

Minutes of the School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Milton High School Cable Access Studio  
Date: June 6, 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; Janet Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources. Not present: Dr. Glenn Pavlicek.

### **Call to Order**

The Chair called the June 6, 2018 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:06pm

### **Approve Agenda**

The committee approved the agenda with no changes.

**Citizens Speak:** Theresa Cook, mother of a Glover K student, came to speak about the impact of Smartphone technology on our children. She discussed the "Wait 'till 8th" pledge, which would encourage parents to delay the purchase of a smartphone for their children until they reach 8th grade. She said this group is trying to raise awareness about the pledge and wants to create a sense of community and solidarity. She asked for MPS to support and promote the campaign.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Guests of the Superintendent: Students from Pierce came to present a scene from "Singin' in the Rain." School Committee members congratulated the students for their hard work.

Topic One: Introduction of the Pierce Middle School Assistant Principal Kyle Alves. Dr. Karen Spaulding introduced the new Assistant Principal, who has recently been hired. Mr. Alves said he is excited to begin his new position.

Topic Two: Elimination of Class Rank (Attachment) (Vote) MHS Principal James Jette, along with Guidance Director Karen Cahill, gave a presentation on class rank. Many of Milton's comparable communities have already eliminated class rank. Mr. Jette showed a list of local private schools who do not provide class rank. Ms. White asked if students would still speak at graduation and was told, yes, they would. Dr. Craghead asked if there would no longer be a valedictorian and a salutatorian and was told, there would be no class rank. Ms. Rosmarin said that this is a great sign of progress that we are no longer assigning numbers to students. Our students should be proud to attend Milton High School. Ms. Varela suggested a speechwriting competition to choose the graduation speaker. Dr. Donahue commended Mr. Jette and Ms. Cahill for their presentation and their research on this topic. Ms. Varela asked, how can we have a valedictorian and a salutatorian speech at graduation if we are no longer ranking? Mr. Jette said his proposal is to eliminate class rank. Dr. Donahue moved to approve the plan to eliminate class rank.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue  
**Second:** Ms. White  
**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Three: 2018-19 Revised School Year Calendar (Attachment) Ms. Gormley said there is one last change, from a conference date to professional development day. Dr. Donahue moved to approve the changes.

Ms. Eberhardt asked, can we talk in the future about the timing around the release of report cards when they are released on Friday before a vacation week. This leaves parent with questions that cannot be answered during the break. Ms. Gormley and Dr. Donahue agreed that this should be discussed.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue  
**Second:** Ms. Varela  
**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Four: Five Year Curriculum Purchases (Attachment). Ms. Gormley noted that when making large purchase, it's usually one grade at a time. She recognized Assistant Superintendent Janet Sheehan, who put together a team to work on the long-term curriculum planning.

Happenings: Ms. Gormley said that the "Wait Till 8th" campaign is being introduced by AJ Melanson in tomorrow's blast. Today, Tucker had Career Day. Tonight's Retiree Reception was very moving. Next week is the Volunteer Reception. Great East Music Competition went very well. Also, Pierce students received medals at the State Science Fair. Singing in the Rain will be performed at Pierce this weekend.

### **Chairman's Report**

Topic One: Milton Public Schools' Strategic Plan (Attachment) (Vote). Dr. Donahue said the committee has already read the initial draft. Ms Rosmarin noted that there are three documents in the packet, and reviewed the edits suggested by her fellow School Committee members. She said there was discussion about how this would interplay with the retreat. Dr. Donahue moved approval of the plan

**Move:** Dr. Donahue  
**Second:** Dr. Craghead  
**Vote:** 6-0-0

Topic Two: 2018-19 Subcommittee/Advisory Committee Request Reminder (Attachment) Dr. Donahue thanked members who submitted requests. He would like to vote on this for next week and asked members to submit any changes ASAP.

Topic Three: School Committee Summer Retreat/Meeting Dates (Attachment)

In the next two months, Dr. Donahue said the School Committee will need at least three regular meetings, as well as the retreat. Goal is at the June 13 meeting, they will all be scheduled. Ms. Varela asked, for retreat dates, should we email our restricted dates or our available dates? Dr. Donahue asked for blackout dates.

### **Finance Subcommittee:**

There have been two meetings since the last School Committee meeting. Discussion of the new Community Schools Director, Martha Sandoval, who has already met with Ms. Dorsey. Also, there was discussion that there will be a school-based Medicaid payment from Mass Health, which is in addition to IEPs. This means more money coming in. Also, there has been some misinterpretation of job duties of one of our employees in Central Office. It was discussed in finance, and in order to clear up any confusion, change job title to "Human Resource Specialist" to "Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources AND Human Resource Specialist."

Approval of Vendor Warrants (Attachment) (Vote) -- Dr. Craghead moved to delay the vote to next week.

### **Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Report**

Ms. Eberhardt reported that last week, members went to a conference with Jackie Morgan with other Food Service Directors. Other topics discussed were the creation of a Teen Center committee. Teens would like a place to gather where they do not have to be invited. Also, had a tick presentation. Ms. White said the Interface Referral Service is being well-used.

### **Policy Subcommittee Report**

First Reading Policy EFD, Meal Charge Policy. Ms. Eberhardt discussed the changes to the policy, changing of working about refunds. It is requirement that this policy be communicated to all staff and families. Dr. Craghead is happy that this will be in the handbook.

### **Transportation and Traffic Advisory Committee**

Ms. Varela said this committee met in May and discussed funding for yellow signs. It has been approved for Route 138. Two liaisons came from Mass DOT to the meetings. Rep. Driscoll's office has also been helpful. The committee is waiting for the One Way signage on Oak Street. Walk to School Day was successful at all four schools.

### **Approval of Minutes**

April 25, 2018 Regular Meeting & Reorg Meeting.

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

Edits: Ms. Eberhardt asked that she be removed from the "committee present" as she was unable to attend this meeting.

**Vote:** 6-0-0

May 16, 2018 School Choice Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

**Move:** Dr. Donahue

**Second:** Ms. Varela

**Vote:** 5-0-1 (Rosmarin abstained)

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Dr. Donahue will add a "hearing" on space issues at 7pm. Members and the public will be permitted to engage in dialogue. The plan is to offer up to 3 minutes for opening remarks, up to 7 minutes for back-and-forth. Tentatively scheduling 40-50 minutes. Depending on the success of that, we could continue to hold them in the summer months. Ms. Varela said she would like to be sure this is communicated to families. The subject of the hearings is enrollment and space issues.

Ms. Varela asked, about the Wilson-Kindelan School, when will the next update be? Next week.

Ms. Eberhardt reminded people that the presentation on enrollment numbers is on the website. The NESDEC presentation.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiation Strategy for Non-Union and Union Personnel and Approval of 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

The Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for June 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm