

**Millbury School Committee Meeting  
REGULAR SESSION  
Minutes**

MILLBURY  
TOWN CLERK  
15 NOV 12 AM 8:41  
MILLBURY, MASS

- Date:** May 13, 2015
- Present:** Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson  
Mrs. Vigneau, Mrs. Teixeira, Mr. Wilbur  
Ms. Gianna Okuliczki, Student Advisory Council  
Mr. Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Bellville, Director of Curriculum  
Ms. Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
- Absent:** Mr. Plante, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Bedard, Business Manager
- 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. Review and Approval of the April 8, 2015 Regular Session Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2015 and the May 5, 2015 Special Session Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of April 29, 2015. Mrs. Teixeira made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Vigneau. All in favor (4-0).

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions to the Special Session Minutes of May 5, 2015. Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All in favor (4-0).

**2. Report of the Administration**

**a. Recognition of Bonnie Nieves – Promising Practices Award**

Mr. Myers introduced Mrs. Bonnie Nieves as this year's recipient of the Promising Practices Award established by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents' Consortium. Mr. Myers noted Mrs. Nieves was selected for her highly-engaging lesson on forensic science, which she taught in collaboration with a professor from Becker College's Criminal Justice Department. Senator Michael Moore presented Mrs. Nieves a special proclamation from the Statehouse. Mrs. Nieves will be recognized along with other area recipients at a breakfast at The Asa Waters Mansion on Friday, May 15, 2015.

**b. Senator Michael Moore – Update on Budget**

Mr. Myers invited Senator Michael Moore to present an update on the FY2016 budget and to answer any questions from the Committee. Senator Moore reported The Senate Ways and Means Committee budget for FY2016 recommends an increase of \$111.2 million to Chapter 70 (General Aid to Education), while the Governor's proposed budget recommends a \$105 million increase in Chapter 70 funding. The proposed Senate budget provides an additional \$25 per student aid. It also recommends full Circuit Breaker funding at \$271.5 million. The

Senate budget proposes the same funding as the House for an increase of \$5 million and total funding of \$56.5 million for Regional School Transportation. The House and Senate have proposed funding mandated homeless transportation at about half of the actual cost to districts.

Senator Moore indicated the bad news is that the Governor's budget does not include funding for the Kindergarten grant. The Senate is closely monitoring the House budget and hopes to amend and restore the \$18 million difference. He noted the importance cited by MASC for closing the gap in learning by the third grade and the Senate has prioritized to try to restore the gap. Mr. Myers noted the loss of the Kindergarten grant will mean a \$52,000 gap in the school budget; and appreciates the efforts of Senator Moore and his colleagues to restore funding. Mr. Myers stated Millbury Town Manager, Mr. Spain, has expressed interest in helping to make up this deficit if we cannot get it from the State.

**c. ELL and Sped Update**

Ms. Ryan, Director of Pupil Services, updated the Committee on recent efforts to address the needs of ELL and Special Education students in the district.

Ms. Ryan reported the first ELL Parent Advisory Council met in February and provided translators and transportation for ELL parents with an overview from our two ESL teachers. A second meeting is planned in June as a drop-in session with translators and interpreters available to assist in paperwork for school registration in the fall.

Progress has been made with the noncompliance of the district in English Learner Education Compliance Review. The final progress review was submitted in January and Millbury has fully implemented all corrective action and will continue to monitor compliance. One major step in achieving full compliance will be the acquisition of an additional ESL teaching position, which is currently in the interviewing stage.

The second Annual Resource Fair for parents and guardians of Special Education students was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Several agencies and vendors were available to meet with parents and guardians.

A survey was made available to parents and guardians of Special Education students for feedback on helping their child's school to be a good partner. Families received notification and a link address to complete the survey, which is also available on the Millbury Special Education website. A copy of the survey was provided to the Committee.

The district is preparing for the Mid-Cycle Review, which is a component of the Coordinated Program Review. The Department of Education will be visiting at some point next school year, and the District's self-assessment is due on August 7. More details will follow.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council continues to struggle with membership. The final meeting is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> with a vocabulary and reading strategies presentation by Liz Trahan and Carol Cooney of the Special Education department.

**d. Mentoring Update**

Mrs. Bellville presented a PowerPoint on the Millbury Mentoring Program. The lead mentors for the district are Jennifer Kephart, Elmwood Elementary School; Karla Belliveau, R.E. Shaw Elementary School; Stephanie Delucia and Mark Sutphen of Millbury Jr./Sr. High School. Mentor and mentee requirements were discussed as well as new requirements from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mr. Myers noted the district's mentor program was cited by the Coordinated Program Review team as being exceptionally strong and comprehensive.

