

## Millbury School Committee Minutes

DATE: May 25, 2011

Present: Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Plante, Mr. Clawson, Mrs. Nietupski, Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, Susan Frederick, Principal

Location: Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School Media Center

Time: 5:30 P.M. – Regular Session

Mrs. Vigneau brought the Regular meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

There were approximately 25 people present.

### **Approval of the Regular Session Minutes**

After noting the change on page 4 with regard to cancelling the meeting of June 8<sup>th</sup> due to the meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2011 meeting. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the minutes and Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

### **Report of the Administration**

#### *Report of the Student Council*

MacKenzie Woll delivered this month's report of the Student Council. She noted that the National Honor Society Sock Hop was held at the Senior Center, the Social Issues Club sponsored a blood drive, the senior class projects were presented yesterday at the high school, the Environmental Council visited Whole Foods thanks to a CSL grant and the Mary Grogan foundation. Advanced Placement chemistry and biology exams took place, the Robotics Team's spaghetti dinner was held last night, and the students are preparing for MCAS Biology and Science exams. Mrs. Vigneau mentioned to MacKenzie that she did a great job.

#### *Membership in the Assabet Valley Collaborative*

Mrs. Hitchcock noted as mentioned on the Report of Administration, that she wanted to talk about membership in Assabet Valley Collaborative. She spoke about how the Collaborative provides special education programs rather than sending students to out-of-district private schools, that it is very cost effective, serving quality programs. Millbury has decided to join, noting it was a cost-effective move on our part. She mentioned that as a member we will save 12% of the tuition of the non-member rate. In addition, we will receive access to a great deal of professional development. At the next meeting, Mrs. Hitchcock will present an amendment to the collaborative agreement because, in

addition to Millbury, there is another district to add and then the agreement is sent to DESE for the Commissioner to sign. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that it was an impressive way to proceed in terms of business. Mrs. Vigneau wanted to know if Mrs. Hitchcock was on the collaborative committee. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that she will be on the committee as a voting representative. Mr. Clawson wanted to know the cost, and Mrs. Hitchcock noted that it would be \$5,500 annually for a one year savings of \$13,000 in program costs. Mr. Clawson wanted to know if that was in the budget. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that the member rate is in the budget and thus we reduced the budget. Mrs. Vigneau noted that it sounds like a great plan.

Mrs. Hitchcock commented on how the Junior High did an outstanding job when they presented the play entitled the Wonderful World of Oz under the direction of students no older than 15 years old, noting that the actors were terrific. She thanked all of them for a wonderful performance. Mrs. Vigneau noted that she had missed the play, but would look forward to attending next year.

Mrs. Hitchcock was pleased to announce that 2 students received a \$1,200 scholarship each from Hanover Insurance. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that every year since she has been here we have Millbury students who have been honored. This year Nicole Schroeder and Samantha Lussier were the recipients. Mrs. Vigneau asked that Mrs. Hitchcock send congratulation letters from the School Committee to Nicole and Samantha.

Mrs. Hitchcock told the School Committee that Matt Friedman has resigned as a teacher and the athletic director and he will be leaving to become a full time social studies teacher in the Sutton schools. She noted we will miss him terribly.

#### *Wheelabrator Team Symposium Presentation*

Mr. Mark Sutphen, jr. high teacher, noted that this is the 14<sup>th</sup> year that the Junior High was involved in the Wheelabrator Team Symposium presentation. The group started in September and picked an environment problem to solve or create an impact to. There were five 7<sup>th</sup> graders and five 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the Team. Their decision was to create an Environmental Education Cart for Elmwood Street School. The Team presented a PowerPoint presentation and lecture to the School Committee. They spoke eloquently on the past year with regard to constructing the environmental education cart, to teach about alternative energies. A trip to the Museum of Science was arranged for them. The students indicated that their cart would contain a lesson on wind power, hydro electricity, and solar energy. To explain the alternative, fossil fuels were included. (Coal and motor oil). The lesson plan was discussed with the Principal, Susan Frederick and third grade teacher, Kate Ryan. This spring the cart was presented to the third grade science teachers, who assured the students that in May and June it would become part of curriculum. Mr. Sutphen thanked Mr. Pravin Trivedi for his support. Mrs. Vigneau told the students they did Millbury proud.

Mrs. Hitchcock noted we owe a debt of gratitude to Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. She mentioned it was a wonderful way for academic work to come together. Mrs. Vigneau asked that a thank you note be written to Wheelabrator.

## **Budget**

### *2011-2012 Budget Reductions*

Mrs. Hitchcock wanted the School Committee to know that a few cuts were made in the budget in order to reduce it. She noted that we are fortunate that instead of \$207,000 to make up in budget shortfall, the town has provided us with additional money so we will need to reduce the budget by \$150,000. Mrs. Hitchcock listed the positions that will be cut. At Elmwood 1 full-time teacher, and as one teacher is retiring there will not be a need for a layoff of that position; however, we will lose a .5 Kindergarten aide. At the Shaw school she noted a reduction in a choral/music teacher by .2 FTE, and at the Junior/Senior high it will be one Guidance Counselor. In addition she noted two .5 positions (one custodian and one maintenance). Mrs. Hitchcock wanted the School Committee to know that the total reductions do need to include the cost of layoffs as the Town will not pay this expense. She thanked the community for their commitment to the Millbury Schools. Mrs. Vigneau also noted the engineering cut and Mrs. Hitchcock confirmed a part-time .4 engineering position that will be eliminated. Mrs. Vigneau was very disappointed that cuts had to be made and commented on how diligently the Administration worked on coming up with this decision. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that these cuts are designed to make the smallest impact to the classroom so quality education can continue and class size ratios can continue as they have.

Mr. Bedard noted the new figure for the FY12 School Budget would be \$17,452,956. Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to accept this figure. Mr. Plante made a motion to accept this figure and Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

### **Old Business**

A discussion was held on whether to have the Superintendent's evaluation in May or the end of October. A decision was made to have the evaluation in the end of October 2011.

### **New Business**

A discussion was held as to the meeting dates in June. A decision was made to hold the Regular School Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 7th at 6:00 P.M. and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> an Executive meeting with the MTA at 5:30 P.M. and a Regular Meeting directly after. Mr. Plante will not be able to attend.

At 6:10 P.M. Mrs. Nietupski made the motion to adjourn this meeting of the School Committee. Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All in favor. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela O'Toole  
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent