

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS

Date: March 26, 2014

Present: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson; Mr. Borowski, Vice Chairperson;
Mrs. Vigneau; Mr. Corey; Mr. Plante; Mrs. Hitchcock,
Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Bedard, Business Manager;
Ryan Mercier, 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. Approval of Regular Session Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2014 and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2014

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of March 12, 2014.

Mr. Corey made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Borowski. All in favor (5-0)

Mrs. Nietupski stated any changes, additions or deletions to the Executive Session Minutes of March 5, 2014 will have to be made in Executive Session.

Mr. Borowski made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All in favor (5-0)

2. Report of the Student Council

Senior Gabriella Prominski, President of Student Council, and Junior Kerrin O'Leary, Treasurer of Student Council, updated the committee on current events at the high school.

Report of the Student Advisory Council

Senior Andrew Borus, Vice President of the Student Advisory Council, proposed reinstating Student Government Day in the district. He stated that he brought this before the Board of Selectmen at their last meeting. Mrs. Hitchcock suggested that he have a conversation with Principal Vasil for a follow-up with Mr. Palano to identify some dates that will be convenient for both groups. Mr. Borowski requested the administration be proactive to make this work as soon as possible.

a. Report on the Visit by Secretary of Education Matthew Malone and Senator Michael Moore on Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Mrs. Hitchcock reported on the visit of Secretary of Education, Dr. Matthew Malone, and Senator Michael Moore. They were joined by Principal Vasil and toured Millbury Junior/Senior High School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that Dr. Malone's message to students was to consider applying to public colleges. She noted the visit as very engaging and the students and staff of Millbury Junior/Senior High School provided a thorough review of the STEM programs.

b. Analysis of Cost of New DESE Initiatives

Mrs. Hitchcock presented a PowerPoint on the costs involved for the school district for the 10 new unfunded mandates since their year of inception:

1. Common Core – ELA/Math 2012-2013

Math textbooks were purchased under a warrant article approved at last year's town meeting. A cost of \$131,665 from the local budget and the warrant article was used to support various professional development, stipends, resources and software. The federal Race to the Top grant provided \$60,680.

2. Educator Evaluation –2012-2013

The costs for stipends to develop the Educator Evaluation Committee included eleven administrators and five teachers. Other costs included Professional Development and the necessary addition of 1.5 Assistant Principals, which were necessary to conduct the number of observations needed under the Educator Evaluation mandate. The Teacher Mentor Program, mentor stipends and potential future expense of TeachPoint software are also factored in the local costs of \$222,938 and \$74,873 coming from Race to the Top and Title IIA Teacher Quality.

3. RETELL – (Rethinking & Teaching for English Language Learners) 2013-2014

The RETELL mandate requires teachers to take this course if they have ELL students in their classes next year. Eleven staff member are currently being trained, and all other teachers working with ELL students will be required to become licensed in ELL by the year 2016. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that although the state is providing training, there will come a time when we will have to pay this cost and we anticipate 70 teachers will be left to be trained by 2016. She noted that contractually, we are required to reimburse at \$250 per person, for an anticipated cost amount of \$17,500. This amount combined with the Professional Development costs and the salary for a full time ELL teacher at Elmwood bring the total to \$109,800, which is coming from the local budget only.

4. PARCC (Partnership for Assessment for Readiness for College & Careers) 2013-2014

Mrs. Hitchcock noted PARCC is the reason we required 3 years of technology warrant articles in order to update and replace our outdated technology. Our district would not be eligible to participate in PARCC (which may be replacing MCAS) without this updated hardware. We will be requesting the third technology warrant article in the amount of

\$60,000 (\$100,000 less than originally anticipated) at the Annual Town Meeting. She noted that PARCC presents the biggest challenge and currently two of our fourth grade classes were randomly chosen for ELA performance and end of the year assessments. The local budget costs involved are \$328,478 and \$340,000 from the 3-year warrant articles for a total cost of \$668,478.

5. DDMS (District Determined Measures) 2013-2014

Mrs. Hitchcock noted that we have assessments that are already in place in the district. We are now required to adopt assessments to determine how teachers impact student learning in classroom. Mrs. Hitchcock does not believe these assessments should be used to evaluate teachers in the classrooms, however, additional costs will be involved if this comes to pass. The current assessments include MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) for a local budget cost of \$35,000.

6. MKEA (MA Kindergarten Education Assessment) 2014-2015

Mrs. Hitchcock noted the district is preparing for initiation of this mandate in the upcoming school year. All kindergarten staff will be trained on the first day of school in August (which will result in a cost to cover substitute teachers). The assessment cost is free for the first year and will cost the district \$9.95/per pupil in year two. Additional training and the purchase of 7 iPads to record observations by kindergarten teachers brings the total local budget costs to \$11,850.

7. New Behavioral Standards Regulations 2014-2015

Mrs. Hitchcock stated the same regulations currently in place for SPED students will need to be followed for all general education students. This will include 45-day assessment programs and potential Out-of-District placements at new and unforeseen costs.

8. Fingerprinting 2013-2014

While this is currently not a cost to the district, effective immediately all employees hired in 2013-2014 and any new employees are required to be fingerprinted. The employee cost involved is \$55.00 for licensed educators and \$35.00 for support staff. All new hires in the summer/fall will be given letters along with directions for this process. All current employees must be fingerprinted within a 3-year period. The estimated total cost to employees is \$13,800.

9. Next Generation Science Standards 2015-2016

Mrs. Hitchcock stated Professional Development, Consultation and New Materials for our science staff from WPI will cost \$3,900 out of the local budget.

