

Millbury School Committee

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: January 23, 2019

**Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

Present: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson 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, Mr. Gilrein, High School Principal, Mr. Bedard, Business Manager, and Mr. Myers, Superintendent of Schools

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

Time: 7:00 pm

Mrs. Nietupski began the meeting at 7:00 pm with The Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Nietupski stated that a moment of silence would be observed for Joe Coggins.

1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of January 9, 2019.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions, to the Regular Session Minutes of January 9, 2019. Mrs. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Report of the Student Council

Student Council President, Kawther Hakem, provided the Committee with an update on recent and upcoming events at the high school.

b. District Enrollment Report

Mrs. Bellville reported on the number of homeschooled students and the number of school choice “out” students. She stated that the enrollment numbers from Tech Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School are not included in the figures. Mrs. Bellville stated that currently there are 67 students that opt out of the Millbury Public Schools.

c. Superintendent’s 2018-2019 Goals: Mid-Year Review

Mr. Myers stated that there is a link for each of the five goals which will allow the School Committee members to see the goal and the progress made to date.

Goal 1 – In collaboration with the District Leadership Team and the District’s exSEL team, participate in year two for the exSEL Network to implement a plan to integrate social /emotional learning (SEL) by building SEL knowledge and skills and incorporating performance data to adjust the district’s SEL plan.

Mr. Myers stated that the SEL Team would like to be more active in providing teachers with tools to make the SEL theory more actionable in the classroom. Mr. Myers stated that based on Nicholas Lazzaro’s presentation and the research done by the Student Advisory Council around anxiety. The SEL team had a long conversation regarding how homework relates to student achievement and wellness.

They also discussed “family friendly weekends” teachers in k-12 would agree not to assign homework during one of these weekends to allow families to spend time together. Mr. Myers stated that Mr. Pasceri teaches inverted classes, where the student learns the lesson at home and does the homework during class with his assistance. He makes videos of lessons for students. Mr. Myers stated that last year there was a community book read “The Happy Student”, however the event was not well attended. The District this year would like to have a community event with other activities to hopefully increase community attendance.

Goal 2 – Meet all MSBA requirements/benchmarks for the feasibility study of the Shaw School. Mr. Myers stated that all the requirements at this point have been completed on schedule or ahead of schedule.

Goal 3 – To work with the Leadership team to increase consistency and effectiveness of supervision and evaluation practices across the district.

Mr. Myers stated visiting classrooms with Principals and debriefing after the visit is a great way to monitor consistency and to see if the principals are looking for the same things and seeing the same things. He stated that it also allows for him to see where we are in terms of learning and teaching across the District. Mr. Myers stated that the teachers appreciated the sample goals which they modified for their own grade level.

Goal 4 – In collaboration with the District Safety Committee, further improve and reinforce safety protocols across the District and update / add safety enhancements to school facilities.

Mr. Myers stated that Officer Nikki Oliveri has trained all new employees in A.L.I.C.E. He stated that she held meetings with small groups of students. He also stated that all schools have practiced a lock down with the help of Lieutenant Lewos.

Goal 5 – In collaboration with the Leadership Team, develop a fiscally responsible FY’20 budget proposal that meets the needs of Millbury’s students, is aligned with our District and School Learning plans, and is driven by our core values.

Mr. Myers stated that the fifth goal is around the budgeting for this year. He stated that last year’s budget process was somewhat difficult not only because of the lack of resources but the lines of communication with Town Hall. Mr. Myers stated he was very happy to report that he and Mr. Bedard have met and been in contact with Mr. Marciello, Town Manager and Mr. Vanni, Finance Director on a regular basis.

Mr. Myers stated that the Town has indicated support for the School Department’s proposed FY2020 Budget without any additional cuts.

4. Budget

a. Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Mr. Bedard stated that at this time the town supports the 3.37% increase in the FY2020 Proposed School Budget. He stated that the Town will present their budget at the end of February or early March. Mr. Bedard stated that this is the time of year that the District learns about Chapter 70 Funds and the Governor’s Budget. He stated that he would give the School Committee a report on Chapter 70 funds at the next meeting. He also stated that the Town Manager is working on health care cost for District and Town employees. Mr. Bedard stated that the health care costs is a large number and will affect the town’s budget and therefore, will affect out budget.

