

Millbury School Committee Minutes

DATE: August 26, 2009

PRESENT: Ms. Brady-Pojani, Chairperson, Mr. Thomas Clawson, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Mrs. Vigneau, Mr. Borowski, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent

LOCATION: High School Media Center

TIME: 7:00 pm

Ms. Brady-Pojani began the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Approval of Executive Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the Executive Minutes from July 21, 2009. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve the Executive Minutes and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. Three approved and Ms. Brady-Pojani and Mr. Borowski abstained because they were not there. 3-0-2

Cable Access Presentation

Mr. Kevin Krassapoulos, Cable Access Coordinator stated that he would like to help mend fences between the School Department and the Town Hall. He also explained the procedure that he will follow to televise the School Committee meetings. Mr. Krassapoulos stated if the School Committee votes to go to Executive Session he will need approximately 15 minutes to disassemble the equipment. He also stated that the equipment is mobile and that he will be able to televise the meetings from the elementary schools. Agendas will be posted on public access. All meetings will be archived indefinitely. A discussion took place regarding signage, mikes, a table drape and the possibility of an independent study for a high school student. Mr. Krassapoulos plans on televising School Committee meetings starting with the September 9, 2009 meeting.

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that new teacher orientation was held on August 24th and 25th. There are eleven new teachers and one long term sub becoming a teacher. Workshops were held on classroom structure, confidentiality, and discipline techniques. Mrs. Swenson conducted a guided tour around Millbury.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she kept the kindergarten staff the same due to the fact that there are more special education students than expected. Presently the kindergarten class is 139 students.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that opening day for staff is Thursday, August 27th. We have three-hundred and forty staff members. Mrs. Hitchcock's welcome assembly is scheduled for 8:30 am in the high school media center.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the attendance letter will be sent home to all parents on the first day of school.

She also stated that the Millbury/Sutton Chronicle is interested in providing an Educational Insert in the paper. The welcome letter, attendance letter, calendar and phone numbers will be sent to the paper.

A discussion took place about sending an informational letter to parents regarding H1N1. It was decided to hold off addressing this issue until after the September 9th conference call with the Department of Education and the Department of Public Health. Mrs. Hitchcock has invited the Town Manager, Mr. Spain, as this will affect not only the schools but the entire community.

Budget

Mr. Bedard briefly explained the memo to the School Committee regarding the National Grid lighting rebate program for Millbury High School. The school district is receiving additional incentives from National Grid due to the federal stimulus plan. He stated that Mrs. Hitchcock and himself strongly recommend that the School Committee vote to retrofit all the lights at the high school for a substantial saving on electricity costs. He stated that the projected is essentially the same as Shaw School. He stated that he was looking into the possibility of doing Elmwood but funding dollars might not be available. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve retrofitting all the lights at the high school. Mr. Borowski made a motion and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. All approved (5-0). Mr. Bedard stated that he when receives the cost saving analysis at Shaw he will bring it to the School Committee.

Mr. Bedard stated that an Elmwood Street School part-time custodian resigned and the grounds position which was originally going to be eliminated was restored to a .5 position. The custodian position and grounds maintenance position has been posted and will be filled shortly.

Mr. Clawson stated that he had received a letter from the Finance Committee regarding a meeting on the upcoming Monday regarding the Financial Task Force Committee. He stated that he had no opportunity for his input regarding the date. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she too had received a letter and that she was not contacted as to her input regarding the date of the meeting, specifically the short notice.

Future meetings will be September 9, 2009 and September 23, 2009.

School Committee Tours at each school will be held in October, November, and December.

Mr. Corey stated that he would like a search for a Cable Club Advisor be placed on the agenda for next the meeting. He stated that many people have approached him regarding televising the high school basketball games. He also stated that if a staff member was not interested in this position that the position be advertised in the newspapers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a vote to go into Executive Session regarding pending litigation. Mr. Corey – yes, Mr. Clawson – yes, Ms. Brady-Pojani – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes and Mrs. Vigneau – yes.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Approved:







