

Millbury School Committee

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: January 9, 2019

Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes

Present: Mr. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Vigneau, Mrs. Teixeira, Mrs. Lagerholm, Nicholas Lazzaro, Student Advisory Committee, Mrs. Bellville, Curriculum Coordinator, Ms. Ryan Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Friedman, Principal Shaw Elementary School, Mr. Hall, Principal Elmwood Street School, Mr. Gilrein, High School Principal, Mr. Bedard, Business Manager, and Mr. Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Phone In: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson

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

Time: 7:00 pm

Mr. Wilbur began the meeting at 7:00 pm with The Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wilbur stated that Mrs. Nietupski was participating in the meeting by phone.

1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of December 19, 2018.

Mr. Wilbur asked for any changes, additions or deletions, to the Regular Session Minutes of December 19, 2018. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Recognition of the 2019 Superintendent's Scholar Alison Drapeau

Mr. Myers stated that Alison was recognized at the Superintendent's Scholar luncheon on January 8, 2019. He stated that Alison chose Mrs. Amy Fuentes, her Grade 3 teacher at Elmwood Street School to accompany her to the luncheon. Mr. Myers stated that Alison is first in her class with a 102.1 GPA. He stated that she is also the Secretary of the Millbury's Student Advisory Council and is a member of the Gifted High School program at Holy Cross, where she takes courses alongside college freshman and sophomores.

b. Report of the Student Advisory Council

Nicholas Lazzaro, along with Emily Beaumier, Sydney Moore, and Alison Drapeau gave a Powerpoint presentation to the School Committee regarding the effectiveness of homework and how it affects students' health and wellness.

c. Assabet Valley Educational Collaborative Annual Report

Mr. Myers stated that the Annual Report shows financial details and new programmatic services for students. Mr. Myers stated that the AVC is an outstanding organization and that the professional development they offer is exemplary.

4. Budget

a. Millbury Athletics Booster Club/Carpenters' Training School – Donation

Mr. Bedard recommended that the School Committee accept a donation of construction materials and labor from the Millbury Booster Club and the Carpenters' Training School. Mr. Bedard stated that members from the Millbury Athletics Booster Club and the Carpenters' Training School built new girls softball dugouts that are ready for the spring season. He stated that the materials and labor was over \$5,000 each. Mr. Brian Parath and Mr. Rob Pine spoke for the Athletic Boosters stating that CS Lumber and Farmer's Daughter contributed towards the materials. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to accept the donation from the Millbury Athletics Booster Club and the Carpenters' Training school for the girls' softball dugouts, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

b. FY2020 Presentation of Programmatic and Capital Needs

Mr. Myers stated that they would like to present the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. He stated that this is a statement of needs for the school department and he would also like to update the Committee on the status of the budget process following the timeline.

Timeline:	January 9 th	Presentation of Proposed Budget
	January 23 rd	Budget Discussion
	February 13 th	Budget Discussion
	February 27 th	Public Hearing and Committee Vote
	May 7 th	Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Myers stated that this is a first draft of the budget with input from teachers and parent advisory committees. He also stated that at the January 23rd and February 13th meetings there will be discussions regarding the proposed budget; the February 27th meeting will open with a public forum to get feedback from the community.

Mr. Myers stated that during the budget process they used Guiding Principles: Best interests of our students, Fiscal responsibility, and the District Learning Plan to guide the leadership towards building the FY2020 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Myers stated that the school department is proposing the first draft of the FY2020 Budget at \$22,745,731. He stated that would be a 3.37% (or \$742,147) over the FY2019 School Operating Budget. Mr. Myers stated that the 3.37% is driven by three categories. The first category is employee contractual increases for 1.75% of proposed budget. Mr. Myers stated that the MTA salary increases which are being negotiated presently total 1.5% increase which includes step and lane changes. He stated that if this amount changes during negotiations that will have to be reflected into the budget. Mr. Myers stated that the SEIU employees and non-union employees have a 1.5% salary increase. Mr. Myer stated that the second category is the increase in the Special Education Tuitions Account for 2.57% and the third category is the Transportation increase of 0.64%

Ms. Ryan stated that the decision to place a student with special needs out of district is not an easy one and is a last resort. It is also done in a thoughtful manner. When a special education Team gathers, they are tasked with developing an IEP or Individualized Education Program. This document outlines the services, accommodations, modifications, and placement needed for the student to access his/her education in the least restrictive environment in most cases, placement is within our 3 schools. However, in some cases, the district is unable to meet the student's needs and as a result, the district looks to other programs.