Mr. Bedard stated that the School Department will continue using 10 buses to transport the students to school due to the fact that enrollment ridership is still down. Mr. Bedard stated that the activity bus usage is solidly built into this year's proposed budget. He also stated that next year's home golf course may change from Clearview Country Club to another course and the activity bus will be used more for this purpose.

A discussion regarding the policies and training videos required to drive the white activity bus took place.

b. Committee Letter re: Foundation and State-Aid – Vote Required

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the MTA and Senator Moore recently held a public forum at A & D Pizza. Mrs. Nietupski stated that at the forum the School Committee committed to sending a letter to Senator Moore and Representative Frost recommending certain corrections to the Foundation formula for school funding. Mrs. Nietupski explained that a formula is used determine how much state aid a town will receive. She stated that the formula has not been changed in 30 years. The healthcare for employees and Special Education cost for in and out-of district- students has increased dramatically since 1993. Mrs. Teixeira made a motion to approve signing the letter recommending certain corrections to the Foundation formula, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

c. Expenditure update for FY2019 School Operating Budget

Mr. Bedard stated that the unemployment balance is higher than it should be because the balance only reflects 3 months. Mr. Bedard stated that he uses the Teacher Salaries line when a teacher moves a lane during the year. He stated that the Teacher Degree balance will be transferred at the end of the year to Teacher Salaries. He stated that the balance in the Inst. Tech. District will be used to purchase chrome books and to convert laptops to chromebooks. Mr. Bedard stated that the transportation balance shows a deficit because of the additional routes added for Special Education and the added cost of an additional bus needed to transfer students to Norfolk Agriculture. A discussion took place regarding the Agreement signed by the Superintendents of Blackstone Valley. He also stated that the balance for security cameras will be spent this school year. The Collaborative tuitions will need a transfer before the end of the school year.

d. Town Recycling and Grant

Mr. Bedard stated that Patricia Arp, the Energy Manager for the Town's Planning and Development Department is asking the School Committee to sign a letter in good faith for the grant application regarding that the School Department will enact a Recycling Policy. Mrs. Nietupski stated that they will have a Policy Sub Committee meeting before the next School Committee meeting to review the policy. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to sign Mrs. Arp's Grant Application, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

Announcements:

Mr. Bedard stated that the "Grab and Go Lunch Program" was a great success due to the efforts of the administration. He stated that 124 students took a "Grab and Go" lunch home on the last 1/2 day of school and the program will be available on upcoming 1/2 days of school.

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the Town Manager will present the Town's Budget on February 26th at the Board of Selectman meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Shaw Building Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that geotechnical engineers were at the Shaw School running test borings. He also stated that he attended a Parents Club meeting with Mrs. Nietupski. He stated that if anyone is interested in having him present the Shaw School options to please contact his office. Mr. Myers announced that the Feasibility Committee will have a Public Forum at the Millbury Jr. /Sr. High Media Center at 6:30pm on January 30th, to present an overview of options for the Shaw Elementary School.

Mr. Bedard stated that a possibility of adding an official high school and soccer field to the grounds around Shaw School is being considered. He stated that the meeting was very informative regarding potential HVAC, plumbing, heating, electricity and solar panels. Mr. Bedard stated that at the February 6, 2019 meeting a preferred design will be chosen by the Feasibility Committee to submit to the MSBA.

b. Master Plan Project Update

Mrs. Vigneau stated that the community supports the School Department working with the MSBA to replace or renovate the Shaw Elementary School.

6. New Business

a. Potential Millbury/Sutton Football Cooperative Agreement

Mr. Mara, Athletic Director, reported on the possibility of an agreement with Sutton Public Schools to join our football program. This agreement would pertain to grades 9-12 students. The nine student football players from Douglas Public Schools currently on the Sutton/Douglas Football teams would also be included in the agreement. A discussion regarding transportation and funding took place, also regarding a co-op with 7th and 8th grade students. Mr. Wilbur asked if was possible to amend the co-op agreement to include 7th and 8th graders. Mr. Mara stated that the MIAA will only allow co-ops with students in grades 9-12. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the Football Cooperative Agreement with Sutton, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mr. Wilbur asked that Millbury/Sutton be the pioneers to change the MIAA rule of co-op agreements being for students in grades 9-12 to 7-12 grades. Mr. Wilbur made a motion for the Athletic Director to pursue including grades 7 and 8 in the Millbury/Sutton Football Cooperative Agreement, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mr. Myers stated that Sutton Superintendent Friend would like a letter that Millbury supports this co-op.

b. School Committee Annual Goals

Mr. Myers stated that at the end of August the School Committee approved several goals and that we are at the mid cycle point. He stated that the School Committee goals stem from the District Learning Plan, the Superintendent's goals, the Leadership goals, and the School goals which are vertically aligned.

Goal 1 - Oversee and execute the preliminary phases of the Shaw School Building Project. Mr. Myers stated that all requirements have been completed on or ahead of schedule. He stated that the feasibility study is engaging in submitting a preliminary design option to the MSBA and that the completion of Module 4 Schematic Design is on schedule to be completed in the summer of 2019.

Goal 2 - Assessment to ensure that data is used to effectively support student growth and achievement. Mr. Myers stated that the presentation of the MCAS highlighting areas that needs improvement and how it has been addressed in the curriculum. Mr. Myers stated that we learned through the MCAS testing that our students struggle with explaining how they arrive at an answer to a math question. He stated that an online math program has been initiated to supplement the math program. A discussion took place regarding other assessment resources took place.

Goal 3 – Ensure a safe environment for all District students and employees. Mr. Myers stated that one of the major objectives is to inform the parents of a plan to get their children if a relocation to the movie theater takes place. He stated that the Safety Committee will devise a letter to parents explaining the procedure and also to hold a forum for parents.

Goal 4 – School Choice. Mr. Myers stated that the School Choice pilot program has been a positive experience. He stated that some students families had moved out of Millbury but the students were able to continue their education at the Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School.

A discussion took place regarding school choice for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Myers suggested voting earlier if the School Committee was considering a yes vote for school choice. He suggest opening twenty to twenty-five seats. It was determined that the School Committee members were leaning towards voting yes for school choice but were not prepared to vote on the number of seats available for school choice. Mrs. Teixeira made a motion to approve the School Committee's vote of yes to being a school choice district for 2019-2020 school year, and to table the amount of seats that will be available, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (5-0). Mr. Myers will present a recommendation on the number of seats at a future meeting.

Goal 5 – Consider the benefits and drawbacks to charging fees for students to participate in extra-curriculum activities. Mr. Myers stated that the School Committee has held a public forum to get feedback from the community. He stated that another public forum for community feedback is scheduled in February. He also stated that the School Committee should review estimates of increased revenues.

Ms. Ryan stated that the Education Stability Desk Review initial findings stated that the District needs two new policies: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Educational Opportunities for Military Children. She also stated that a revision of policy JFABD, Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services must be amended. Mrs. Nietupski stated that the policies will be reviewed at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Nietupski stated that she had received an email from the Chairperson of the Board of Selectman to announce that a Charter Review Committee is being formed to review the Charter and that the School Committee must appoint two members to serve on this committee. Please add this to the next agenda for discussion.

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

Next Meeting:

February 27, 2019 – Millbury Jr. /Sr. High School Media Center

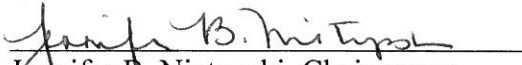
Respectfully submitted,

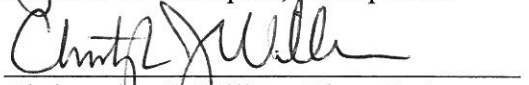
Donna Freitas

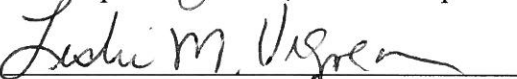
Donna Freitas


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 1/23/2019

2019-2020 Tentative Calendar

Thank you Letters

Foundation Letters

Chapter 70 Funds