

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

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Date: May 9, 2012

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

Absent: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Millbury Junior Senior High School Media Center

1. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of 4/25/2012

Mr. Borowski requested a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 25, 2012. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept seconded by Mr. Plante. All in favor (4-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Presentation by Students: Wheelabrator Symposium

Mrs. Hitchcock introduced the Wheelabrator team under the direction of Mark Sutphen and John Hillier. The following nine students attended the Wheelabrator Symposium in Florida from April 30th to May 3rd: Nathan Burdzel, Kristina Kniskern, Christopher Leighton, Noah McDuffie, Gianna Okuliczki, Alexandra Pitcher, McGuire Uccello, Kailen Warren and Scott Yaghoobian. The project chosen this year was the effect of road salt on Millbury roads. The team played a video depicting themselves as college graduates of Fisk University looking back on their high school project. Mrs. Hitchcock commended the team and their advisors on their participation in the yearly event. Mr. Andy Hall, Assistant Principal of Millbury Junior High School, also accompanied the team as the administrator on the trip.

b. BVT Acceptance Criteria/Opportunities for Further Technology and Trade Options

Mrs. Hitchcock provided a copy of an application to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School along with a breakdown of the criteria for acceptance. Mrs. Hitchcock reported that 13 communities are members of BVT and that the school serves 1,000 – 1,100 students in grades 9-12. Each of the 13 communities may enroll approximately 19 students. She stated that the 18 students accepted from Millbury fall within these parameters.

Mrs. Hitchcock indicated that students need to be made aware of all the factors involved in the acceptance process which include academics, attendance and behavior. She also suggested a presentation on criteria be made to 6th grade students to demonstrate the

importance of all criteria involved in the acceptance process. A list of other schools that provide trade programs was provided. Guidance counselors at Millbury Junior Senior High School have conversations with students who were not accepted into BVT on these options after graduation.

Mr. Borowski was in agreement that this is a competitive process. He suggested brainstorming ideas on alternative programs for students who are not accepted. Mr. Corey concurred that he is concerned with the student who doesn't get in and their alternatives. Mr. Plante recommended that the Guidance Department ensures that test takers in grade 8 are really interested before applying. Mr. Borowski made the recommendation that the committee comes back with an action plan on the first meeting in June for first time applicants and their recourse. Mrs. Hitchcock agreed to the Guidance Department presentation to grade 6 students beginning this year.

c. Letter from Chris Rawley regarding the VEX Robotics Program

Mrs. Hitchcock received and read the letter from Mrs. Chris Rawley, wife of Bruce Rawley, on her thoughts of the VEX Robotics Program and the group who recently attended the VEX Robotics World Championship in Anaheim, California. Mrs. Hitchcock recognized Mr. Rawley for his participation in the program for a number of years and also thanked Mrs. Vasil, Assistant Principal of Millbury High School, for attending this year. Mr. Borowski extended his congratulations to all on behalf of the committee. Mrs. Vigneau acknowledged the team for sharing the demonstration within the community at recent events.

d. MASC Training – May 23rd 5:00-7:00 p.m.; School Committee Role and Responsibilities

Mrs. Hitchcock announced that Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, will be here from 5-7 p.m. on May 23rd to train the committee on their roles and responsibilities. The training will take place in the Courtyard Room at Millbury Junior/Senior High School prior to the Regular Session of the School Committee.

3. Budget

a. Maintenance Update

Mr. Bedard referred to his Maintenance Update memo regarding:

- Windle Field BV Youth Leadership Service Project Updates – Jessica Sharon and her volunteers were commended for the updates made thus far. Mr. Bedard included some pictures of the updates for review.
- Batting Cage installed at MHS Athletic Field
- Big Belly Solar Powered Trash Compactor – 3 installed in Millbury: One at the Municipal Office Building, the Public Library and the MHS Athletic Field

b. Receipt of True Value Foundation Paint Grant

Mr. Bedard informed the committee of receiving a grant from True Value Hardware for 20 gallons of paint to be used at the RE Shaw Elementary school. The painting will be

done over the summer. The committee asked that a thank you note be sent to Ray's True Value on their behalf.

A thank you letter to Jessica Sharon was also requested. However, a letter on the committee's behalf was sent to Ms. Sharon previously. Mrs. Hitchcock was informed that Ms. Sharon plans on updating the committee on the rejuvenation project at the June 13th school committee meeting.

