

**MILLBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE/SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Date:** March 2, 2009

**Present:** Ms. Brady-Pojani, Chairperson, Mr. Clawson, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Mrs. Vigneau, Mr. Borowski, Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, Mr. Bob Spain, Town Manager, Mr. Brian Turbitt, Town Finance Director, and the Selectmen (Mr. Plante, Mr. Coggans, Mr. King and Mr. Schold)

**Location:** The Millbury Public Library

**Time:** 7:00 pm

Ms. Brady-Pojani began the meeting by stating that the School Committee wanted to meet with the Town Manager, Mr. Spain and the Selectmen before Mr. Spain presented his budget to the Finance Committee because the numbers given to Mrs. Hitchcock kept changing.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the leadership team began making reductions to the budget as early as January 7<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that the leadership team is prepared to take action to reduce the budget.

Mr. Spain reviewed his budget with the School Committee, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent. Mr. Spain stated that the reason the numbers kept changing was because the revenues kept changing. He also stated that the anticipated deficit is \$1,619,650.00. Mr. Spain also stated that the state meals/room tax revenue has not been included in the budget (approximately \$250K) since it has not been voted on. He stated that he had cut 8.3 full time workers from the Town and had reduced other employees' hours in every department.

A discussion regarding a meeting with the union leaders took place. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she would meet with her union leaders by the end of the week. Mr. Spain also stated that he would also meet with his union leaders. It was decided that Mr. Spain and Mrs. Hitchcock would meet with all the union leaders at some point to explain the proposal. The consensus was that all employees needed to agree to the wage freeze. It was stated that if the unions did not agree to forgo increases for 2010 that maybe they would be willing to reduce their benefits package.

It was noted that the proposal by Mr. Spain had the split being 60% School Department - 40% Town. Ms. Brady-Pojani wanted Mr. Spain and the Selectmen to understand that the School Committee did not necessarily agree with this assessment. Mr. Spain stated that the split should actually be 65% School Department – 35% Town when you include health insurance costs.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she had met with the teachers to let them know how bad the budget looks.

Mr. Spain stated that he wanted to present the budget as late as possible so that he had the most up-to-date numbers. It was discussed by all what the process would be to move the Annual Town Meeting.

Ms Brady-Pojani stated that the stimulus package is intended to protect education. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the cuts will not only affect academics it will also affect the athletic department. Ms. Brady-Pojani also stated that without the warrant article to repair the light poles at Windle Field the field will be closed due to safety. Mr. Borowski shared Ms. Brady-Pojani's earlier concerns about the 60% school, 40% town split.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane  
School Committee Clerk

Approved:

  
  
  
