

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS

Date: February 12, 2014

Present: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson; Mr. Borowski, Vice Chairperson;
Mrs. Vigneau; Mr. Corey; Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent of Schools;
Mr. Bedard, Business Manager;
Ryan Mercier, Student Advisory Council

Absent: Mr. Plante

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of Regular Session Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2014 and Executive Session Meeting of January 22, 2014

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of January 22, 2014. Mr. Corey made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Borowski. All in favor (4-0).

Mrs. Nietupski stated if there are any changes, additions or deletions to the Executive Session Minutes, they will have to be made in Executive Session. Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (4-0).

2. Request from the Lions' Club – Mr. Ron Marlborough

Mr. Ron Marlborough introduced Mr. Joe Coggins as this year's chairman of the carnival, replacing Mr. Marlborough. The Lions' Club formally requested the exclusive use of Windle Field and the field house from June 29 through July 13, 2014. Mr. Marlborough stated the carnival will run from July 2-5 and the fireworks will be held on July 4 and 5. He also stated that inmates will be used to maintain the field following the carnival. Mr. Borowski made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (4-0).

3. Report of the Administration

a. Shaw School Update by Mrs. Friedman

Mrs. Hitchcock informed the committee that Mrs. Friedman will present the Shaw School update at the February 26th meeting.

Mrs. Hitchcock also noted the distribution of the second school newsletter from the Millbury Junior/Senior High School, and the second school newsletter from the Elmwood Street School included in their packet. She stated these newsletters keep communication lines open with parents.

b. Graduation/Drop-Out Rates

Mrs. Hitchcock referred the committee to the report from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the 2012-13 Dropout Data Summary for Millbury. She went on to explain the dropout information in the newspaper is incorrect at 4.3% for the class of 2013, based on the information from the DESE. The actual dropout rate is 1.6% due to the adjusted information based on the transition of students. Of the October 1st number of 489 students, 14 dropped out during the summer prior to the start of school, with 7 dropping out during the school year for a total of 21 students. Out of these 21 students, 13 students returned to school, graduated, or earned a GED before October 1, 2013. This brings the adjusted dropouts to 8 students, for a final dropout rate of 1.6%.

c. New Early Childhood Education Initiative

Mrs. Hitchcock introduced the fifth new initiative from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the last two years: the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA). This assessment has been developed by the DESE along with the Department of Early Education and Care. The purpose for the assessment is to assess the student's growth and learning along with cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. Mrs. Hitchcock noted the MKEA will be an online performance test standardized throughout the state. It will involve four hours of testing over a period of days and is expected to be implemented in the coming school year. Mr. Corey questioned the cost involved to the district. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that since we no longer have access to the federal Race To the Top funding, we can expect the cost to be several thousands, possibly as much as \$10,000. Training for staff on the use of the formative assessment will begin in February of 2014.

Mrs. Hitchcock noted the sixth initiative to be implemented by July 1, 2014 is the reworking of discipline codes for consequences for general education students. The model will be similar to that of special education students. She noted there will be a tremendous cost involved, as we will have to provide online services, tutoring or out of district placements (45-day program). The high school currently operates a program under the guidance of a teacher, but nothing is currently offered at Elmwood and Shaw Schools.

Mr. Borowski questioned if we are reaching a point where we need to start to push back on the state with these mandates. He suggested letters be written to Senator Moore and the Department of Education. Mrs. Hitchcock concurred, recommending advocating for better timing to implement these initiatives. Discussion followed with the suggestion that there be a conversation with David Roach of the Board of Education. The consensus was there is not enough teacher time being spent in front of the student.

d. Update/Status of Snow Days Used

Mrs. Hitchcock reported that to date, a total of three snow days have been used in the district. This brings the scheduled last day of school from June 17 to June 20, 2014. In the event that there is another snow day, students' last day will be June 23, followed by the professional day for staff on June 24. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that if the district incurs six snow days, the instructional days may be altered from 183 to 182. The snow dates will have no effect on the scheduled date for graduation.

Mrs. Hitchcock included the list of 12 grants awarded at the Community Service Learners' Breakfast on February 7, 2014. The total amount of the grants is \$4,663. She noted that there is more funding available and the applications have gone back out to the schools.

4. Budget

a. FY 2015 Proposed School Budget – Discussion/Questions

Mr. Borowski stated the outlook is bleak. Mr. Bedard notified the committee that the upcoming Public Hearing has been posted in the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle and at the Town Hall. He noted that although the governor's budget numbers reflect an increase to Millbury of 2% (6.8 million dollars overall), the local aid did not increase. Mrs. Nietupski reminded the viewing public of the scheduled Public Hearing of the Budget on February 26th beginning at 7:00 p.m. followed by the regular school committee meeting.

b. DOER Energy Manager's Competitive Grant

Mr. Bedard informed the committee that the Energy Advisory Committee has recommended to the Town Manager that he and the Town Planner, Laurie Connors, apply for an Energy Manager's part-time position in the Town of Millbury through the Department of Energy Resources. There are no benefits involved, and the position will be shared between Millbury and Sutton. Mr. Bedard noted that the Town Manager is on board with this request.

This is a 19 hour position, equally split with Sutton for 9.5 hours of service weekly. The maximum grant award is \$17,500 requiring the two communities to match 10% of the grant. Mr. Bedard stated that Millbury's Town Manager has committed to the 5% match. The grant is for two years. Mr. Bedard noted responsibilities will include tracking energy use, identifying areas of energy savings and providing oversight to energy saving projects, with the hope to expand the position after two years.

c. Town of Millbury Capital Budget Request Document – Review/Discuss

Mr. Bedard referred the committee to Form A, Capital Budget Requests Compilation submitted by each town department and prioritized over the next five years. Four major projects are listed on the last page, including the replacement of the R.E. Shaw School. Mr. Bedard noted the estimated \$26,800,000 cost is based on analysis of similar projects and does not include a feasibility study.

Mr. Bedard noted that Item #15, Technology: District Wireless, under the School Department lists an amount of \$160,000 which will end up at approximately \$60,000.

Mrs. Hitchcock suggested that we may want to request an additional warrant article for video surveillance cameras for security measures at both Elmwood and Shaw Schools since the current equipment is old and there is no internal surveillance equipment at either school.

Mr. Borowski questioned the delay to FY2018 for the ADA playground at the back of the Elmwood Street School. Mr. Bedard stated they currently have an ADA compliant playground in the front of the school, and other issues present more of a priority.

Mr. Corey stated that the longer we procrastinate on replacing the Shaw School, the building costs will increase substantially. He noted that we may want to think of getting on the Massachusetts School Building Authority's list for next year.

Mr. Bedard also provided a Residential Project Status Summary of residential construction projects that have been approved or pending since 2005. The projects will impact student enrollment in the future.

5. Old Business

Mrs. Hitchcock reported that she met with Mr. Spain and Chief Howell to discuss the proposed School Resource Officer. The anticipated cost for this proposed position will be split between the police and school departments. Mrs. Hitchcock indicated she is not willing to fund the position at the expense of saving a classroom teacher. Currently, neither department has the funding and the position is not included in the FY2015 budget. The committee agreed that security in the schools is paramount, however, funding is not available at this time.

6. New Business

a. Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative Annual Report

Mrs. Hitchcock brought the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative's 2012-2013 Annual Report before the committee. She noted that currently fifteen communities belong to the collaborative, which provides substantially reduced rates for day school for special education students along with high quality professional development for staff. She assured the committee that the collaborative is financially prudent. The review of the report is part of the new compliance with DESE regulations for collaboratives.

Mrs. Vigneau stated that she filed a conflict of interest report on February 4, 2014 in relation to the SEIU contract negotiations since her sister-in-law is a member of the organization.

Mrs. Vigneau also acknowledged Mr. Borowski's daughter, Gianna Borowski on being selected to participate in the inaugural Massachusetts All-State Treble Chorus. Mr. Borowski stated that Gianna along with Emma Guyan are part of 200 students throughout the Commonwealth that have been chosen to sing in Boston.

7. Executive Session

The School Committee will vote to move into Executive Session, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, S21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to move into Executive Session or to postpone until the end of the February 26th meeting. With the absence of Mr. Plante, the consensus was to postpone the Executive Session.

8. Future Topics

- a. FY 2015 Budget Hearing**
- b. 2014-2015 School Calendar**

9. Next Meeting

February 26, 2014 MHS Media Center - 7:00 p.m.
 • **FY2015 School Budget Hearing**
March 12, 2014 MHS Media Center – 7/00 p.m.

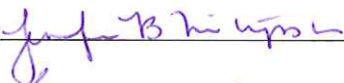
10. Adjourn

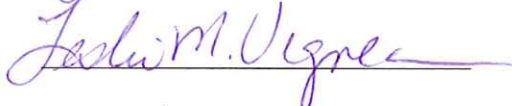
Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Borowski made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (4-0).

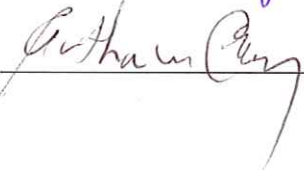
Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Femino
 Sandra Femino
 Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:









Items in Packet:

- Draft of Regular Session Minutes of 1/22/2014
- Draft of Executive Session Minutes of 1/22/2014
- Letter dated 2/4/2014 from MA Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education Re: MA Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA)
- Copy of email Re Budget Requests
- Memo dated 2/3/2014 from R. Bedard Re: DOER Energy Manager's Competitive Grant
- Memo dated 2/6/2014 from B. Turbitt and R. Bedard Re: Town of Millbury, Form A, Capital Budget Requests Compilation

Form A Town of Millbury Capital Budget Request Form
Memo dated 2/3/2014 from R. Bedard Re: Town of Millbury Residential Construction Projects
Project Status Summary dated 1/27/2014
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Annual Report 2012-2013
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Independent Auditor's Reports (Year Ended 6/30/2013)
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Basic Financial Statements (Year Ended 6/30/2013)
Elmwood Street School Newsletter Volume I, Issue 2
The Reflector, Issue 3, Winter 2014

Hand-Outs at Meeting:

2012-13 Dropout Data Summary Report for Millbury
Copy of T&G Article dated 1/28/2008 on Dropout Rates
CSL Grant Awards Celebration List of Awards
Millbury Junior/Senior High School Newsletter, Issue 02, January 2014