When determining placement, there is a continuum or trajectory, from a program/setting within the Millbury schools to a residential placement. Residential is never the first chosen. For example: a third grade classroom at Elmwood is the least restrictive environment for the majority while some benefit from time in a learning center. While others require the programming of a collaborative or private day program. We are very fortunate that our collaboratives, Assabet Valley and Southern Worcester County, offer a range of effective programs for students.

When a Team decides to explore out of district placements, the entire process is explained to parents, including that while the decision is intended to be collaborative, it is ultimately the district's legal obligation to propose a program that will meet the child's needs.

Highlights of the Out of District Placement Process:

Referral packets are sent to at least 3-5 programs.

- Parents are encouraged to provide input when creating this list.
- In some cases, there are limited programs available.
- If the student is appropriate and there is an available spot, parents and district representatives are invited to tour the program. Parent and student also participate in an interview or intake process.
- Program staff may visit the student in the current academic setting.
- Program makes a decision to accept or reject the student.
- Transportation is established.

Ms. Ryan stated that during the 2017-2018 school year, the out of district numbers fluctuated. There was one drop out/un-enrollment due to failure to attend; there were six 45-day evaluations. Of these six, three became long term, one returned to the district, and two graduated.

Effective July 1, 2018, the District was no longer fiscally responsible for one private day placement. However, the District became programmatically and fiscally responsible for a residential placement. This placement is a cost share with DCF (DCF 55% or \$194,680 and MPS 45% or \$159,283).

Effective July 1, 2018 there were 26 out of district placements. During the summer, one unenrolled to pursue online school and three moved into Millbury. One of three students resides with both parents, one does not live in Millbury, which becomes a cost share at 50/50. When a student attending a collaborative placement moves, the fiscal responsibility immediately becomes the responsibility of the resident district. The District also has one 45-day evaluation and three pending.

Three out of district students required 1:1 support as well as additional related services that are above and beyond the tuition.

Two programs are seeking state authorization to increase their tuition rate, over the 3% amount. Presently, the district has two students at each program. One placement is proposing an increase from \$67,098 to \$75,792 the other is proposing an increase from \$107,815 to \$123,456.

There will be 34 out of district placements for the 2019-2020 school year, with tuitions ranging from \$46,892 to \$208,150.

A discussion regarding special education students' transportation took place. Mrs. Ryan stated that part of the cost for transportation is covered under a grant and the remaining costs come from the budget. Mr. Bedard stated that there are six new out of district placements for budget FY2020, however, due to cost sharing and ride sharing he is only budgeting for four new routes.

The total special education tuition and transportation costs for FY2020 including the reimbursement from Circuit Breaker is \$2.6 million.

Mr. Myers stated that Senator Moore is holding a public forum at A & D Pizza on January 16 to hear community concerns regarding the State budget, which is not adequately funding education. In particular, Mr. Bedard noted the Foundation shortfall for Special Education and Employee Health insurance. Mr. Bedard stated that he would help the School Committee draft a letter to Senator Moore and Representative Frost regarding the Foundation formula. Mr. Bedard stated that the State has increased the reimbursements from Circuit Breakers to 72%. He also stated that transportation to an out of district placement could cost as much as \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year. Mr. Wilbur stated that the town's people must realize that the Special Education increase in the school department's budget is a requirement and out of the control of the School Committee. Mr. Myers stated that our neighbors are in similar positions regarding the costs of Special Education.

Mr. Myers stated that the 3rd category is transportation which has increased by .05%. He stated that the 3 categories represents the total liability is 4.96%, however the Leadership Team did not want to present that number to the Town and therefore reduced the number by 1.39% or \$316,166. Mr. Myers stated that the reductions came from each building by cutting programs that were requested. He stated that he hoped they can rebuild in the FY2021 budget. He also stated that a 3.37% increase is the average amount given to the School Department at the Town Meeting. Mr. Myers stated that the District is looking at the possibility of eliminating positions.

