

**Millbury School Committee Meeting  
REGULAR SESSION  
Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS.

**Date:** September 26, 2012

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

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Millbury Junior/Senior High School Media Center

Mrs. Vasil, Principal of Millbury Junior/Senior High School, provided a guided tour of the high school beginning at 6:30 p.m. Millbury High School student, Peter Boll, was present to show committee members his Boy Scout Eagle project of cleaning the Drama Club's storage area.

Mrs. Nietupski called the Regular Session to order at 7:08 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Approval of the Regular Session Meeting Minutes of 9/12/2012 and Executive Session Minutes of 9/12/2012**

Mrs. Nietupski asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of September 12, 2012. Mr. Corey made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Borowski. All in favor (5-0).

Mrs. Nietupski asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the Executive Session Minutes of September 12, 2012 they will have to be made in Executive Session. Mrs. Vigneau made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Corey. All in favor (5-0).

**2. Report of the Administration**

**a. Student Council Report**

Millbury student, Olivia Baroni updated the committee on recent and upcoming events at the Junior/Senior High School. Mrs. Vasil, Principal of Millbury Junior/Senior High School, noted that PSAT testing is being conducted for sophomores during the school day as a practice for MCAS testing. The data will provide teachers information on student barriers and learning gaps.

**b. Report on the New Changes to the MCAS Accountability System**

Mrs. Hitchcock provided an outline on the 2012 changes to the MCAS accountability system. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that MCAS changed greatly when the federal government gave each of the states an opportunity to file for a waiver. She noted that certain standards have changed, the way in which MCAS information is analyzed has changed, and the ability to be more flexible with the Title I and Special Education funding has been helpful.

The 2011 NCLB standard required that 100% of students score in the advanced/proficient categories by 2014 in both ELA and Math. This change effects the 2012 data recently received. For the foreseeable future, we will be required to reduce the academic achievement gaps by 50% no later than 2016-17. School districts were anticipated to be at a high level at this point in time and as a result, the need has come to focus on sub groups to high needs. The subgroups include low income students, students with disabilities and the English Language Learner students.

The Adequate Yearly Progress designation has been replaced. The standard now utilized is the Progress and Performance Index, which measures progress from one year to the next. It has represented four years for most schools. This was practice was started here in Millbury even before this standard was in effect. The cohort data is reviewed and compared year to year. Mrs. Hitchcock noted that this will not be a difficult standard to implement.

The PPI provides two numbers on the report. One is for the aggregate in the school and the second is for the high needs subgroup. If the target has been met, you are awarded 75, if there is improvement but still below the target you are awarded 50, if there has been no change the score is 25, and if students have not achieved academic success it is 0.

Almost all of the schools are classified into five levels with level 5 being the highest. At this point in time, 80% of schools in Massachusetts are at level 1 or level 2. The district level is determined by the three schools in Millbury. The Elmwood and Shaw Schools received level 1 while the Millbury Junior/Senior High School received level 2. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that we have been aware of the difficulty in the area of math and the need for a new curriculum. Mrs. Vasil is working with district literacy plan in ELA and we can expect slow and steady progress for next year.

Schools who do not test 95% of their students are not eligible for Level 1; while schools who do not test 90% of there students are not eligible for Levels 1 or 2. Millbury has always had a very high success rate in attendance for testing.

The data for high schools is now incorporating the drop out rate and graduation rate as part of the indicators. This has not been a challenge for Millbury as drop out rates are low and attendance in our summer school keeps our graduation numbers up.

Mrs. Hitchcock informed the committee that principals are working with this information and will be making individual school presentations. This information should be available at the last meeting in October.

Mrs. Nietupski questioned if the new PPI will be used to compare school districts? Mrs. Hitchcock replied that you are only able to compare to "like" communities. Comparable districts do not include Shrewsbury, Grafton, Northborough and Southborough. Mr. Borowski agreed that the amount of variables involved makes this comparison unreliable. He asked Mrs. Hitchcock if there is any rationale in the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education designating Millbury at Level 2 as opposed to a weighted average among the three schools. Mrs. Hitchcock stated it is a highly competitive process and

that each district needs to strive to attain their best. Mr. Borowski questioned if moving away from the EveryDay math will ultimately improve our ratings in math, especially at the Junior/High School level. Mrs. Hitchcock stated it certainly will help, but it will take time.

#### **c. Status Update on Alternate Options for Vocational Training**

Mrs. Hitchcock referenced that last year 33 Millbury students applied to Blackstone Valley Technical School and 18 were accepted. Students are now accepted into BVT based on a combination of their academics, attendance, attitude, and application essay. She noted that placements are not reserved to any one town and it is impressive that we are competing and have enough students to fill the same quota as in the past.

