

Millbury School Committee

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: November 9, 2016

Meeting  
REGULAR SESSION  
Minutes

Present: Mr. Plante, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Vigneau, Mrs. Teixeira, Mr. Wilbur  
Mr. Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Bedard, Business Manager  
Ms. Ryan, Director of Pupil Services  
Mrs. Bellville, Director of Curriculum

Absent: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: High School Media Center

A tour of the Millbury Junior/Senior High School guided by Mrs. Bennett and students; Olivia Dean and Devon Siker. Mr. Plante thanked Mrs. Bennett, Olivia and Devon for leading the tour.

Mr. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:20pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of October 26, 2016.**

Mr. Plante asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of October 26, 2016. Mrs. Teixeira made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 26th meeting, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All in favor (4-0).

**2. Report of the Administration**

**a. PARCC/MCAS Update**

Mrs. Bellville, Director of Curriculum stated that she would be reviewing a assessments, improvements/areas of concern, and highlighting areas of celebrations. She looked at the 12 districts in the Blackstone Valley area and added Auburn to compare how Millbury does on the testing in comparison to its neighbors. Mrs. Bellville stated that looking at Grade 10 English Language Arts Millbury ranks 6<sup>th</sup> out of the thirteen districts. She stated that this is historically accurate. Mrs. Bellville stated that Math ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of thirteen districts and this is a significant improvement historically Millbury has ranked as low as 9<sup>th</sup>. In Science we ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 13 and this is a significant improvement as we have ranked as low at 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Bellville stated that Math in the grade 10 class showed significant increases in Advanced and Proficient and that this was the first class that began using the Big Ideas text book in grade 7. She stated that this was a success. Mrs. Bellville stated that they are looking at data across the district at all grade levels. She also stated Science and Technology grade 8 is an area of concern and Science and Technology in grade 5 is a strength. Mrs. Bellville stated that in 2013 new resources were purchased for science and feels that this has made a significant impact on the grade 5 scores. She stated that all the districts she compared the grade 5 scores to showed that Millbury scored the highest.

Mrs. Bellville stated the PARCC scores in English Language Arts showed that transitions from grade 3 to grade 4 and grade 6 to grade 7 showed dips in the scores. She stated that they are working on curriculum alignment and focusing on curriculum mapping to stop the dips from happening.

Mrs. Bellville stated that Math scores also dipped in the grade 3 to grade 4 transition. She stated that in K-3 they use My Math and in grades 4 and 5 they use Go Math and in grades 6, 7, and 8 they use Big Ideas. The coaches are looking to compare the vocabulary and expectations of each of the text books. The coaches have already begun working on the transitional planning for next year. Mrs. Bellville stated that there was no dip in the math grade 6 to grade 7 transition and feels that in large part this is due to the fact that the Big Ideas text books are already being used in grade 6.

Mrs. Bellville informed the School Committee of the changes to the Next Generation MCAS Test Design for the 2017 school year. She stated that the state's expectations regarding the narrative essay is that 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must write two full pages and grades 4-12 must write 4 full pages. Mrs. Bellville stated that the pages must be typed and we are in the process of purchasing "Type to Learn" which is a program for grades K-6 students to improve typing.

Mrs. Bellville stated that the Empowering Writers Program was purchased for grades K-8. Last year grades 5 and 6 embraced the program and saw positive results. This year it is being embraced all across the district. The coaches are modeling lessons in classrooms to help teachers use the program.

Mr. Plante asked if the math scores improvements were a direct result from the Big Ideas text books. Mrs. Bellville stated that the improvements were from the new text book but also the math teachers are always looking for additional resources to enhance teaching the math standards.

Mrs. Bellville stated that Professional Development Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>, was focused on social and emotional needs for students and staff except the Physical Education and Health departments had a program called The Common Core and You. This program taught them how to incorporate the common core into their classes. Mrs. Bellville stated that the speakers from Children's Friend were fantastic and that some of the programs were run by our staff.

#### **b. Election Day Update – November 8, 2016**

Mr. Myers stated that the high school gym was the town's polling place for the presidential election and it was a very busy place and as usual, Mrs. Jayne Davolio and her staff were very well prepared and made sure that everything took place without a snag. Mr. Myers stated that Mrs. Davolio and her staff should be commended on a job well done. Unofficial counts show that 5,571 people voted at the high school and another 2,167 people took advantage of early voting. Totaling 7,738 people voted or 77% of registered voters in the Town of Millbury.

#### **c. Presentation of Certificate of Academic Excellence (Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents) – Angelina DiDomenica**

Mr. Myers stated that this year's recipient is first in her class and has taken a rigorous course study. She has served as a class officer, member of student council, National Honor Society, Best Buddies and drama club. She is a very talented runner and softball player, and is captain of both cross country and softball teams. Angelina will be recognized in January for her scholarly achievements at the Worcester County Superintendents Association Scholars' Luncheon held this year at Clark University. Mr. Myers stated that he would brief the Committee after the presentation.

**d. Lead and Copper Water Testing**

Mr. Myers informed the School Committee that in their packet was a draft letter to inform our families of the District’s efforts to make sure that each school’s drinking water is free of lead and copper.

The District has been approved for funding from the state to test the plumbing and fixtures in each of our school buildings for evidence of lead or copper. Our water source, which is provided to us by Aquarion, is tested annually and has never shown action levels of lead or copper.

However, some schools across the Commonwealth have found that their plumbing, faucets and drinking fixtures, especially in older buildings may introduce some trace levels of lead or copper into the water. Our goal is to identify if this is true and then immediately take action to correct the issue. Mr. Myers stated that he would like to get this letter out shortly so that the families understand the steps that will be taken to correct any possible issue.

