

**Millbury School Committee Meeting  
Public Hearing**

**Date:** December 15, 2010

**Present:** Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Plante, Mr. Clawson, Mrs. Nietupski, Ms. Simanski, Principal Shaw School, Ms. Frederick, Principal Elmwood Street School, Mr. Fleming, Principal High School and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent

**Location:** Millbury High School Media Center

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Bullying Prevention Plan Public Hearing**

It was stated that there must be three readings of every policy the School Committee approves in an open meeting. A vote must be taken at each open meeting by the School Committee. This is the first reading of the Bullying Prevention Plan. Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the Bullying Prevention Plan's first reading. Mr. Corey made a motion and Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. All approved (5-0). The second reading will be on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mrs. Vigneau read the first paragraph in the Bullying Prevention Plan. An act relative to bullying in schools, SB 2404, was signed into law in MA by the Governor on May 3, 2010. The law became effective immediately and requires that all school districts develop a written, comprehensive plan by December 31, 2010 that defines preventing bullying; mandates an education plan for employees, not only professional staff and parents establishes consequences for bullying behavior.

The Plan applies to student-to-student acts of bullying or retaliation.

The Millbury Public Schools will implement the following plan that continues to promote tolerance and respect for diversity and one that encourages positive dialogue to manage differences.

Mrs. Vigneau also stated that Mrs. Hitchcock and the committee have done a wonderful job on creating this Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for the Millbury Public Schools.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that Mrs. Trisha Desmarais was the parent representative on the Task Force, Mr. Bryan Richard, Advocacy Program, Mrs. Mandi Vasil, Vice Principal, Millbury Jr./Sr. High School, Mrs. Karen Molnar, Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Jill Carlson, High School Nurse, Ms. Maryellen Courtney, Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Kim Pine, High School teacher, Mr. Joseph Fleming, High School Interim Principal, Ms.

Jennifer Johnson, grade 2 teacher, Mrs. Karen Magnant, grade 5 teacher and as a parent, Mr. Michael Tarka, grade 6 teacher, Mr. Jeff Lyon, Union Representative and Department Head, Mr. Corey Burke, Guidance Counselor, Ms. Sue Frederick, Principal Elmwood Street School, Ms. Kim Brothers, Police Department Representative, and myself. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Task Force worked very hard and efficiently in developing this policy.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that despite this being a very cumbersome process it is beneficial. She also stated that the existing plan put into place in April of 2008 and the investigation protocol that we use in the schools now was very tight and we were on the road to doing things properly. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the definition of bullying is an incident that is repeated not a one time incident. She also stated that the administration in each school building will be responsible for bullying investigations. She stated that it is ultimately the principal responsibility.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the plan clearly defines that all employees are trained. She stated that the day before school started Attorney Tate trained all staff members on their obligation to fill out the form and report the bullying to the administration. Mrs. Hitchcock also stated that there were a number of programs already in use at the different schools to prevent bullying. She stated that Shaw introduces PBIS to the students on the first two days of school. This program models correct behavior for the students in different school settings.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that there will be a drop box located in the school buildings for students or anyone to anonymously report a bullying. The Task Force is in the process of deciding where to put the boxes in the buildings.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lane  
School Committee Clerk

Handout: Bullying Prevention Draft Policy