

## Millbury School Committee Minutes

**Date:** March 24, 2010

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

**Location:** High School Media Center

**Time:** 7:00 pm

Ms. Brady-Pojani brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### Approval of Regular Minutes

Ms Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the regular minutes from the February 24, 2010 meeting. Mrs. Vigneau stated that their was a correction on Page 2 under the Community Service Learning grant budget it states that the School Department budgets 10,000 for the program and it should be 13,000. Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and Mr. Corey seconded the motion. All approved (5-0). It was requested that the approval of the regular minutes from the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting be held until the next meeting.

### Approval Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the Executive Minutes from the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Borowski made a motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Vigneau seconded the motion. It was stated that the vote for the Executive Minutes of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and March 10<sup>th</sup> will be held off until the next meeting.

### Report of the Administration

Mr. Ron Marlborough asked the School Committee permission to use Windle Field for the Lion's Club carnival and fireworks display. They would like to use the field June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve the Lion's Club using Windle Field and Mr. Borowski seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

### Budget

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the amended letter from Mr. O'Connor, Finance Committee Chairman, was in the School Committee's packets. Ms. Brady-Pojani stated that in the letter sent to Mr. Spain the School Committee asked for a break down of the budget Mr. O'Connor referenced in his letter. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she had not received a break down of budget from Mr. Spain.

Mr. Borowski stated that he respectfully disagreed with the Finance Committee and that the School Department could not handle a 63.78% portion of the reduction. He also stated that it was not possible for the School Department to make more cuts by March 31<sup>st</sup>. He also stated that he would be willing to negotiate with the Board of Selectman, as the School Committee has in the past, to come to an agreement on the deficit. However, if the split remains as it is, he would be willing to take the budget to the floor the night of the Town Meeting and let the towns people decide which budget to vote for. Ms Brady-Pojani stated that it is within the School Committee rights to bring their own budget to the floor at the Town Meeting. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the town has not used the free cash appropriately in the past, by using it for operating expenses, and that now they want the School Department to share that deficit. The free cash is around 525,000 and normally it is between one to one and a half million. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked Mrs. Hitchcock to draft a letter to the Finance Committee stating that the School Department will not be sending numbers by March 31<sup>st</sup> as this is an unreasonable date and the cuts will not be finalized. Mrs. Hitchcock will send copies to the Board of Selectman.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the administrative team had a long meeting on Monday to come up with a list of cuts that equal \$400,000. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that Tier 2 reductions are to pay for unemployment costs for the staff cuts in Tier 1. For every two teachers laid off a third teacher must be laid off to pay for the unemployment costs. Tier 3 is Activity and sports fees. Some of the teachers in the positions that have been cut have bumping rights. The head nurse stipend will be eliminated. The Reading Coach at Shaw School will be eliminated, which is a terrible loss to the Shaw School. A part time clerical position will be eliminated. We will not fill retiring teacher's positions at the Junior/Senior High School. The librarian situation will be the same as last year, the High School librarian will go to Shaw for two days and the Shaw librarian will bump the Elmwood Street School librarian. There will be .5 grounds position and .5 maintenance position eliminated.

Mrs. Swenson stated that course selections will be done in the next two to three weeks. She also stated that she could not give the number of students registered for classes until the end of August because students change their schedules through the summer. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a list of the under subscribed courses. Mrs. Swenson stated that she could not produce a list of under subscribed courses until August.

It was stated that Mrs. Hitchcock should cut positions up to \$650,000 (Mr. O'Connor's letter) at this time so that if we decide to bring the budget to Town Meeting the towns people will see what the School Department would lose if this budget becomes a reality. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she would like to make the cuts in tiers. The first tier will show cuts up to 60% and the second tier will show cuts up to 63.78%.

Mr. Borowski stated that he would like to discuss Activity and Sports fees. He stated that the 67,000 from Activity and Sports fees could save the Reading Coach's position at the Shaw School. Ms. Brady-Pojani stated that as a board we will have to entertain the possibility of Activity and Sports fees and also the possibility of school choice. We must

look at all areas of revenue. Mr. Borowski made a motion to institute Activity and Sports fees into the FY2011 budget. Ms. Brady-Pojani seconded the motion for discussion. It was stated that it would have to be decided if the fees will be for sports and activities that use buses only or other activities to defray the cost of stipends. Mrs. Vigneau stated that she would hate to see a student not able to participate in a sport or activity due to finances. It was stated that a fund could be set up to cover students who could not participate due to finances. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that a sports/activities fee will offset the cost of buses, which is a huge expense. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that stipends are nominal and that the bussing is largest cost of athletics. Ms. Brady-Pojani stated that she felt that the fees should be for all activities and sports. The School Committee voted on student and activity fees (4-1 failed) – Mr. Borowski - yes, Mr. Corey – no, Mr. Clawson – no, Ms. Brady-Pojani – no, Mrs. Vigneau – no. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked Mrs. Hitchcock to place Activity/Sports fees on the agenda for the next meeting and provide more information on which groups would be charged.

### **Building Maintenance**

Mr. Bedard stated that a memo with updated maintenance project information was in the School Committee member's packets. He also stated that the hail storm insurance work at Windle Field will finish in the next couple of weeks. During the April vacation the stage lift will be installed at the Shaw School and the auditorium ceiling at the High School will be painted. Mr. Bedard stated that they were looking into changing the interior doors at Shaw. He stated that the funding was not in place at this time, however, we are hiring a firm to get the blueprints and specs in order for when the funds are available. He also stated that the high school has two hot water tanks and one is working fine the other is in need of repair. It has a depreciating warranty. The hot water tank work will be finished shortly.

### **Old Business**

Nothing to report.

### **New Business**

Nothing to report.

Ms. Brady-Pojani stated that the School Committee was going into Executive Session regarding contract negotiations. Mr. Corey – yes, Mr. Borowski, - yes, Mr. Clawson – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Ms. Brady-Pojani – yes.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane  
School Committee Clerk

Approved:

Lodhi M. Viegna

[Signature]

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