

Millbury School Committee Minutes

Date: November 12, 2008
Present: Ms. Brady-Pojani, Chairperson, Mr. Thomas Clawson, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Vigneau, Mr. Corey, Mr. Borowski, Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, Ms. Frederick, Ms. Peterson and Mr. Hanratty
Time: School Tour, 6:00PM, Regular Meeting, 7:00PM
Location: Elmwood Street School

Tour of Elmwood Street School

Mrs. Fredrick led the tour of Elmwood Street School stopping at the Elmwood's Exciting Expressions wall. She stated that the name got its name through a school-wide vote. The framed pictures are changed during the school year. A discussion took place regarding the 2 amplification systems. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked about the condition of desks and chairs. She also asked how often the desks were washed. Ms. Fredrick stated that the desks and supplies were in good condition and that the teachers washed the desks usually once a month. The gym floor will be done in November.

A discussion took place about the increasing numbers in the Pre-K Program. There are two rooms currently with 16 or 17 students with the capacity being 15 students. Mr. Borowski asked about the impact this has on the students and what repercussions this could cause with the Department of Education. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that this did impact the students; however it was such a small violation, she did not feel there would be any repercussions. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked if the accountability of students were Millbury residents. Mrs. Fredrick stated that it was previously discovered that 3 students were not Millbury residents and that the students were now registered in preschools in their own towns. An additional classroom will be needed in the future should be considered. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked to be updated about the enrollment numbers. The NAYEC accreditation will be available in the three months.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that we do pay for the Assumption School students to be transported to the Assumption School because this school is in town.

Classroom Imagine has 6 students at the current time. Two of the students are tuition students at 7,500 each. Three of these students will be moving to Shaw in September 2009. A teacher will be required at the Shaw School.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the fire department wanted all curtains removed from both the Elmwood Street and Shaw School.

Mrs. Fredrick reported on Disability Awareness Day. She explained how the students would go through different stations to understand what it was like to have a disability. She stated that the students were fascinated with each station.

Ms. Brady- Pojani asked about the security at Elmwood. Mrs. Fredrick stated that she was a hawk and made sure no one entered the building without previously knowing who they were. It was also decided that when Aftercare closed at 6:00 pm the front doors would remained locked.

Ms. Brady-Pojani began the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22nd meeting. Mr. Corey wanted the line - selectman had to approve all projects be corrected to selectman had to approve all projects over \$50.00. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Corey seconded the emotion. All approved. (5-0)

Advisory Council and Student Advisory

Peter Boll introduced sophomore Mackenzie Woll from the Student Advisory Board and he also updated the School Committee on the work being done on each committee.

Parent's Club Update

Mrs. Allison Uccello, President of the Millbury Parents' Club reported on the results of the survey taken by the parents. She also reported on the fundraising activities and the many activities sponsored by the Parents' Club. Mrs. Uccello also listed some past sponsored activities that had been eliminated and that a request for 80 to 100 graphing calculators needed at the High School was denied due to finances. Mrs. Uccello asked stated that the Millbury Parent's Club provided their own paper this year for flyers because the Shaw and Elmwood Street Schools ran out of copy paper. She also asked the School Committee members to put in a good word about the Millbury Parents' Club whenever possible.

Ms. Brady-Pojani thanked Mrs. Uccello and Mrs. Yaghoobian for attending and for all their dedication and hard work. She stated that she would like to get more information about the graphing calculators and that the paper situation would be addressed.

Mrs. Hitchcock asked that the Drainage Plan - Phase II be next on the agenda to accommodate Mr. Hanratty.

Budget

Mr. Bedard reported that after the engineers' meeting with the Conservation Committee, certification for Phase I of the Drainage Plan could not be obtained until Phase II was completed. Phase II is the area in front of the high school, near the practice fields. A discussion took place regarding the obligations of the School Department. Mr. Clawson asked what if Phase II was never completed would there be a monetary punishment or would it just remain on the title. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked to have a meeting set with the Conservation Committee before this matter is continued.

MCAS Information and Remediation Plan

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the high school staff did an outstanding job under the leadership of Linda Swenson hosting both Professional Development Day and voting.

Mrs. Hitchcock reported that all teachers in all building had been working on Power Standards, which is a huge undertaking and a significant step in the Remediation Plan.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that Dr. Gary Reese organized an outstanding Professional Development Day. The teachers worked in groups according to subject area. A teacher from each grade level met to work on content areas according to the Massachusetts Frameworks in which each student needs to master before being promoted to the next grade level. Vertical teams met looking for overlaps or gaps in the content areas. Mr. Borowski asked if the Scott Foresman Reading Program had been evaluated. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Reading and Math Curriculum will be evaluated in February and March.

Mrs. Hitchcock reported on her meeting with the General Manager of Wheelabrator. He agreed to donate \$2500.00 to fund the Destination Imagination's 4 teams if they go to the Nationals. He also agreed to help us with a Robotics' Team at the high school. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that they are going to be looking for a large space to build the robot.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that a .5 Spanish teacher had been hired at the high school. She also stated that there are 36 students in the class of 2009 eligible for the John Abigail Adams scholarship (tuition to any Massachusetts state college). Last year's senior class had 39 students. To qualify for this scholarship you must have at least an advanced score, a proficient score, and to be in the 25% of your class. Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for this information to be published in the newspaper.

Old Business

Mr. Bedard gave a report updating the School Committee of the Windle Field Committee. Mr. Bedard also reported on obtaining the \$1,100.00 bid bond from Dibble and Sons for the playground project they did not complete.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Town Manager wanted to move the School Committee FY 2010 Budget vote to Monday, February 23rd. Mr. Corey and Mr. Clawson could not make this meeting and it was suggested that Selectman move their meeting. The School Committee FY 2010 Budget vote will be Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

It was stated that the change to the Athletic Handbook would need to go through 3 readings by the School Committee before it could be implemented by the end of the school year.

Mrs. Vigneau stated that many senior citizens approached her regarding the difficulty voting at the high school and inquired if it could be moved back to Shaw. This is a decision for the Town Hall. Mrs. Vigneau also inquired about Principal's Reports. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that they were done anymore because she covered everything in her agenda and executive summary.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Approved:








