School Committee approval.

## **Finance Subcommittee**

Topic One: Third Quarter Report (Attachment) (Vote) Dr. Craghead said she would move to approve the report.

**Move:** Dr. Craghead

**Second:** Ms. White

**Vote:** 5-0-0

## **Policy Subcommittee Report (Attachments)**

Second Reading, Policy GB, Equal Employment Opportunity. Ms. Eberhardt moved to approve the policy.

**Move:** Ms. Eberhardt

**Second:** Dr. Donahue

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Second Reading, Policy IJNDC, Empowered Digital Use Policy. Ms. Eberhardt said this is a new policy, which has been written as the district plans to roll out Bring Your Own Device. Ms. Eberhardt moved to approve.

**Move:** Ms. Eberhardt

**Second:** Dr. Craghead

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Second Reading, Policy IJND, Access to Digital Resources. Ms. Eberhardt said this is important policy that parents should be aware of. It discusses the rights of students and staff regarding digital usage. Details will also be in the student handbook. Mr. Melanson will be addressing this policy at an info meeting in the fall. Ms. Eberhardt entertained a motion to approve.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 5-0-0

## **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Donahue made an omnibus motion to approve both sets of minutes. He moved to approve the minutes of April 4th, 2018 and May 2nd, 2018.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

Edits: none

**Vote:** 5-0-0

## **Old Business**

Dr. Donahue thanked Town Meeting members for approving the school budget for next year. He also thanked Ms. Gormley for her hard work, as well as the finance subcommittee. He said the way things went at Town Meeting was a direct result of all the hard work.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Five year curriculum, class rank, scheduled subcommittees and advisories, including Transportation, the Pierce Players, Health and Wellness, Policy. Dr. Donahue said he was thinking about reserving time at the start of upcoming meetings to have public hearings on the space issues. School Committee members agreed. Dr. Donahue said the next agenda, on June 6, is heavy, so perhaps they should start the week after that.

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm