

Millbury School Committee

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: March 14, 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

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

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:05pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the School Committee will move New Business to the top of the agenda.

1. New Business

a. Lion's Club Requests

Mr. Coggins asked the School Committee, on behalf of the Lion's Club, to approve the use of Windle Field and the field house from June 24th through July 10th. He stated that the carnival will run from June 24th through July 4th (rain date July 5th). He stated that the fireworks display will be on July 3rd and 4th (rain date July 5th). Mr. Coggins also asked the School Committee to approve the use of the high school lobby on July 4th for registration for the July 4th Road Race. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the requests of the Lion's Club to use Windle Field from June 24th – July 10th and the high school lobby on July 4th, seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All approved (4-0).

Mr. Kane from the Lion's Club, asked the School Committee to approve the use of Windle Field for the 2nd Annual Car Show on September 14th for set-up and September 15th for the Car Show from 7:30am – 4:30 pm. (rain dates 9/21/2018 and 9/22/2018). Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the use of Windle field for the 2nd Annual Car Show on September 14th for set-up and September 15th for the Car Show from 7:30am – 4:30 pm. (rain dates 9/21/2018 and 9/22/2018), seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0).

2. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of February 28, 2018.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of February 28, 2018. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (4-0).

3. Report of the Administration

a. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Update

Mrs. Bellville updated the School Committee on the Professional Development Day on March 9, 2018.

Mrs. Bellville updated the School Committee on the upcoming MCAS testing. She stated that MCAS testing will begin on April 3rd and will end on June 7th. Mr. Myers stated that the window of testing is so long because of the limited number of computers. Classes have to cycle through using computers to test online because there are not enough computers for all students to take the tests at the same time. Mr. Myers also stated that once we have enough computers for each student the window will close earlier and students will get back to instructional time much faster.

Mrs. Bellville updated the Committee on the District's curriculum review plan.

b. #Never Again Event

Mr. Myers stated that on March 14, 2018 schools across the nation are voicing their concerns of violence in schools and taking a moment of silence for the students in Florida. He stated that the movement at the Jr. /Sr. High School was student led and the students assembled in the gym. He also stated that Shaw Elementary and Elmwood Street Schools celebrated "kindness" day. Nicholas Lazzaro, Student Council Representative presented a PowerPoint presentation of the day activities. Mr. Myers stated that it was a very powerful and respectful program.

Recognition of Steven Martin AA Transportation Driver of Bus #5

Mr. Myers stated that Steven Martin drives bus# 5 for AA Transportation and due to his close attention to safety, literally saved the lives of a student and her mother by blowing his horn to alert the mother that an oncoming car was not stopping for the school bus lights. Mr. Myers stated that Mr. Martin felt that his actions were due to his training. Mrs. Ashley Makridakis stated Mr. Martin deserves all the praise for his actions and preventing a very bad outcome. Mrs. Nietupski stated that on behalf of the School Committee and the administration, "you may think that it is because of your training". Mrs. Nietupski stated that "it was about you that brought tears of joy to us" and she presented Mr. Martin with a small token of appreciation.

c. Recent Safety Protocol Improvement/Updates

Mr. Myers stated that there are three locations that students can go to for shelter if an evacuation or reunification is needed. The locations are St. Brigid Church, Felters Mills, and Blackstone Cinema. He also stated that secretaries in all schools and his secretary will have iPads with a data plan to access student and staff emergency information. He stated that he is working on a letter to send to parents addressing the protocols. He also stated that the bullet proof film has been installed at the high school and we will be receiving special locks for our swinging doors. A discussion took place regarding the gate from Shaw School to the Blackstone Valley Shoppes.

4. Budget

a. FY2019 Budget Update

Mr. Bedard stated that he included sheets into the School Committee Packets which is also on our website showing a 3.9% increase over the current budget and this increase includes all deductions mentioned at the last meeting. He also stated that under Fiscal 2018 for this year it shows all the expenditures this year along with outstanding purchase orders and obligations for salaries for the remainder of the school year.