Under the directive of the school committee, Mrs. Hitchcock has brainstormed with the guidance department to reach out to students who may not have been accepted by the BVT. Mrs. Hitchcock spoke to the list of 14 objectives for students that are currently being implemented by the guidance department. She also provided a list of 6 future implementations. She informed the committee that there will be future updates and invitations extended to the committee for different events being planned.

Mr. Corey commented that these objectives are exactly what the committee was looking for. He questioned how many of the 18 students accepted were actually in the programs that they desired. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the first year is spent in rotation of the different programs. Mrs. Vasil will research the data on previous students from Millbury attending BVT to determine if they were actually in the program they desired. She did note that some of the accepted students do return to the high school.

Mr. Borowski congratulated Mrs. Hitchcock and the guidance department on their efforts. He suggested being proactive with these initiatives and targeting the students who don't get in BVT.

Mrs. Nietupski questioned if any outreach is done to the grade six students. Mrs. Hitchcock stated not at this time and that it is something they will have to look into further.

Upon request of the committee, Mrs. Hitchcock sent a letter on September 20, 2012 to Bob Spain, Town Manager, on the plowing of the sidewalks.

#### **d. Other, as Needed**

### **3. Budget**

Mr. Bedard stated there are no budget items to discuss at this time.

### **4. Old Business**

Mrs. Vigneau referenced a letter she received from Mrs. Graves and Mrs. Woelfel, advisors of students in the Community Service Learning Program. The letter thanked her for volunteering in the CSL program. Mrs. Vigneau asked if the committee approved of her representing the committee in the program and announced they are looking for new members if anyone is interested. Chairperson Nietupski congratulated Mrs. Vigneau on behalf of the committee.

Mrs. Vigneau asked Mrs. Vasil for an update on the status of the Virtual High School at some point in the future. Mrs. Vasil commented that the program is going well and that all slots are currently filled. Mrs. Nyce is the teacher of the class and Mr. Degon and Ms. Delucia are the liaisons.

Mrs. Hitchcock noted Mrs. Vasil's first Principal's Newsletter is included in the packet. Mrs. Vasil is hoping to produce the newsletter on a monthly basis. The newsletter is sent home to parents.

#### **5. New Business**

Mrs. Vigneau commented that she has heard the new Food Service Director is doing a good job and providing healthy snacks. Mrs. Vasil stated the high school cafeteria manager, Mrs. Houde, is working with the food services director on the new federal wellness guidelines that all students have a vegetable and a fruit with every bought lunch. She also noted that Mrs. Houde has taken on the SADD chapter at the high school, which has been inactive for a few years.

Mrs. Hitchcock referred to the article in the newspaper on the BMI listing of area students. Millbury is at 39%, which she noted is too high. She indicated we are in a category with similar communities, and that discussion with the new Food Service Director will take place on how to begin to change the attitude on food choices. Mr. Bedard noted that the Food Service Director, Mary Leslie, is currently finalizing the Free and Reduced Lunch applications in the district. She anticipates working on these lunch changes, as she did in her previous position at Blackstone Valley Tech.

Mrs. Vigneau announced the Class of 1963 will be holding a Sock Hop on Saturday, October 13, 2012.

#### **6. Future Topics/Events**

#### **7. Executive Session:**

Mrs. Nietupski made a motion at 8:38 p.m. that:

*In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, S21 (a) (5), the Millbury School Committee will vote to move into Executive Session to discuss the filing of a complaint.*

The motion was made unanimous by roll call:

Mrs. Vigneau	Yes
Mr. Corey	Yes
Mrs. Nietupski	Yes
Mr. Borowski	Yes
Mr. Plante	Yes

#### **8. Next Meeting:**

<b>October 10, 2012</b>	<b>MHS 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>October 24, 2012</b>	<b>(TBD)</b>

## 9. Adjourn

The Regular Session was adjourned following the Executive Session Meeting.


Respectfully submitted,

*Sandra Femino*

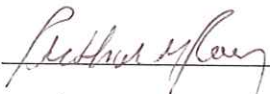
Sandra Femino

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

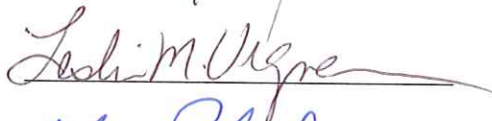
Approved:



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### Items in Packet:

Draft of Regular Session Minutes of 9/12/12

Draft of Executive Session Minutes of 9/12/12

Letter from S. Hitchcock to Robert Spain dated 9/20/2012

Letter from T. Clarizio to School Committee Board Members dated 9/17/12

### Items Provided at Meeting:

Possible Alternatives to BVT – 2012/2013

Changes in the 2012 Accountability

Letter to Tony Clarizio from MSC dated 9/26/2012

Letter to MSC from MTA dated 9/25/2012

Letter to MTA from S. Hitchcock dated 9/25/2012

Principal's Newsletter, Issue 01, September 2012 – Millbury Memorial Jr/Sr High School

Millbury Memorial Jr/Sr High School Profile 2012-2013