

Millbury School Committee Minutes

DATE: June 7, 2011

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

Location: Millbury High School Principal's Conference Room

Time: 6:00 P.M. – Regular Session

Mrs. Vigneau brought the Regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Approval of the Regular Session Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2011 Regular Session meeting. Mr. Plante made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Corey seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Report of the Administration

Graduation/MCAS Information Requested

Mrs. Hitchcock handed out and went over a memo from Leslie Munns, Guidance detailing the graduation/MCAS information that was requested. She stated that 156 students will be receiving a diploma on June 10, 2011. Eight students from the Class of 2011 will not be graduating on June 10. Six of those eight students will be attending the Millbury Summer School program.

Budget

Preparation for Annual Town Meeting

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that tonight's Annual Town Meeting will include three financial articles pertaining to the School Department. The School Operating Budget, the Medicaid Warrant Article and the R.E. Shaw ADA Doors \$135,000 capital warrant article.

FY 2012 Budget Discussion

There was a discussion on the FY 2012 School Operating Budget. Mr. Bedard stated that the line item detail in the yellow sheets do not reflect the \$150,000 cuts made at the last School Committee meeting. Mr. Clawson asked for an updated version of the FY 2012 School Operating Budget that reflects the final budget cuts. There was a discussion regarding the line item funding for the Assabet Valley Collaborative membership and tuition costs, unemployment compensation costs and Special Education tuitions. Mr. Bedard stated that the School Department needed to allocate for unemployment costs associated with reductions and layoffs. These reductions that are over and above the ordinary unemployment costs are part of the school department budget. Mr. Clawson asked what line item the unemployment costs are in. Mr. Bedard said that Unemployment

Costs are part of the Human Resources category under Administration. That amount, approximately \$52,000, will be reflected in its own line item in the updated budget draft. Mr. Bedard stated that this is similar to how we allocated for this last year. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that in order to make the budget reduction of \$150,000 we actually needed to reduce the budget by \$202,000 so that we can add to the line item for unemployment costs.

Old Business

Assabet Valley Collaborative Membership – Vote

In follow-up to the last School Committee meeting discussion, Mrs. Hitchcock asked for a vote for the School District to become a member of the Assabet Valley Collaborative. She stated Millbury and one other school district is looking to join the collaborative. Once the collaborative and the new school districts agree to join, the request goes to the Commissioner of Education for final approval.

Mr. Plante made a motion to join the Assabet Valley Collaborative. Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. All in favor. (5-0).

New Business

Mrs. Vigneau asked for any new business.

Energy Reduction Plan

Mr. Bedard requested that the School Committee consider voting for the Town of Millbury's Energy Reduction Plan. He stated that he was just informed by Laurie Connors, the Town Planner, that the School Committee needed to vote on the Energy Reduction Plan. Mrs. Vigneau asked to recuse herself because of the Stretch Code requirement that is part of the Green Communities Program. Her family business is in the building trade and she thought it would be a conflict of interest.

Mr. Corey, the Vice Chairperson chaired this discussion. Mr. Bedard stated that the School Committee had previously voted on the Motor Vehicle Use Policy, which is another part of the Green Communities Program. He also stated that because the Energy Reduction Plan was not a policy that he originally believed it did not need a School Committee vote. Ms. Connors just told him that it does require a School Committee vote in order to be submitted to the state by June 10, 2011. Mr. Bedard recommended approval of the Energy Reduction Plan. He stated that it is very important for the community. He said that although it was not listed on tonight's School Committee agenda, he recommended passage based upon the vote requirement being brought to his attention as of that day. It was an unforeseen circumstance.

Mr. Bedard said he attended a Selectboard meeting where this was discussed and voted on. Mr. Clawson asked if he could see a copy of the Energy Reduction Plan. Mr. Bedard stated because the Town is just finishing the energy audits, we do not have the completed Energy Reduction Plan. He said that he and Ms. Connors will be finishing the Energy Reduction Plan in the next two days so that it may be submitted by the June 10, 2011 deadline. Mr. Bedard said the School Committee will receive the final copy. Mr. Bedard said the Stretch Code part of the Green Communities is on tonight's Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Clawson had concerns about approving the Energy Reduction Plan before reading. Mr. Corey inquired as to whether any of the energy audit items in the

Energy Reduction Plan would cost the school department budget dollars. Mr. Bedard stated that most of the items in the energy audit would be paid for by the National Grid Incentive Program or the Green Communities Grant Program. He said the Town of Millbury will be entitled to approximately \$150,000 in grant funds during the first year. He also said the energy reduction plan, which looks to reduce the town's energy consumption by 20% over five years, could save the community another \$150,000 per year in energy costs if we reach that goal. He said the Energy Reduction Plan is just a blueprint on how to reach the goal. Mr. Bedard stated there are some items, such as maintenance and motor vehicle replacement that will look at energy efficiencies. That would be the only time the school budget might be effected.

Mrs. Nietupski made a motion to approve the Energy Reduction Plan. Mr. Plante seconded the motion. Approved 4-0-1 with Mrs. Vigneau abstaining.

Future Meetings

The School Committee discussed the future meetings to be Wednesday June 15 at 5:30PM for an informal meeting with the Millbury Teacher Association regarding negotiations and Wednesday, June 22 at 5:30PM for a Millbury Teachers Association negotiation meeting with the mediator and a regular School Committee meeting at 7:00PM.

Executive Session

At 6:40 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 possible litigation. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Plante- yes, Mr. Corey – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mr. Clawson – yes, Mrs. Nietupski – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Bedard, Jr.
School Business Administrator

Items in Packet:

Regular Minutes of May 25, 2011

Graduation/MCAS Information Request, L. Munns Memo dated June 6, 2011