

Minutes of the School Committee
Regular Meeting
Milton High School Cable Access Studio
Date: June 13, 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 June 13, 2018 meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:10pm.

Approve Agenda

The committee approved the agenda after editing Item 5c to read "Wilson-Kindelan Curriculum Update" and to remove 15c from Executive Session "Approval of Minutes."

Milton School Committee Public Forum

No citizens came to attend this meeting to discuss space and/or enrollment. Dr. Donahue said he would like to put this item on the agenda for next week.

Citizens Speak: None.

Dr. Donahue moved the Superintendent's Report lower down in the agenda to allow extra time for invited guests to arrive.

Chairman's Report

Topic One: Finalize 2018-19 Subcommittees and Advisory Committees (Attachment) (Vote)
Ms. Varela said she would like to define who would chair each of these committees. She would like to be on the Planning/Space Committee that the Board of Selectmen would like to have. "Space Needs/Advisory." She asked, would this be different from our Facility Advisory Committee as it currently exists? Dr. Craghead would like to be removed from Town/School Consolidation Committee. Dr. Donahue would like to approve the list, as amended, with the exception of the Facilities Advisory Committee, which will be further edited later to avoid having four School Committee members on it. Ms. Rosmarin volunteered for the Security Advisory Committee.

Move: Dr. Donahue

Second: Ms. Varela

Vote: 6-0-0

Topic Two: Final 2018 Summer School Committee Meeting and Retreat Schedule. Dr. Donahue suggested Wed, July 11th as the next School Committee meeting. Looking to get facilitator for either 16, 17 or 18th. Retreat on this date. Ms. Varela asked about the retreat. Dr. Craghead requested a 3 or 4 hour meeting and during the day. 8-12, break for lunch, then 1pm to the finish. Members discussed their schedules. In August, there is a tentative date for 8/15.

Superintendent's Report

Topic One: Introduction of "Wait Until 8th," campaign. Educational Technology Director AJ Melanson gave a presentation on this initiative and the MPS Campaign for Wait Until 8 Pledge. This will empower families to help delay giving a child a Smartphone until 8th Grade. This will decrease the pressure by the students. In order to activate the campaign, there must be 10 families per grade per school. Everyone who takes the pledge gets the email addresses of the other families. He would like to discuss this at Technology Nights next fall. Ms. White said this topic has been discussed at her school and applauded the effort. Ms. Rosmarin asked if flip phones cost less per month. Mr. Melanson said the flip phones are usually free, and don't need a data plan. Dr. Craghead applauded this effort, and said the longer we keep this type of technology out of students' hands, the better. Ms. Varela asked, is this 24/7 or just in school? It's 24/7. She also asked, what are the metrics, how successful has this been? Mr. Melanson said it's been very hard to persuade parents to take them away from students who already have them. The 6th, 7th graders are going to be the hardest demographic. Dr. Donahue said he has a third-grader and is very happy with this initiative. This is a great opportunity to talk about social norms and what we want in our community. Ms. Gormley said this will be rolled out through Principals Newsletters. She said they could discuss the effects of social media and young people for hours and days.

Topic Two: Introduction of Community Schools Director Martha Sandoval. Ms. Gormley said we are wishing well to Pam Dorsey, who will be retiring. A search committee was formed to help with the hiring process. Ms. Sandoval said she is very excited to begin this position and has met with Ms. Dorsey and the staff of Community Schools.

Topic Three: Wilson-Kindelan Curriculum (Attachment). Ms. Gormley said that the School Committee was given the curriculum last year. School Committee must approve the curriculum. Three weeks ago, materials were dropped off at the Superintendent's Office. An elementary principal and curriculum coordinator reviewed the materials under the guidelines of the DOE. We have some questions. Ms. Eberhardt will represent the School Committee, and will meet with members of the Wilson-Kindelan team when an appointment is set up. Dr. Donahue commended the administration for being able to review the materials, thanking Holly Concannon and Cat Desroche, who reviewed them.

Happenings: Tonight's Volunteer Reception was a success. June 22nd is the last day of school for students. At June 18th, Instrumental Lesson Information Night. Milton Summer Enrichment begins on June 25th. Welcome to Middle School Camp is held twice this summer. The successful Glover Duck Walk took place. The Boomwriter book was recently published.

Finance Subcommittee:

Dr. Craghead made an omnibus motion to approve two vendor warrants together.

Topic One: Approval of Vendor Warrants. Dr. Craghead moved approval of Warrant #46 dated May 17, 2018 in the amount of \$640,638.19 and approval of Warrant #48 dated May 31 in the amount of \$528,856.11

Move: Dr. Craghead

Second: Ms. Varela

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

Policy Subcommittee

Topic One: Policy EFD, Meal Charge Policy. Ms. Eberhardt said this policy details about how to pay, what to do about a negative balance, issues with free and reduced lunch, etc. Moved to approve.

Move: Ms. Eberhardt

Second: Dr. Craghead

Vote: 6-0-0

Dr. Pavlicek said there are people who owe money for lunch. The general fund must pay for this. We should remind people they have an obligation to pay for this.

Facilities Advisory Committee

Members discussed the space issue in the district, particularly at the elementary level. One of the community members, Mr. Cicello, suggested putting out an RFP to architectural firms to look at current space that's not being used as classroom space. We may have to convert libraries, etc. in to classroom space. We might need a professional's opinion on how much it would cost and how many classrooms this might yield. Ms. Varela asked, regarding RFPs, how do they get sent out? What's the time frame? Dr. Pavlicek explained that there is a state website, you leave it up for 3 weeks.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Regarding the Wilson Kindelan School, there will be another forum, perhaps a different time. The School Committee should block off 2 spots.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Discussion of Strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining 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 July.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.