10. Homeless Transportation

Mrs. Hitchcock reported on the cost of homeless transportation from 2009 to date for a total of \$138,269, with state reimbursement provided for year 2013 only at 35% (\$26,970). She noted there is no way of projecting homeless transportation.

While noting the above 10 initiatives are overwhelming, Mrs. Hitchcock stated our goal is to keep much of the burden away from teachers. She stated that none of these will go away after one year of implementation; they are multi-year goals and tasks with the same charge throughout the state.

Mrs. Hitchcock provided an updated list of budget reductions from 2009-2012. The updated list noted the only positions that were restored in that timeframe were the .5 FTE Assistant Principal in 2012-2013 due to the new Educator Evaluation mandate and the .25 FTE Director of Curriculum position in 2012-2013. She stated that the 1.0 FTE High School Special Education teacher that was cut in 2010-2011 has not been restored, which presents a serious drawback in special education services at the high school.

Mrs. Hitchcock indicated that she does not know any other department in the town requiring the level of mandates and timelines expected as required in the school department.

4. Budget

a. FY 2015 Proposed School Budget – Discussion

Mrs. Nietupski asked the committee for any comments/discussion on the proposed school budget. She noted the public is invited to attend the open meeting being held at the Town Hall on March 27th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Borowski spoke on behalf of the committee in hopes of an open and honest dialog with the town and the impact of these cuts five years from now.

Mrs. Hitchcock also welcomed parents to attend the open meeting since it has an impact on their child's education. She noted that cuts for the school budget will be in the personnel line, as there is nowhere else to cut.

b. Roselli & Clark FY'13 End-of-the-Year Audit Report

Mr. Bedard reported on the findings of the Town's independent auditor for the FY 2013 End of the Year Report. There were no audit findings. Mr. Borowski commended Mr. Turbitt and Mr. Bedard on their work with the town and school finances.

c. Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Bedard referred the committee to his memo on the acceptance of three donations to Millbury Public Schools:

Wheelabrator Technologies donated 60 brand new student chairs and desks purchased through the W.B. Mason Company at a value of \$8,913. They were installed in two classrooms at the R.E. Shaw Elementary School. The staff at the Shaw School, including custodian Pam Higginbottom were instrumental in making this happen.

The Staples Foundation Program "2 Million & Change," whereby a Staples associate can nominate grant recipients, provided a \$1,000 donation for new book purchases at the Elmwood Street School library. Elmwood parent and Staples associate, David Lavalley nominated the Millbury Public Schools for this donation.

A \$100 donation from the Massachusetts Destination Imagination was received to be used towards the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School student activity fund.

Mr. Bedard recommended the committee vote to accept all of the above donations. Mr. Borowski made the motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (5-0). Thank you letters will be sent on behalf of the committee.

d. Current Status of Revolving Accounts

Mr. Bedard provided a report on the Revolving Account Summary ending in February 2014. He indicated carbon monoxide detectors will be soon be installed at Dorothy Manor adding to their expenses. The Athletic Revolving Account is starting to deplete in the fourth quarter. The Student Parking Revolving Account is now at \$28,629 and with the increase in the threshold from the Town Meeting Warrant Article language to spend up to \$25,000, updates are being planned for the high school parking lot over the summer months.

5. Old Business

Mrs. Vigneau acknowledged the Millbury Jazz Band which performed with Sutton on March 13, 2014, and complimented Mr. Dan Ferreira, Music Teacher at Millbury Jr./Sr. High School.

Mr. Borowski noted a personal thank you to Shaw Music Teacher, Jim Rollins, for his work with the All-State Treble Chorus.

6. New Business

a. Superintendent Search Process

Mrs. Nietupski reported that she has contacted three different organizations which provide professional superintendent search committees. One of the organizations are so inundated with superintendent searches, they do not have enough time to take on another. NESDEC (New England School Development Council) and MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) are being considered. Mrs. Nietupski stated that Mr. Glenn Koocher of MASC will attend the April 9 School Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. to present their proposal for the search process.

Mr. Borowski questioned where the funding will come from. Mr. Bedard stated it comes for the school's operating budget

7. Executive Session

At 8:08 p.m., Mrs. Nietupski requested a roll call to *“move into Executive Session, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, S21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.”* Mrs. Vigneau – Yes; Mr. Corey – Yes; Mrs. Nietupski – Yes; Mr. Borowski – Yes; Mr. Plante - Yes

8. Future Topics

a. School Choice Decision for 2014-2015

b. New Student Discipline Regulations

c. New Fingerprint Identification System for Employees

Next Meeting	March 27, 2014	Joint Meeting of the SC, BOS and Finance Committee at the Millbury Public Library – 7:00 p.m.
	April 9, 2014	MHS Media Center – 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn

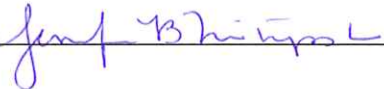
The Regular Session of the School Committee was adjourned following the Executive Session.

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

Approved:







Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Minutes of 3/12/2014

Draft of Executive Session Minutes of 3/5/2014

Memo from R.Bedard dated 3/18/2014 Re: Roselli and Clark's Millbury Public Schools' FY 2013 End of Year DESE Financial Report Audit

Memo from R.Bedard dated 3/17/2014 Re: Acceptance of Donations

Revolving Account Summary – 2/28/2014

Hand Outs at Meeting:

DESE New Unfunded Initiatives 3/25/2014

MPS Budget Reductions 2009-2012

The Reflector, Issue 4, Spring 2014