Mr. Bedard stated that this is the full financial and narrative FY2020 Proposed Budget and it is also posted on the website. Mr. Bedard stated that the green sheet is a quick glance of changes from last year's budget and this year's budget and increases and decreases for the Proposed Budget. Mr. Bedard stated that the 60% Foreign Language Teacher position will be eliminated and the Early Childhood Coordinator position will be reduced to .6 FTE. Mr. Bedard stated there is a savings of \$67,000 from the utilities and a savings of \$55,000 from Technology Equipment because the technology will be on a warrant article. He also stated that NEASC was a one-time cost and as far as the video surveillance cameras they may be purchased with this year's budget.

Mr. Bedard stated that the revolving accounts and grants help offset the budget. Mr. Bedard described how each grant and Revolving Account help pay for the budget Mr. Bedard stated that the School participates in the Medicaid Reimbursement and that over the last 25 years the Town has received 1.1 million after paying for the school's Medicaid Warrant Article.

Mr. Bedard stated that the District is requesting four warrant articles: Technology \$100,000, Athletic Track Refurbishment \$90,000, Maintenance Van \$35,000 and a Dishwasher at Elmwood \$35,000. He stated that he heard there was 2.1 or 2.4 million in free cash and that the Town Manager is very supportive of the Articles. Mr. Bedard stated there will also be a Medicaid Warrant Article for \$105,972.

Mr. Bedard highlighted some of the changes on the yellow financial sheets. There are no known retirements for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Bedard stated that there is \$28,000 in the Teacher Degree Account and this is for after the budget is approved some teachers will earn their degrees or move a lane and their salary would increase.

Mr. Wilbur stated that this FY2020 Proposed Budget presentation is a first draft. Mr. Myers stated that he has met with the Town Manager on two occasions to discuss capital items, which he has supported. He has also indicated on more than one occasion that he is comfortable with a low 3% increase, therefore Mr. Myers feels confident that this proposal is close to what the Town Manager will approve.

Mr. Bedard stated that the pick truck that was declared surplus was sold for \$6,200 at the auction house. The check was sent to the Town which will be included in next year's free cash.

5. Old Business

a. Shaw Building Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that at the December meeting a variety of options including base repair to a new building on a new site away from the wetlands were reviewed. He stated that the Feasibility Committee will continue to narrow down options until a preferred schematic design is chosen to be submitted to the MSBA in February. Mr. Myers stated that a Public Forum will be held on January 30th at 6:30pm at the Millbury High School Media Center.

b. Master Plan Project Update

Mrs. Vigneau stated that she will have information to report at the next meeting.

6. New Business

7. Executive Session

The School Committee will vote to move into Executive Session, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), 3, to discuss strategy options for collective bargaining with the Millbury Teachers' Association.

Mr. Wilbur took roll call.

Mrs. Teixeira – YES

Mrs. Lagerholm – YES

Mr. Wilbur – YES

Mrs. Vigneau – YES

Mrs. Nietupski – YES

All approved (5-0).

8. Adjourn

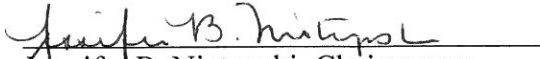
Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All approved (5-0).


Next Meeting:

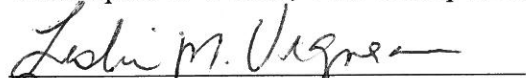
January 23, 2019 – Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School Media Center

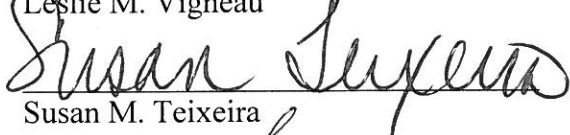
Respectfully submitted,
Donna Freitas
Donna Freitas
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

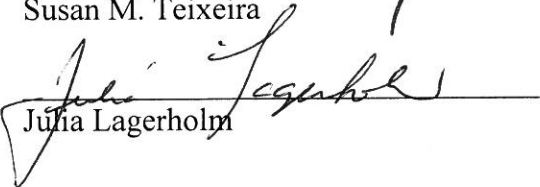
Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson


Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson


Leslie M. Vigneau


Susan M. Teixeira


Julia Lagerholm

Items in Packet:
Agenda
Regular Minutes 12/19/2018
Letter – Kevin Krassopoulos
FY2020 Proposed School Budget