

Millbury School Committee Minutes

Date: January 14, 2009

Present: Ms. Brady-Pojani, Chairperson, Mr. Thomas Clawson, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Mr. Borowski, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent

Absent: Leslie Vigneau

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Millbury High School Media Center

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting. Mr. Corey wanted clarification regarding the busing contracts. If the buses were not garaged in Millbury was it 20 miles or minutes. Mr. Bedard stated that it was minutes not miles from Millbury. He also stated that it was in the contract that if the buses are not garaged in Millbury, the company would have to pay excise tax to the Town of Millbury. Mr. Borowski made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Corey. All approved (4-0).

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that sixteen Community Service Learning Grants had been awarded and five were not funded because they had did not address the mission of the CSL. The breakfast is scheduled for January 28th at 9:00AM. She also stated that more money would be awarded in the spring.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Pre-school and Kindergarten received their accreditation and that the requirements were extensive. She stated that Deb Clark did an incredible amount of work.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she had drafted an attendance letter to be sent to all parents. Student unexcused absences and family vacations during school have negative affects on academic achievement. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that court appearances and absences without a doctor's note are unexcused. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked to check the attendance data after the letter goes home to the parents.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that 8 students took the retest for MCAS ELA and that 8 students passed the retest. Two of the students passed at the maximum score possible. Mrs. Hitchcock also stated that 9 students took the retest for the Math and 8 students passed the retest. Five of the students passed at the maximum score possible. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that this is an indication that the efforts being taken are making a difference. Mr. Clawson asked how many times a high school student could take the test. Mrs. Hitchcock believed it was four times but would check to make sure.

Mrs. Hitchcock reported that four more students qualified for the John & Abigail Adams Scholarships. Mrs. Hitchcock also stated that Katie L'Esperance was the recipient of The Central MA Superintendents Academic Scholarship.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the teachers will continue to work on the Power Standards during the Professional Development Day on Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Junior High School students were doing research regarding a wind turbine and would develop a formal presentation for the School Committee.

FY 2010 Budget Presentation

Mrs. Hitchcock gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the FY 2010 Level Services Budget including an overview of the budget, addenda items, athletic budget and town warrant articles. Mrs. Hitchcock began the presentation of the budget with Programmatic Assumptions which determined the development of the budget. Mrs. Hitchcock then discussed funding sources and major differences from the FY 2009 Budget. In addition, it was discussed what would be needed in FY 2010 in order to continue current services necessitating a Classroom Imagine II Teacher and Nurse at Shaw School and ESL teacher. Mrs. Hitchcock discussed the importance of the ESL teacher as a result of the recent DESE visit. DESE stated it is a compliance issue and the district should expand the position from .6 FTE to 1.0 FTE. The first draft of the budget, found in the green sheets, has a school budget increase of 3.49% over FY 2009.

Mr. Bedard reported on the fixed costs of the budget and he gave a detailed account of how the District will be able to save money regarding these costs. Some of the cost savings measures have been implemented, while others have been planned for FY 2010.

School Committee members and the Finance Committee Chair asked questions about the budget.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Governors' Budget will be released on January 21, 2009. At that time, we will know more about local aid and Chapter 70 funding.

It was discussed that a Medicaid warrant article needs to be added to the capital warrant articles. The warrant article submission timeline was discussed.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that at the next School Committee Meeting the principals and the Athletic Director will be present to answer questions regarding the budget.

New Business

Nothing at this time.

Next Meeting January 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Approved:






