

Millbury School Committee Minutes

Date: December 10, 2008

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

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School Media Center

Mrs. Bolton began the tour of the Shaw Elementary by expressing her concern about the ventilation in the building. The doors to classrooms, which are automated, cannot be kept open using pegs according to the Fire Department and the building inspector. The hallway doors are very heavy and are difficult for Classroom Imagine students to open. She also stated that the reason there are no student papers decorating the hallways is due to not having sprinklers in the building and the papers would be a fire hazard.

Mrs. Bolton stated that grade 5 & 6 ELA teachers need new desks to accommodate the new English/Language Arts program. (Approximately 8 classrooms).

A discussion took place in the cafeteria regarding the lift needed for the stage. Also the ceiling in the cafeteria had begun leaking that day. Mrs. Bolton stated that there are several leaks in the grade 4 wing. Mrs. Bolton also stated that there was rust in every stall in the bathrooms.

A discussion took place regarding the improvements needed to be made in Classroom Imagine. There is one student at Shaw now and two more students will be attending in the fall, possibly three students.

Ms. Brady-Pojani began the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting. Mrs. Vigneau asked for clarification regarding busing students to Assumption School that we were only busing Millbury students. Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Corey seconded the motion. (5-0).

Student Advisory Council Report

AJ Blaisdell stated that they were working on getting more school districts involved. He estimated that 60% of schools were represented.

Overview of the Shaw Elementary School

Mrs. Bolton stated that new initiatives were taking place at Shaw such as the new reading program. She stated that time had been built into the schedule during the day for students needing extra help. She also stated that many classrooms were using Responsive Classroom and that a new grant funded program called PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) was in the planning stage for next year.

Mr. Corey asked if full inclusion was taking away from or slowing the learning process from other students and was this affecting the MCAS scores. Mrs. Bolton explained that all students are placed in flexible groupings. Some students are placed in small groups to reteach materials. Others students are pulled out for the Special Education Program and to receive enrichment classes. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the significance of Differential Instruction and for teachers to teach at three different levels is crucial. This will take a few years to accomplish. The Power Standards and being more focused will help.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the supplementary materials must be added to make the Everyday Math program work.

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Junior/Senior High School Holiday concert was standing room only. She stated that last year they were great but this year they were outstanding.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the amendment to the Athletic Handbook Policy will be implemented next year. Mrs. Swenson will bring the proposed amendment to the High School Council for discussion and then to the School Committee. The handbook will be printed in May or June for next year.

Budget

On January 12, 2009 the bids are due for School Bus Transportation. Eleven bids were sent to various companies. Mr. Bedard stated that he added safety requirements for the buses and the drivers. Mr. Corey asked about garaging of the buses and the revenues and excise taxes. Mr. Bedard stated that the buses must be within 20 minutes of the high school.

Old Business

The final date for Budget Hearing and School Committee Vote will be Wednesday February 25, 2009.

The minutes from the Windle Field Advisory Committee Meeting were discussed. An assessment of the wooden utility poles was conducted by an outside consulting firm. From that report it was determined that one pole was rejected and needs replacing immediately. Other poles will need to be inspected in 3 to 5 years. The skate park would cost approximately \$25,000, as per Matt Grigas.

In follow-up to the School Committee attending the Conservation Commission meeting, a discussion took place regarding the Conservation Commissioner's request to complete phase II of the drainage project. It was stated that this would be a warrant article.

Mrs. Vigneau reported that \$5,000 was awarded at the Community Service Learning Grant breakfast. She stated that some of the grants did not fit the service criteria. However, it was suggested that these grants be fine tuned and resubmitted as there is 3,000.00 remaining. Mrs. Paula Woelful and Mrs. Pam Graves are the coordinators of this program.

Mr. Borowski agreed to attend the School Committee Conference at the Cape next year.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Approved:






