

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
FY 2013 SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING
And
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS

Date: February 15, 2012

Present: Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Clawson, Mrs. Nietupski, Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Bedard, Business Manager

Absent: Mr. Plante

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Millbury Junior/Senior High School Media Center

Public Hearing on FY2013 School Budget

Mrs. Vigneau opened the public FY 2013 Budget Hearing at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately sixteen people in attendance.

Mrs. Hitchcock provided a recap of the FY 2013 budget request of \$18,189,439 which is a 3.65% increase over the FY 2012 final budget. She stated the proposed budget is composed of the following four items:

- Contractual Obligations \$418,222 65% of the increase
- Expiring Federal DESE Grant \$163,447 25% of the increase
- New Positions \$169,821 26% of the increase
- Transportation Contract \$ 68,012 11% of the increase

During the past four years from 2009-2012 the budget has been reduced by almost 1.3 million dollars requiring the district to look at how to provide required services. All eight new positions are regulatory requirements mandated by DESE; some are in effect now, others requested will be cited when the DESE comes out next year in order to meet the full compliance review in district programs.

Mrs. Vigneau invited questions from the audience.

Mr. Michael O'Connor of 25 Park Hill Avenue, Millbury and a member of the Millbury Finance Committee addressed the audience. Mr. O'Connor referred to the FY 2013 Governor's budget with Chapter 70 aid remaining the same as last year which could create an area of stress on the budget. The total money available won't be known until after March 1, 2012 when the Town Manager presents his budget which includes the

school budget. The school department receives 62% of the total town budget and the town receives 38%. Mr. O'Connor mentioned the total source of funds available may not be enough to meet current recommendations. Mr. O'Connor referred to information from the budget packet provided by the superintendent. The school budget currently stands at \$19,030,000, with about 7.75% or approximately \$1,400,000 coming from federal and state grants. While the effort to obtain these grants by administration and staff is important, Mr. O'Connor stated that the budget does not include discussion and attribution of these funds. He questioned how these grant funds are utilized and the possibility of using some of these funds to relieve the stress on the budget. He noted that in previous years individual grant funded positions were identified and approved for cuts to the budget and subsequently, not everyone "walked out the door". Mr. O'Connor expressed the finance committee wanted to know how these funds are attributed and how much latitude is allowed from the grants for the superintendent to use.

Mrs. Vigneau asked if there were any more questions from the audience.

Mrs. Hitchcock requested to respond to Mr. O'Connor's comments. She stated that Mr. O'Connor left the viewing audience with some misunderstanding which needed correction. The district does receive over one million dollars in grants, and many pay for in district staff. The Special Education grant is the largest and the school committee has been provided with information every year on how it pays for teachers, counselors, ABA technicians and classroom assistants. A small amount of the grant pays for supplies and materials for Special Education students which can be quite expensive.

The Title I grant was used in the past to pay for five tutor salaries. These positions were eliminated and reworked this year into two reading teachers. Some of the funds from Title IIA are being used for professional development since the district's professional development line was reduced to nothing over the past four years. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that federal and state grants do not allow any variations from what the grants are intended for. The Race to the Top grant is being used for teacher and administrator training to implement the new teacher evaluation system which is required to be in place by September 1, 2012. The Ed Jobs grant is being used to maintain positions or restore positions such as bringing back custodians, increasing the Facilities Manager position from half to full time, and hiring the preschool teacher and nurse in the Classroom Imagine which were required under regulations because of the class size.

Mrs. Hitchcock referred to the positions listed in the budget and that these positions were lost and the staff did "walk out the door" and that these people/positions are no longer with us. In the case of a retirement, the number of Grade 2 teachers was reduced making classes larger. Mrs. Hitchcock will provide a detailed list of eliminated positions upon request.

Mrs. Vigneau invited any further questions and closed the School Budget Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Regular Session - School Committee Meeting – February 15, 2012

At 7:17 p.m. Mrs. Vigneau opened the Regular Session.

1. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of 2/08/2012

Mrs. Vigneau requested a motion to accept the Regular Session Minutes of February 8, 2012. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept seconded by Mrs. Nietupski.

All in favor (4-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Presentation by Freshman Jessica Sharon on the Proposed Windle Field

Rejuvenation Project – Vote Required

Mrs. Hitchcock introduced Jessica Sharon, a Grade 9 student at Millbury Junior/Senior High School and a member of the Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy. Ms. Sharon presented a PowerPoint on her proposal for updates to Windle Field as part of her community service project for the Leadership Academy. She is being mentored by Millbury's Town Clerk, Jayne Davolio.

Ms. Sharon's slogan for her project is "Be young, have fun with a clean Windle Field." She proposed interior updates including repainting the field house floors and walls, having students paint a mural with a sports theme, installing towel and soap dispensers, repainting the kitchen, adding new refrigerators, installing energy efficient light bulbs, and cleaning and organizing the cage area.

The exterior updates include painting the field house, cementing the team benches, replacing equipment boxes, fixing the basketball courts, replacing bleachers, and planting a garden/tree to represent the project.

Ms. Sharon has already obtained volunteers for the project including the girls' softball team, National Junior Honor Society, family and friends. She hopes to raise funds through donations from local businesses and a coin drive in the spring. Upon approval of project, the Millbury Girls' Softball team will make a \$200 donation to the project. A refrigerator for the field house has also been donated by a local family.

Ms. Sharon will send flyers to local businesses, submit a press release in the local newspapers and utilize the Millbury public access channel and community meetings to solicit volunteers and donations.

Mrs. Vigneau complimented Ms. Sharon on the ambitious project and requested a motion to approve. Mr. Corey made the motion to approve seconded by Mrs. Nietupski. All in favor (4-0).

3. Budget

There were no budget questions/discussions.

4. Old Business

a. Third Reading of the Head Injury and Concussion Policy – Vote Required

Mrs. Vigneau requested a motion to approve the third and final reading of the Head Injury and Concussion Policy. Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (4-0).

b. Second and Final Reading of the Staff Technology Use Policy Amendments – Vote Required

Mrs. Vigneau requested a motion to approve the second reading and final reading of the revised Staff Technology Use Policy. Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (4-0).

Mrs. Hitchcock provided the committee a copy of the Policy Adoption and Revision (File: BGB) that states “Amendments to the policy at the action stage will not require repetition of the sequence, unless the committee so directs.”

5. New Business

There were no new business items.

6. Executive Session (if needed)

There was no Executive Session.

7. Next Meeting	March 14, 2012	Shaw Elementary - Tour of Building
	March 28, 2012	Millbury Junior/Senior High School Media Center

Mrs. Vigneau requested tickets for the committee to attend the High School Musical on March 17, 2012.

8. Adjourn

Mrs. Vigneau requested a motion to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Corey made the motion seconded by Mrs. Nietupski. All in favor (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Femino
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:

Arthur McCann

Janice B. McIntyre

Sharon

Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Minutes dated 2/8/2012

Letter from J. Sharon on Windle Field Rejuvenation Project

Copy of Policy Adoption and Revision (File: BGB)

Letter dated 2/13/2012 from R. Bedard to R. Spain on Warrant Articles

Copy of email from S. Hitchcock on Health Insurance Possible Change dated 2/13/2012

Copy of Congratulatory Letter to E. Nasuti from S. Hitchcock and School Committee dated 2/15/2012

Vacancy Postings (2)