Invitations for Bids:

Mr. Bedard provided a list of projects that are currently advertised for public bid:

- MHS Outside LED Lighting (parking lot at high school) Green Communities Grant
- MHS Classroom Imagine Room - Redoing classroom at MHS for Classroom Imagine
- Dorothy Manor Paving Project
- Type A 20 Passenger Mini-Bus -Warrant article – type a – small mini bus to replace one that we have now and hope to have in place this fall
- Old Jr. High Greenhouse has been condemned and we are looking to have it removed this summer due to safety issues
- MHS Room C-120- Converting room to computer lab this summer
- MHS Hot Water Tank – electric components need replacement on one of the two water tanks

4. Old Business

a. Revise the 2012-2013 School Calendar – Vote required

Mrs. Hitchcock referred to the School Calendar previously voted on and approved on April 11, 2012. Since then, the Union Executive Board shared concerns resulting in a revised calendar requiring the committee's approval. The following items were changed:

- New teacher orientation on Wednesday, August 22nd
- All staff will return Monday August 27th
- Professional Development Day is on August 28th
- Students will begin on August 29th for grades 1-12
- Kindergarten students begin on August 30th
- School will be in session on August 31st
- Preschool will begin on September 4th
- Additional Professional Development day usually held in August will be held on January 18th
- Without required 5 snow days, school will end on June 18th, or June 25th (with 5 snow days)

Mrs. Hitchcock recommended the committee vote on the revised calendar.

Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve seconded by Mr. Plante. All in favor (4-0).

5. New Business

a. Field Trip to France and Spain in April 2013 – Vote required

Mrs. Hitchcock referred to the informational packet provided on the trip. Mr. Besian Kodra, Social Studies Teacher at Millbury Junior/Senior High School, was in attendance and asked to address the committee on the details of the trip. Mr. Kodra expressed his concern of the lack of worldly views of issues among students in Millbury. After contacting different companies, Education First Tours was selected. The countries of France and Spain were chosen because these two languages are offered in the high school. Mr. Kodra anticipates the trip will help develop different understandings with the ultimate goal to have students become better versed in dealing with people of different cultures and acquire a global perspective. This is proposed as an annual trip with different destinations each year. The trip will be taken during April vacation in 2013. A parent information session was held with over 75 people attending. Mr. Kodra stated that 43 students are currently enrolled along with a waiting list, pending approval from the committee. There is commitment from all three administrators at the high school to attend. Mr. Kodra did not feel there will be a problem obtaining chaperones as they travel for free (one for every six students).

Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve the trip citing her families past involvement in a similar trip and their positive feedback. Mrs. Hitchcock expressed the need to work out details for the trip as far as medications and taking a nurse along. A conversation with students regarding their behavior in a foreign country and the implications of any use of drugs or alcohol will need to be addressed. Mrs. Hitchcock commended Mr. Kodra for his research on the trip. Mr. Borowski stated we will have to remain aware of current world events preceding the trip. Mr. Plante commended Mr. Kodra on his efforts. Mr. Plante seconded Mrs. Vigneau's motion to approve. All in favor (4-0).

6. Executive Session (if needed)


7. Next Meeting	May 23, 2012	7:00 p.m. MHS Courtyard – 5:00 p.m.
	June 13, 2012	7:00 p.m. MHS Tour – 6:30 p.m.
	June 27, 2012	7:00 p.m. MHS

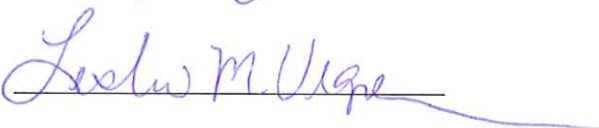
8. Adjourn

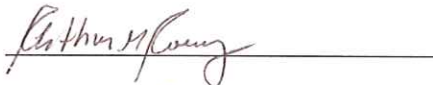
Mr. Borowski requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Corey made the motion seconded by Mr. Plante. All in favor (4-0).

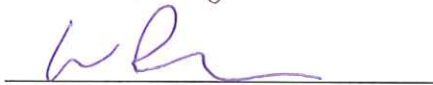
Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Femino
Sandra Femino
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:









Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Minutes of 4/25/2012
Memo from S. DeLucia to S. Hitchcock on Blackstone Valley Tech dated 4/30/2012
Application for Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School
Letter from C. Rawley on VEX Robotics World Championship dated 4/28/2012
Memo from R. Bedard on Maintenance Update dated 5/1/2012
Pictures of Updates to Windle Field
Letter from True Value Foundation dated 4/11/2012
Revised School Calendar 2012-13
Informational Packet from B. Kodra on 10-day trip to France/Spain dated 4/13/2012

Item(s) distributed at meeting:

Letter from D. Moschos on Role of Superintendent and School Committee dated 5/8/2012