

**Millbury School Committee**

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TOWN CLERK

**Date:** May 10, 2017

**Meeting  
REGULAR SESSION  
Minutes**

2018 NOV -1 AM 9:28  
MILLBURY, MASS.

**Present:** Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson  
Mrs. Teixeira, Mrs. Vigneau and Mr. Wilbur  
Mr. Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Bedard, Business Manager  
Mrs. Bellville, Director of Curriculum,  
Ms. Kate Ryan, Office of Pupil Services

**Absent:** Mr. Kevin Plante, Vice Chairperson

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** High School Media Center

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**School Choice Forum**

Mrs. Nietupski stated that each School Committee across Massachusetts is required to vote by June 1<sup>st</sup> regarding School Choice. She stated that last year the Committee decided to make School Choice one of their goals, reviewing research regarding class size and the experiences of nearby School Choice Districts. Mrs. Nietupski stated that through the research they learned how important it is to keep class sizes in kindergarten through grade 3 as small as possible. Mrs. Nietupski invited community members to the podium to voice their opinions regarding School Choice.

Mr. Ronald Jendrysik, 15 Woodridge Road, read a letter to the School Committee from Melissa Shaw, 6 Cyndy Lane, urging the School Committee to vote against School Choice. Mr. Jendrysik asked what the District would receive if they voted to become a School Choice District. It was stated that the District would receive approximately \$5,000 per school choice student each year. Mr. Wilbur stated that once a student is accepted as a school choice student, that student may continue in the Millbury Public Schools until graduation.

Mr. Terry Bernard, 6 Birchwood Drive, asked how many students Millbury was losing to other districts. It was stated that 24 students opt out of the district for various reasons. Mr. Bernard stated that financially perhaps School Choice could be a way to help offset some of the costs associated with the new school and fields.

Mr. Dennis Leonard, 36 Woodland Street, urged the School Committee to vote against School Choice.

Mrs. Miriam Friedman, Principal at the Shaw Elementary School, stated that Shaw is at capacity this year and the class sizes for next year look slightly larger. She also stated that the enrollment numbers for kindergarten and grade 1 this year are lower, so Shaw could be smaller in the future. However, this does not take in account the new housing projects which could make class sizes larger.

Mrs. Ann Thompson, Assistant Principal, of the Junior High School stated that certain grades could accommodate school choice students in the Junior/Senior High School, but next year's enrollment will increase, thereby limiting the number of available seats for School Choice.

### **1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of April 26, 2017.**

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of April 26, 2017. Mr. Wilbur noted that Mrs. Vigneau was incorrectly missing from the list of present members from the April 26, 2017 minutes. Mrs. Nietupski noted that the Executive Session should state SEIU, not MTA. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the minutes of April 12, 2017 as corrected. Seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0).

### **2. Report of the Administration**

#### **a. Destination Imagination Presentation**

Members of the "Don't Just Do It, DI It" described their experience at the Regional and State DI Tournaments in the Fine Arts challenge, *Vanished*.

#### **b. Proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Washington D.C.**

Mrs. Chloe Przygoda and Ms. Christina Smarra provided the Committee an overview of a proposed 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip next year to Washington, D.C. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to grant initial approval for the Washington, D.C Trip. Seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0). (Policy JJH).

#### **c. Staff Hiring Update**

Mr. Myers stated that the High School has eight new positions, Shaw has five, and Elmwood has six new positions that need to be hired. He stated that the vacancies are more than half filled.

#### **d. SWCEC Third Quarter Report**

Mr. Myers shared the SWCEC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report and stated that the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative is in good shape both programmatic and financial.

#### **e. Blackstone Valley Tech Applications Update**

Mr. Myers updated the Committee on the applications and acceptances at Blackstone Valley Tech for the 2017-2018 school year.

### **3. Budget**

#### **a. July School Committee Meeting**

Pursuant to Policy DBJ – Mr. Bedard will ask the School Committee to consider transferring requests in anticipation of the closing of the FY 2017 school budget at its meeting at Central Office at 5:00pm on July 10, 2017.

#### **b. Disposal and Sale of Surplus Wombat Chair**

Mr. Bedard stated that a wombat chair, was used by a student in the Imagine Program, is no longer needed. Ms. Ryan has been in contact with Hopedale Public Schools which is interested in purchasing the chair. Mrs. Teixeira made a motion to declare the wombat chair surplus property and allow the Business Office to sell the chair to Hopedale Public Schools for \$500.00. Mrs. Vigneau Seconded the motion. All approve (4-0).

#### **c. Acceptance of Donation from an Anonymous Donor**

Mr. Bedard stated that the Elmwood Street School has received a second donation from an anonymous donor. This donation of \$15,000.00 is to be split evenly between the art, music, and library programs.

Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the \$15,000.00 donation to the Elmwood Street School. Seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All approved (4-0).

**Additional Item:**

Mr. Bedard stated as a result of changes in the Affordable Care Act, the District's Medicaid funding maybe in jeopardy. The Town receives \$145,000, with \$100,000 going to the school department.

**4. Old Business**

**a. Shaw Building Project Update**

Mr. Myers stated that at the Town Annual Meeting a debt excursion was approved to pursue a Feasibility Study for the R.E. Shaw School. Mr. Myers stated that the first meeting of the Shaw Building Committee will be on Thursday, May 11, 2017 in the high school media center at 7:00pm and this is an open meeting.

**b. Human Resources Position Update**

Mr. Myers stated that they are still in the process of interviewing candidates.

**c. Policy Subcommittee Update**

Mrs. Teixeira confirmed that each member of the School Committee had read the new and revised policies, which would be considered the first reading. There were no comments, concerns or questions regarding the policies during the meeting, which is considered the second reading. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to rescind all prior versions of the School Committee policies and accept the newly revised policy manual as presented with the effective date of May 11, 2017. Mrs. Vigneau Seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0).

**5. New Business**

**6. Executive Session**

*The second reason, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), 3, to discuss strategy options in anticipation of upcoming collective bargaining with the SEIU.*

*Mrs. Nietupski took a roll call*

*Mrs. Teixeira - Yes*

*Mrs. Vigneau - Yes*

*Mrs. Nietupski - Yes*

*Mr. Wilbur - Yes*

**Next Meeting:**

May 24, 2017 Regular Session Millbury High School Media Center 7:00pm

**7. Adjourn**

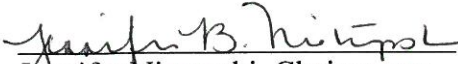
Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Freitas*

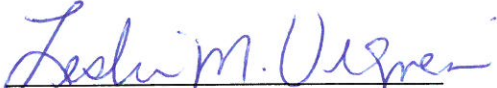
Donna Freitas


Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:

  
Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson

Kevin Plante, Vice Chairperson

  
Leslie Vigneau

  
Susan Teixeira

  
Christopher Wilbur

Items in Packet:

Regular Minutes from April 26, 2017  
Superintendents Comments  
Letter from Attorney Peter Keenan  
Memo Disposal and Sale of Surplus Chair  
SWCEC Third Quarter Report

Handouts

Washington D.C. Information  
Fundraising Information for DI