

Millbury School Committee Minutes

DATE: May 11, 2011

Present: Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Plante, Mr. Clawson, Mrs. Nietupski, Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, Ms. Vasil, MHS Asst. Principal

Location: Millbury Memorial Junior/Senior High School

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Vigneau brought the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

There were approximately 40 people present.

Approval of the Regular Session Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2011 and April 27, 2011 meetings. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Approval of the Executive Session Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2011 meetings. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2011 meetings. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the minutes and Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. Mr. Clawson abstained. All in favor (4-0).

Report of the Administration

Robotic Team Presentation

Mrs. Pamela Graves, Chair of Science and Engineering Department at Millbury High School introduced the Robotics Team that had a successful trip to Florida. She gave a fundraising report to the School Committee. She noted a great deal of support from local businesses such as; Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. (Waste Management), Millbury Savings Bank, A.K. Machine Co., Inc., Atchue Opticians, Atlas Box & Grating Co., Inc., Goretti Supermarkets, Inc., David Matson, D.M.D., McCracken Financial Solutions Corp., Millbury Federal Credit Union, Millbury Savings Bank, Millbury Women's Club, CK Smith/Superior, S & D Spinning Mill, Inc., William Spang, D.D. S., United Tool and Mfg., Inc., Waster Management. Also Scales and EM Screen donated. The Team proceeded to demonstrate their robot. Mrs. Graves noted that the Robotics Club will be hosting a spaghetti supper on Tuesday May 24th from 4:30 to 7:00 for raising additional funds. She and the students thanked the School Committee for all their support. The

team came in 35th in their division out of 104 competitors. Mrs. Mandy Vasil, Assistant Principal, noted how excited she was to travel with the students and that they did a phenomenal job. Mrs. Hitchcock told the School Committee that for a team only in existence two years, to be invited to global competition is remarkable. She noted this is the best example of using science, engineering and math in a fun and rewarding way. This activity supports our curriculum. Mrs. Vigneau noted it was a proud moment for the Millbury Public Schools and the community.

Superintendent's Recommendation regarding School Choice

Mrs. Hitchcock noted that every year we are required to ask the School Committee whether or not to implement School Choice, a vote has to be taken by June 1st. She mentioned that once again she is recommending that the Committee not accept school choice. The reasons she noted were that we receive only \$5,000 for each student and we spend \$10,035 indicating a substantial loss, and that with a reduction in positions throughout the buildings her concern is that class sizes will rise. Mr. Clawson asked that if voted tonight we won't get the money this year? Mrs. Hitchcock noted that we would not. Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion. Mr. Corey made a motion **not** to accept School Choice and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Report of Wheelabrator Symposium

Mrs. Hitchcock has invited Mr. Hall and the students who made the trip to the Wheelabrator Symposium to attend the May 25th School Committee meeting to give a brief demonstration of their very successful trip.

Graduation: Friday, June 10th 7:00 p.m. at Mechanics Hall

Mrs. Hitchcock noted that this year's graduation class is unusually large and it will be a tight fit. If tickets are not going to be used she urged their return to the High School as other people may need them.

Old Business

Revolving Accounts

Mr. Bedard conducted a discussion of the Revolving Accounts as of 4/30/11. He noted the fact that these funds revolve from year to year and that the figures were consistent to what was given to the School Committee last month. Mr. Bedard also supplied the School Committee with information regarding the anticipated balances after the encumbrances are paid out. The Elmwood Preschool would be \$28,236; Non Resident Tuition Revolving (Classroom Imagine) would be \$87,152. He noted the Athletic Revolving would decrease to \$10,000 by the end of the year. Mrs. Vigneau asked for any recommendations to bring those numbers down. Mr. Bedard noted he always looks for ways to utilize the funds for what they are intended, such as the Dorothy Manor Revolving account is used to repair the aging school.

2012 Budget Reduction

Mrs. Hitchcock discussed her meeting with Mr. Bob Spain about the impending deficit. Originally the deficit was projected to be \$345,754, and if it was to be split 60/40 we

would have to reduce the budget by \$207,000. Yesterday Mr. Spain informed Mrs. Hitchcock that the town of Millbury had higher than expected tax revenues. As a result the anticipated school deficit is \$150,000 the lowest it has been in three years. She noted we could save staff positions, and that Mr. Spain graciously indicated that if monies were increased they would split that with us as well provided the budget out of the state house remains the same. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that she met with the administrative staff to discuss maintaining services. She mentioned we are not in position that we can reduce any more professional development or supplies and materials. Therefore, staff reductions will be necessary. The administration had anticipated 2 to 2.6 FTE at Elmwood, .4 FTE at Shaw, and the High School 1.4 FTE. In addition, two half-time positions: custodial/operations. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that they will go back to the drawing board and see how they can get this down further and present the results at the next School Committee meeting, but reminded the School Committee to keep in mind that we have to budget the cost of layoffs.

A discussion was held as to whether or not two School Committee meetings were needed. A decision to have one meeting on the 25th earlier in the evening was decided as no tiers will be needed.

Report of Windle Field advisory

Mr. Bedard noted that construction ready documents are required before the Army Corps of Engineers will assist with the 2007 Master Plan to renovate Windle Field. In an attempt to downsize the project from 3.6 million to 1 million, Mr. Bedard went back to Cooney and Associates for an estimate. \$16,900 will be the fee just to re-phase the Master Plan and complete the wetland permitting, and to design a construction ready document would be 10% of 1 million. With economic times and the high cost of the project, Mr. Bedard did not think it would be feasible to proceed. The next meeting of the Windle Field advisory will vote up or down on the project. Mrs. Vigneau noted she was very disappointed, and thanked the Windle Field Committee for trying to make this work out. Mr. Bedard mentioned that he was very disappointed as well and was hoping to have had much of it completed for Millbury's Bicentennial.

Radon results report

Mr. Bedard noted on April 9th Universal Environmental Consultants completed the radon testing at our three schools and Dorothy Manor. He was pleased to inform the Committee that in all four buildings radon concentrations were found to be lower than EPA guidelines. There is no Radon issue. As Dorothy Manor levels were slightly below EPA levels in two concentrations, they would like to do re-testing there in a storage room. There are no children in that room and Dorothy Manor is in compliance. Mr. Clawson asked how often we have these test. Mr. Bedard noted that technically speaking we are not required to take this test presently. Mr. Clawson asked for the cost. Mr. Bedard noted it was \$1,400 to run the test and \$600 to re-test and that Dorothy Manor revolving account will cover this additional cost.

New Business

Mr. Hitchcock asked the School Committee if they are still planning a June 8th School Committee Meeting or would they like to cancel it because they are having a meeting the night before scheduled for before the Annual Town Meeting. The School Committee indicated that yes, she can cancel the June 8th meeting.

Mrs. Vigneau thanked the Environmental Council for water bottles.

Executive Session

At 7:45 P.M. Mrs. Vigneau stated that in accordance with Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) of the MA General Laws, the Millbury School Committee will vote to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Plante- yes, Mr. Corey – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mr. Clawson – yes, Mrs. Nietupski – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela O'Toole
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Items in Packet:

Executive Session Minutes of April 27 & 28, 2011
Revolving Account Summary – 4/30/11
Memo re: Radon Testing at Schools
Memo Re: Windle Field Army Corps. Of Engineers Master Plan
Letter re: Windle Field and Cordis Mills II
Letter to Lifesong Church thank you
Letter to Sheriff thank you
Job Posting

Approved:
