

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
Public Hearing of Proposed FY2016 Budget
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

Date: February 25, 2015

Present: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson; Mr. Plante, Vice Chairperson;
Mrs. Vigneau, Mrs. Teixeira, Mrs. Harris-Keddy
Mr. Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Bedard, Business Manager
Mrs. Bellville, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Mrs. Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Mrs. Vasil, Principal, MHS
Mrs. Friedman, Principal, R.E. Shaw School
Mr. Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street School

Absent: Ms. Gianna Okuliczki, Student Advisory Council

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. FY2016 School Department Budget Hearing

Mr. Myers presented a PowerPoint of the FY2016 proposed budget with an overview of expenses and proposed increases. He noted the proposed budget is based on meeting the best interests of students, District Goals that were developed two years ago, DESE and regional accreditation requirements. Mr. Myers clarified the "Other" expenses include curricula material, technology and athletic budget items. The FY2016 budget of \$20,188,077 represents a 4.99% increase over the FY2015 School Operating Budget. Mr. Myers noted that 82% of the proposed budget is based on fixed costs including 36% for contractual increases and steps for personnel, 10% for transportation and another 36% for student support in tuitions and contracted services. There has been an increase in Special Ed placements to 26 (up for 21 in FY2015).

Mr. Myers noted the proposed increase in the budget will also cover three new/restored positions and proposed programs for FY2016. He indicated that the district realized significant savings this year with our utility costs in the amount of \$18,446.

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting for any comments/questions. There were no comments/questions from the public.

Mrs. Nietupski closed the Public Hearing.

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2. Review and Approval of the February 11, 2015 Regular Session Meeting Minutes and February 11, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of February 11, 2015. Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Plante. All in favor (5-0).

Mrs. Nietupski stated any changes, additions or deletions to the Executive Session Minutes of February 11, 2015 will have to be made in Executive Session. Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Plante. All in favor (5-0).

3. Report of the Administration

a. Mass Insight/MMSI Presentation

Mr. Myers introduced Mr. John Smolenski, Field Director for Mass Insight Education. Mr. Smolenski presented a PowerPoint on the AP initiative for the coming school year at Millbury Jr./Sr. High School. The initiative addresses increased participation in math, science and English AP courses. Mr. Smolenski noted that Mass Insight is currently part of approximately one hundred schools in Massachusetts. The proposed school budget includes \$13,150 to support a partnership with Mass Insight that would bring the district significant resources, professional development, support from experienced math, science and English directors, and Saturday study sessions.

Mr. Smolenski expressed that more important than increasing AP scores, is the opportunity for more students to take at least one AP course while in a high school setting. Mr. Smolenski stated AP courses provide a level playing field while Honor courses can vary from school to school. Mr. Myers cited the example of MMSI's participation at Quaboag Regional High School and the improved culture and rigor for the students who participated along with the increase of AP Scores.

Mr. Myers commended the program for the professional development available to both AP and pre-AP teachers down to grade six in math, science and English. He is currently working with Kevin Hayes of Millbury Credit Union to partner for private funding in a sustained AP program. It was also stated that Honors enrollment might decrease with more students taking AP courses.

b. District Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Mr. Myers shared a hardcopy of the new District Faculty and Staff Newsletter, similar to the one that is already published by each school. This vehicle will cover the district, grades PreK-12, foster communication on initiatives, professional development, and celebrate faculty and student success. The publication is going out to employees monthly.

4. Budget

a. Approval of the FY2016 Proposed School Budget

Mrs. Nietupski requested a motion to approve the FY2016 Proposed School Budget in the amount of \$20,095,050 (*final number after the reduction of the*

Medicaid Warrant Article of \$93,027). Mr. Plante made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Harris-Keddy. All in favor (5-0).

Mrs. Nietupski requested a motion to approve the two FY2016 School Department ATM Warrant Articles:

Student Parking Fees Revolving Account Warrant Article (Maximum amount of \$25,000 for expenditures)

School Department Medicaid Warrant Article in the amount of \$93,027 generated from the Municipal Medicaid Reimbursement Program.

Mrs. Harris-Keddy made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Bedard informed the Committee that the Governor's budget is expected to be released next week.

b. HVAC Contract Approval

Mr. Bedard updated the Committee on the recent bid for the annual HVAC service contract effective April 1, 2015. The district has used Renaud HVAC and Controls of Sutton for the last three years. A total of six vendors took out bid specifications. Two bids were disclosed on February 12, 2015. The lowest bid came from Renaud at \$30,525. Mr. Bedard made the recommendation that the Committee accept the bid from Renaud HVAC and Controls for the annual HVAC contract. A provision in the contract allows 2 one-year extensions as an option, which the district will revisit on a yearly basis.

Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to accept the bid of \$30,525 from Renaud HVAC and Controls for the annual HVAC contract, seconded by Mr. Plante. All in favor (5-0).

c. Maintenance Update

Mr. Bedard updated the Committee on two maintenance items:

Although some roof snow removal has taken place, snow accumulation on the roofs in the district measures below the recommended level before action steps need to be taken. Mr. Bedard stated the roofs continue to be monitored and all appear to be in good shape.

Mr. Bedard referred to a recent newspaper article on the delay of state elevator inspections. He informed the Committee that the district has three elevators and three stage lifts that are required to be inspected every year. All of them have been inspected with an active certificate or have an application for inspection on file.

5. Old Business

a. Policy Subcommittee Update

Mrs. Teixeira updated the Committee on the Policy Subcommittee Meeting held on February 24, 2015. Members attending included Dorothy Presser, MASC Field Director; Mrs. Nietupski, Mr. Myers, Mr. Bedard and Mrs. Teixeira. The

Subcommittee reviewed the District Wellness Policy, which will be part of Section A. This item will be on the agenda in early March, and implemented in the coming school year. The Subcommittee reviewed half of Section B on "Board Governance and Operations."

6. New Business

Mrs. Keddy questioned the possibility of providing a list to the DPW of the sidewalks in town that can be cleared for the 90 walkers in the district. Mr. Myers noted that Robert McNeil, DPW Director, has already contacted Mr. Bedard on prioritizing the needs of clearing heavily traveled areas.

Mrs. Teixeira noted the sidewalk in front of the high school also needs to be cleared, as students are forced to go onto the street at parent pick-up time.

7. Executive Session, if needed

8. Future Topics/Events

- a. Review and Acceptance of Section A of School Committee Policies**
- b. Gale Associates Presentation**
- c. Humanities Scholars Program Presentation**

- 9. Next Meeting:** March 5, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Manager’s Budget Presentation to Millbury Board of Selectman
 March 11, 2015- 7:00 p.m. – MHS Media Center

10. Adjourn

Mrs. Nietupski requested a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Mrs. Teixeira made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Harris-Keddy. All in favor (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Femino

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:

Lestli M. Ugre

Susan Jeyend

Janifer B. Minetti

Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Minutes of 2/11/2015
Draft of Executive Session Minutes of 2/11/2015
Proposed FY16 Budget Notice of Hearing
Millbury District Faculty & Staff Newsletter
Memo from R.Bedard dated 2/18/2015 re HVAC Services Bid

Hand-Outs at Meeting:

Mass Insight PowerPoint presentation
School Committee Voted FY16 Budget
FY2016 School Department ATM Warrant Articles