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MILLBURY, MASS.

Millbury School Committee

Date: January 24, 2018

**Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

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

Absent: Mr. Kevin Plante, Vice Chairperson

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School Media Center

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:10pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of December 20, 2017 and January 10, 2018

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of December 20, 2017. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All approved (4-0). Mrs. Nietupski as for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of January 10, 2018. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0).

2. Review and Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2018

Mrs. Nietupski stated that any changes, additions or deletions to the Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2018 must be made in Executive Session. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the Executive Minutes of January 10, 2018, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0).

3. Report of the Administration

a. School Council Report

Mr. Myers introduced Jenna Nasuti and Elijah Friedman to report on the recent and upcoming events at the Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School.

b. MIAA Student Advisory Committee

Elijah Friedman stated that his dad and Mr. Mara approached him about the New England Student Leadership Conference. He participated in the four day overnight camp at Worcester State College and learned strategies on becoming a better leader. Elijah shared some of his experiences as Millbury's representative to the MIAA Student Advisory Committee.

4. Budget

a. Millbury Music Boosters

Mr. Bedard stated that he would like the School Committee to consider accepting a donation of \$14,000 towards new Marching Band uniforms from the Millbury Performing Arts Boosters. Mr. Ferreira gave a brief overview of the new uniforms. He stated that the current uniforms are quite old and we have not replaced them since perhaps 1991 or 1992 and are showing their age. Mrs. Vigneau

made a motion to accept the \$14,000 towards new band uniforms, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved. (4-0).

b. Millbury Machine League Donation

Mr. Bedard stated that the Millbury Machine League would like to donate \$1,674.95 towards the purchase of a softball fence. Ms. Assad stated that the Millbury Machine League has decided to disband and the board decided that the best use of the remaining funds was to continue to support girls' softball. Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to accept \$1,674.95 for a softball fence. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to accept the \$1,674.95 for a softball fence, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0).

c. FY2019 Proposed School Budget

Mrs. Nietupski stated that she would like further information regarding not hiring the Special Education teachers and how that would adversely affect our budget. Mr. Myers stated that he would also like to address the Preschool Teacher position.

Ms. Ryan stated that currently, the caseloads for Special Education staff at the Shaw School range between 12 and 15 students. At this time, there are 31 6th grade students, and it is anticipated that all will advance to 7th grade in the fall. The caseloads for the Jr. /Sr. High School range between 15 and 21 students. At this time, there are 18 grade twelve students. If we are unable to fund the additional special education teachers, the district will be faced with other challengers, including but not limited to:

- Increase in out of district placements
- Potential complaints filed with DESE, BSEA, and OCR
- Once an IEP is accepted, the district must provide all the services described in that plan immediately, unless the IEP states that some services are to commence at a later time.
- Compensatory services

The Shaw School will be losing 31 students, however, the Elmwood Street School will be sending comparable numbers to Shaw. Ms. Ryan stated there is one co-teaching team at each grade in the Shaw School.

Mrs. Nietupski asked if it has been considered at the high school to eliminate a general education teacher and replace that position with a special education teacher. Mr. Myers stated that the special education teacher position must be filled, therefore, if a teacher has a special education license he/she could be transferred into the special education position. However, if transferring a teacher is not an option than a position would have to be eliminated in order to hire a special education teacher. Mr. Wilbur asked if the special education population is going to continue to increase. Ms. Ryan stated that she believed Millbury will hit a plateau and the population would begin to decrease. Mr. Wilbur asked if the 28 out of district students would increase if we do not hire these new special education positions. Ms. Ryan stated that the out of district student totals will increase and therefore transportation will also increase. Special Education Teams consider out of district placement when all resources have been exhausted. Another factor that impacts our out of district budget is the "move-in-law," which applies to students in private special education placements who move from one Massachusetts town to another during the course of the year. The fiscal responsibility for these students remains with their prior district until the end of the fiscal year. In addition, if the move takes place between April 1st and June 30th, the fiscal responsibility remains with the prior district for not only the current year but the following fiscal year as well.

Mr. Bedard stated that he thought the "move-in-law" is outdated and should be changed as many districts do not have a chance to include the out of district tuition into their budget since budgets are

prepared a lot earlier in the year. He also stated that the average tuition costs for an out of district placement is \$70,162 which is higher than the previous year.

Mr. Myers stated that compared to our neighbors regarding out of district placements we are in the middle.

Ms. Ryan stated that at this time we do not have enough preschool applications to support hiring another preschool teacher. Mr. Myers stated that he agrees and cannot support a new preschool teacher at this time.