b. Bus Reduction Proposal Presentation

Mr. Bedard gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding a proposal for the reduction of one big bus. He stated the district is contracted with AA Transportation for 11 big buses, 2 mini buses and a

wheelchair van. He also stated that there are three tiers; Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School, Shaw Elementary School and Elmwood Street School. Mr. Bedard stated that the District is looking to reduce the contracted 11 buses to 10 buses. Mr. Bedard stated that over the last three years school enrollment is down 3.1% and ridership on the buses is down 9.2%. He stated that this could be due to carpools and parent pick-ups. Mr. Bedard stated that they are looking at routes 7, 8, and 9 which have low ridership for all tiers. He stated that they are looking to eliminate route 9 and disperse the students to other routes. He stated that this would create student movement on many buses. The pros of reducing a bus is the savings of \$70,616 which equals 1.2 teachers and the savings moving forward. The cons are ridership could increase, the enrollment may increase, the length of time it will take to complete routes will increase and the change of start and end times for schools, which must be negotiated with the teachers' association. Mr. Ron Ernenwein, President of AA Transportation, stated that he inherited the bus routes in 2014 and that he has concerns regarding reducing a bus route because all buses are not getting to schools on time now, however, this has become an acceptable practice with administration. He stated that if building administration changes this could become a very big concern. Mr. Ernenwein stated that in one district he worked with reduced the number of bus stops and this help to shorten routes. He stated that Millbury keeps adding stops and a route that used to take 20 minutes now takes 40 minutes. He stated that the GPS Report highlights the bus routes that are arriving outside of the bell times. He stated with the potential reduction of a bus this issue must be addressed or to make sure this is acceptable with administration. Mr. Ernenwein stated that all stops were reviewed for safety. Mr. Bedard stated that if there are questions regarding safety at a bus stop he asks the local police for their suggestions and he stated at some stops there are crossing guards. Mr. Myers stated that he would discuss a possible change to start and end times with the teacher's association. He also stated that this may only impact the Shaw Elementary School. Mr. Bedard stated that he would get AM/PM ridership data for each bus route. Mr. Ernenwein stated that several buses arrive after the 7:49am start time at the Shaw School and he finds this very concerning. The School Committee decided to go forward with the possible bus reduction.

Additional Items:

Mr. Bedard stated that a check for \$17,066 has been received to replace the damaged computers which were a result of the roof leak at the high school.

Mr. Bedard stated that the Police Chief approached him in regards to the police department using the Dorothy Manor School for a potential police department building.

5. Old Business

a. Master Plan

Mrs. Vigneau stated that the survey is complete and will be mailed to households in the next week. She also stated that once the surveys are returned the Committee will begin having public forums.

b. Shaw Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that the OPM Selection Committee after checking references and interviewing the top four short listed firms have ranked Hill International as their top firm. Mr. Myers stated that Hill International is a very reputable company with impressive credentials. He stated that negotiations are taking place and if all goes well we will be on the panel review for April 2nd and then we will hire an architect. Mr. Myers stated that the OPM is our MSBA representative in hiring an architect.

c. School Choice Trends

Mr. Myers stated that the School Committee's 4th goal is to investigate school choice. He stated that he included a spreadsheet in the packet that showed which neighbors participated in school choice and how many students they receive and how many students opt out of their district. Mr. Myers stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education factors the cost at \$5,000 per student. A district will receive \$5,000 for each school choice student accepted into their district. A district will pay \$5,000 per student that has elected to attend school in another district. Mrs. Nietupski stated that you can be a successful school district if you accept school choice students. She also stated that Shrewsbury Public School District, who is also having budgetary woes, will not approve School Choice for the upcoming school year. There will be a public forum before the School Committee votes to approve or not approve school choice. The results of the survey sent to families that have students that have opted to attend school in another district will be presented at a future meeting.

Mrs. Vigneau would like an upcoming schools events schedule.

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. Teixeira. All approved (4-0)

Next Meeting:

March 28, 2018– Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School Media Center at 7:00pm

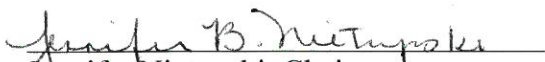
Respectfully submitted,

Donna Freitas

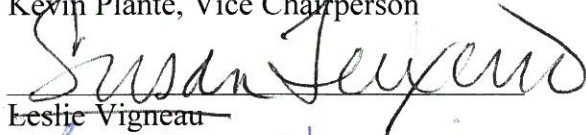
Donna Freitas

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:

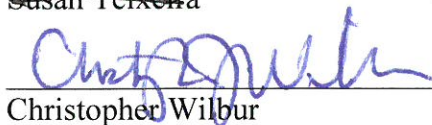

Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson

Kevin Plante, Vice Chairperson


~~Leslie Vigneau~~



~~Susan Teixeira~~


Christopher Wilbur

Items in Packet:

- Agenda
- Regular Minutes 2.28.2018
- Approved FY19 Budget
- FY2018 Expenditure Report
- School Bus Proposal
- School Choice Trends Enrollment and Tuition
- Thank you letter to Sheriff Lew Evangelidis

Email

- Superintendent's Comments