Mr. Myers reminded families about the Millbury Parents Club’s Textile Fundraiser at the Elmwood Street School on Saturday, November 12, 2016. This is an opportunity for people to bring used clothing, shoes and linens. The proceeds will benefit the Millbury Parents Club.

**3. Budget**

**a. Mass Insight Advanced Placement Program Donation**

Mr. Bedard stated that we have received two donations to help support our partnership with Mass Insight to expand the Advanced Placement opportunities and increase student performance on AP tests. The first donation is for \$1,000 from the Millbury Savings Bank (the first of two payments Millbury Savings Bank has pledged a second donation of \$1,000 in the spring) and the second donation is from the Millbury Federal Credit Union for \$5,000.00. Mr. Plante asked for a motion to accept the donations for the Advanced Placement Program at the high school. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to accept the donations and it was seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Plante stated that the businesses in town are great to all our schools and to please send thank you letters.

**b. Revolving Account Summary June 30, 2016 and October 31, 2016**

Mr. Bedard gave an overview of the Revolving Account Summary balances beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016. He also gave an overview of the Revolving Account Summary beginning on July 1, 2016 and ending on October 31, 2016. A discussion took place regarding fees for Summer School. Mr. Bedard stated that they were looking into the possibility of raising fees.

**c. “Electric Energy Savings Consumption Information”**

Mr. Bedard stated that as a follow-up to an inquiry made by a School Committee member at the October 26<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting he has enclosed some information regarding our electric energy consumption savings since the Green Communities FY 2009 benchmark year. The percentage of savings from the baseline year of FY2009 to the most recent year ending FY2016 is as follows:

<b>Millbury Junior/Senior High School</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
<b>RE Shaw Elementary School</b>	<b>16.3%</b>
<b>Elmwood Street School</b>	<b>16.3%</b>



Mr. Bedard also stated that he compiled the district's total electric consumption on all three schools. The overall school department electric consumption savings since the benchmark year is 22%. Since the three schools comprise of 63% of the town's total energy use, I anticipate having our energy reduction to be very close if not over the 20% Green Communities benchmarking goal.

#### **d. Municipal Modernization Act – Bill Paying Approval**

Mr. Bedard stated that Governor Baker passed a new law called the Municipal Modernization Act which was created to help municipalities streamline some of the requirements imposed upon them by the state and to help get rid of some of the "red tape". Departments and committees may now designate one person to sign the bill schedule instead of each member. The School Committee signs just a cover sheet not each individual bills so Mr. Bedard recommended that the School Committee continue on with having three people signing the cover sheet. He also stated that this could be brought back up at another time if the Committee wanted to revisit this practice.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. Superintendent Goals for 2016- 2017**

A discussion took place regarding the Superintendent's Goals. Mr. Plante stated that Mr. Myers safety goal and keeping the kids safe with all the improvements he made were significant. Mr. Myers stated that the administration and teachers in the schools were given the green light and they ran with it. It was a group effort and Mr. Myers commends all staff for the work they did in fulfilling this goal.

Mr. Plante stated that Mrs. Nietupski had a suggestion for number 12 of goal 1 which reads: Provide an update to School Committee regarding efforts to use data to improve achievement, identify assessment data trends, and implement interventions. She suggested it be changed to: Provide to School Committee evidence of how we used data to improve achievement, identify assessment data trends, and implement interventions.

Mr. Plante stated that the goals were great and asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent's Goals for 2016-2017. Mrs. Teixeira made a motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All in favor (4-0)

#### **b. Athletic Field Renovation Subcommittee Update**

Mr. Wilbur stated that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16 at the high school and all are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Mr. Pat Mara. Mr. Wilbur stated that all organizations that use the fields should participate in some capacity with the renovation and he encourages all groups to attend the meeting.

Mr. Plante asked about the damages that took place during the carnival. Mr. Bedard stated that the maintenance department was able to fix the damaged gate. He also stated that an electrical box was run over by an RV and that was paid for from the Lion's Club.

### **5. New Business**

Mr. Wilbur stated that he would like to disclose that he works for Children's Friend and that speakers from this organization were used at Professional Development Day on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

- 6. Next Meeting:** November 17, 2016 – Policy Subcommittee Mtg. @ Supt.'s Conf. Room 5:00 pm  
November 30, 2016 – MHS Media Center 7:00pm

**7. Adjourn**

At 8:20 pm Mr. Plante asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Wilbur and it was seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All in favor (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

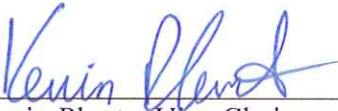
*Donna Freitas*

Donna Freitas

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:

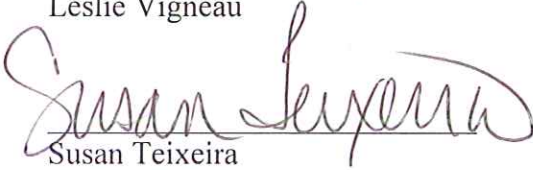
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Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson



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Kevin Plante, Vice Chairperson



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Leslie Vigneau



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Susan Teixeira



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Christopher Wilbur

Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Minutes of November 9, 2016

Superintendent's Report

Letter to Parents – Lead and Copper

Memo Rick Bedard – Electric Energy Consumption Savings Information w/ spreadsheets

Millbury Federated Donation

Millbury Savings Bank Donation Letter

Upcoming Events – November

District Newsletter

MCAS/PARCC Powepoint

Handouts at the Meeting:

Corrected English Language Arts graph sheet