

Millbury School Committee Minutes

DATE: February 25, 2009

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

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Millbury High School Media Center

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting. Mr. Clawson made a motion and Mr. Corey seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting. Mr. Clawson made a motion and Mr. Corey seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the Executive minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting. Mr. Corey made a motion and Mr. Borowski seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Report of the Student Advisory

Peter Boll reported that the Student Advisory Committee would like to form a task force to save energy. He stated that another group in school had already formed a committee, however, the Student Advisory Committee would like to form another committee. Ms. Brady-Pojani suggested that they meet with Mrs. Swenson to decide this matter.

Katie L'Esperance and Steven Elie are competing in the Central Mass Hero Idol.

March 28th is the deadline for applications for the new regional representatives a new council will be formed at the end of May.

Millbury Public Schools FY 2010 Budget Public Hearing

The third preliminary budget proposal is a level service budget with a 3.81% increase. This budget consists of two separate categories. The first category is contractual – salaries. The second category is inclusive. The compliance issues which have been cited by the Department of Education have resulted in adding new positions to the budget. A number of addenda requests have been deleted from the budget.

Mrs. Hitchcock reported that according to the Massachusetts Association of Superintendents there are two pots of money. It is very specifically targeted towards students eligible for free or reduced lunch receiving services for ELA and Math.

Mrs. Hitchcock also reported that the federal stimulus package has not yet been determined and the amounts may be flexible depending on how the money will be awarded. She also stated that due to supplanting issues this money cannot be used to pay for positions previously funded by the budget. They must be new positions. It may be possible to fund some of the new positions that had been added to the budget. However, this money will only be available for two years.

Finance Committee member Mr. Michael O'Connor of 25 Park Hill Ave. stated that the budget presented tonight is the same as the budget presented on January 14th. He also asked for clarification regarding the schedule which shows the contribution from the tax payer in FY '09 was 56 cents on the dollar is misleading because we included the federal and state grants in the calculation. He stated that if the benefit package of the active and retired school department employees were included the contribution would be 63 cents on the dollar.

Mr. O'Connor also stated that the federal and state grants totaled \$950,000 in FY '09. He recognized that the school department worked hard for these grants, however, this money could not be counted on in 2010 and that could put a lot strain on the budget.

Mr. O'Connor stated that a balanced budget must be presented by the Finance Committee. He also stated that the School Committee should consider adding an override to the budget in order to fund the proposed school budget. Mr. O'Connor recommended to the School Committee that they make every attempt to balance the budget and not leave it up to the Finance Committee. Mr. Clawson stated that the budget presented could not be increased; however, it could be decreased.

Mr. Donald Gauthier of 11 Woodland Street asked why there are eleven homeless students attending school. Mrs. Hitchcock explained that the Department of Education defines a homeless student as a student living in a camp ground, hotel or motel, living with a friend or relative or in a shelter. The McKinney-Ventor law allows a student to stay in the student's original school regardless of where the shelter is located.

Mr. Gauthier asked why buses that hold 70 -73 students are running with less that half that amount. Mr. Bedard stated that a bus route had been eliminated from the Elmwood Street School. He also stated that some of the roads in the west side of Millbury are very long and if there were more students on each bus the buses would not return to the next school in time for dismissal. He also stated that a high school bus could not hold 70 – 73 students. He is looking into condensing some of the bus routes.

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to accept the FY 2010 School Budget presented tonight (Revision #3, blue sheets). The School Budget total is \$17,757,441. (Windle Field: \$17,550, School Committee Salaries: \$10,224, High School Athletics: \$115,830) Mr. Clawson made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Borowski. All approved (5-0).

Old Business

Nothing to Report.

New Business

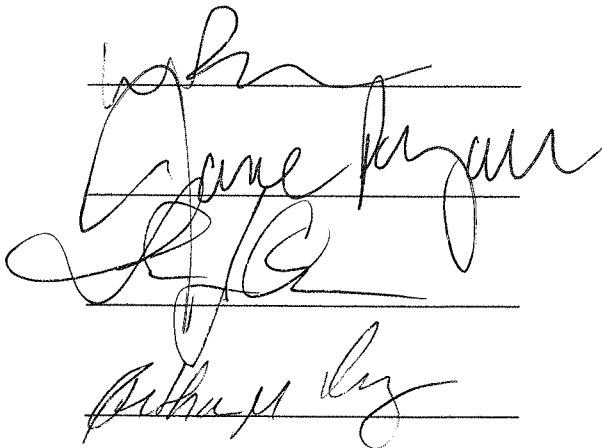
Nothing to report.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Approved:

Three handwritten signatures are written on three horizontal lines. The top signature is a cursive name, possibly 'John'. The middle signature is a larger, more elaborate cursive signature, possibly 'James P. ...'. The bottom signature is another cursive signature, possibly 'Richard ...'.