**e. District Goals and Initiatives Update**

Mr. Myers and Mrs. Bellville updated the Committee on progress to date in meeting the 2014-2015 District goals and Initiatives through a PowerPoint presentation. The seven Goals and Initiatives are:

- 1) Enhancing Technology
- 2) Data-Driven Decision-Making
- 3) Implementing the Common Core
- 4) Improving Professional Development
- 5) Implementing Educator Evaluation
- 6) Improving Communication
- 7) Improving Student and Staff Safety

**f. Student and Staff Survey**

Mr. Myers updated the Committee on the successful district-wide student and staff survey. Students in grades 3-12 and all teachers in grades PreK-12 were surveyed as part of DESE's new evaluation requirements. Mr. Myers noted a survey for ancillary staff is being developed for future use.

Discussion followed on the District's philosophy on separating grades 7 and 8 from the high school. Mr. Myers stated that he has met with the Junior High staff and feedback indicates students in grades 5-8 warrant a special and separate educational experience. Information from the survey has been shared with teachers and principals but is not shared with the state.

**3. Budget**

**a. Acceptance of donation from Saint-Gobain Corporation Charitable Foundation – Vote Required**

Mr. Myers noted Mr. Rucho of Millbury Jr./Sr. High School has purchased a new projector and cart for his classroom through the generous donation from the Saint-Gobain Corporation Charitable Foundation.

Mrs. Nietupski requested a motion to accept the donation.

Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All in favor (4-0).

**b. Acceptance of donation from Michael T. Ellsessar Memorial Fund – Vote Required**

Mr. Myers informed the Committee of a special ceremony held at Sutton High School to honor the memory of student athlete Michael T. Ellsessar. John and Luanne Ellsessar presented new automated external defibrillators to several area athletic departments, including Millbury.

Mrs. Nietuspski requested a motion to accept the donation. Mrs. Teixeira made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All in favor (4-0).

Thank you letters were requested for both donations.

Additional Item:

Mr. Myers informed the Committee that Mr. Bedard will provide an update on the school district's Capital Budget requests through 2020 at the next meeting.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Principal Search**

Ms. Ryan, Chairperson of the Principal Search Committee, updated the Committee on the progress of the search.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **a. Superintendent's Contract**

Mrs. Nietuspski noted the current Superintendent's contract was for three years with salary negotiable after the first year. The Committee met in March and agreed to terminate the current contract and renegotiated a new contract for a five year period effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. Changes include a deferred compensation plan and annual salary increases based on the economy, District finances and Superintendent's performance. Renewal of the contract requires written notice from the School Committee to the Superintendent no later than June 30, 2019.

Mrs. Nietuspski requested a motion to ratify the employment agreement for Mr. Myers from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. Mrs. Vigneau made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All in favor (4-0).

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##### **b. Disclosure – Chris Wilbur**

Mr. Wilbur stated, "Madame Chairperson, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 28A, Section 20(d), I am disclosing to the committee that, from time to time, I am assigned as a game official for athletic events held at Millbury High School and that I receive compensation for these duties from the Town of Millbury. As part of this disclosure under Section 20(d), I will file a disclosure form with the Millbury Board of Selectmen and have a copy kept on file with the Millbury Town Clerk."

##### **c. Marching Band Presentation**

Current Millbury seniors Emily Saunders and Gary Despres, along with Nicole Wright of the Class of 2013, updated the Committee on the Millbury marching band program and the personal impact it has had on them.

#### **6. Executive Session (if needed)**

#### **7. Future Topics/Events**

- a. Review and Acceptance of Section A of School Committee Policies**
- b. School Choice Vote**
- c. Superintendent's Evaluation**

- 8. Next Meeting:** May 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Media Center  
June 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Media Center

**9. Adjourn**

Mrs. Nietupski requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Wilbur made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All in favor (4-0).

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

Approved:

*Joseph B. Nietupski*  
*Richard M. Vigore*  
*Susan Teixeira*  
*Christopher Wilbur*

Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Meeting Minutes of 4/29/2015  
Draft of Special Session Meeting Minutes of 5/5/2015  
DESE Information on Parent Involvement Survey  
Letter dated 4/6/2015 Saint-Gobain Corporation  
Letter dated 4/27/2015 Jaclyn Chaves/Bose Corporation

Hand Outs at Meeting:

PowerPoint of Millbury District Goals and Initiatives 2014-2015 and Moving Forward 2015-2016  
PowerPoint of Millbury Mentoring Program