Mrs. Jen O'Connell from the Finance Committee stated that the Finance Committee has met regarding the Proposed FY2019 School Department Budget. She stated that this budget is going to be very challenging for the Town to meet. She asked why the grants are eroding over time. Mr. Myers responded that these grants are entitlements; they are not grants that districts apply for. Mr. Myers stated that these grants are being reduced by a large amount and the District must supplement the grant to continue programs. Some of the grants were to be used to fund mandates, the grants have been cut, however the District must still adhere to the mandates. Mrs. O'Connell asked for a copy of the spreadsheet for out of district costs. She also asked if the 28 students were all special education students or are some school choice. Ms. Ryan responded that the 28 students are all special education. Mrs. O'Connell asked if we have any students that have decided to attend another school district and how much does that cost the district. Mr. Myers responded that we have just under 30 students electing to attend school in another district and that it cost \$5,000 per student. Mrs. O'Connell also stated that the health insurance increase is around 8%. She also asked if there has been a discussion concerning bus fees or athletic fees.

There was a discussion with the audience about: contractual obligations, strategic goals, technology budget, 1:1 initiative and co-teaching. Mr. Myers stated that the technology plans needs to include a 1:1 initiative. It was asked when the last time there was a major reduction in staff? Mrs. Nietupski stated that in 2008 there was a major reduction in staff approximately thirteen positions were eliminated.

Mr. Bedard stated that Chapter 70 funds reimburse Districts from the enrollment from the year before. Millbury will get reimbursed in FY2019 on the October 1, 2017 enrollment. Mr. Bedard stated that Circuit Breaker will also be reimbursed on last year's enrollment. He stated that the state uses \$50,000 as an average for out of district costs. He stated that the amount over the \$50,000 per tuition cost is reimbursed by around 70%. Mr. Bedard stated that the district will receive reimbursement on the 25 students that were out of district last year not the 28 students from this year. He stated that because the reimbursement from Chapter 70 and Circuit Breaker are on the previous year's enrollment it is considered a lag.

Mr. Wilbur asked for a percentage of free and reduced students to see how fees would affect them. Mrs. Nietupski asked for an analysis of like schools bus and athletic fees.

d. Dorothy Manor School Lease

Mr. Bedard stated that the district has a five-year lease with Pakachoag Acres Day Care Center on Millbury Ave. The contract expires on June 30, 2021. Mr. Bedard stated that revenue from Dorothy Manor must be used on maintenance staff and building maintenance. He stated that we have recently learned that Pakachoag Acres will no longer need to rent the Dorothy Manor School as they have purchased land in town. The contract stipulates that Pakachoag Acres must give us a two year notice in order to vacate. Mr. Bedard stated that this will affect FY2020 budget. He also stated that this is a residential area and there will be restrictions as to who could rent the school.

e. 13 Passenger White Multi-Function School Activity Bus

Mr. Bedard stated this was one of the items on the capital list. He stated that the District is looking to purchase a white multi-function activity bus. The bus does not required a school bus driver. A coach or teacher could drive the bus as long as they are not being paid to drive the bus. The bus will hold 13 passengers. Mr. Bedard stated that he asked the athletic department and administrators from each building how they would use the activity bus and how much could be saved. Mr. Bedard stated that the athletic department will be the primary user of the bus. It has the potential to save the district about \$13,195. The administration estimated that there would be 20 trips per year for nonathletic functions and would realize a savings of \$7,450 a year. The total projected annual savings is \$20,735 which means it could pay for itself within three years. Mrs. Nietupski stated that this is a warrant article outside the budget.

4. Old Business

a. Master Plan

Mrs. Vigneau stated that due to weather the meeting for the Master Plan was cancelled and she hoped she would be able to report at the next School Committee meeting.

5. New Business

6. Executive Session

7. Adjourn

Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All approved (4-0)

Next Meeting:

February 14, 2018– Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School Media Center at 7:00pm


Respectfully submitted,

Donna Freitas

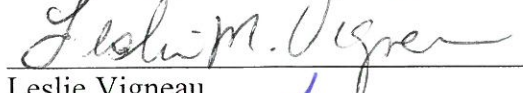
Donna Freitas

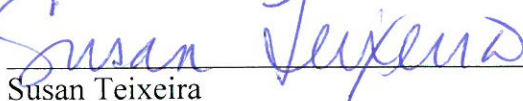
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:


Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson

Kevin Plante, Vice Chairperson


Leslie Vigneau


Susan Teixeira


Christopher Wilbur

Items in Packet:

- Agenda
- Regular Minutes 12/20/2017 and 1/20/2018
- Executive Minutes 1/10/2018
- Superintendent's Comments
- Memo – 12 Passenger White Multi-Function School Activity Bus
- Memo – Dorothy Manor School Lease
- Pakachoag Acres Contract
- Outplacement Tuitions
- Chapter 70 Summary
- Class Enrollment