

Millbury School Committee Minutes

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MILLBURY MASS

Date: July 15, 2010

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

Absent: Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson

Location: High School Media Center

Time: 5:30 pm

Mrs. Vigneau opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Mrs. Vigneau thanked Mrs. Hitchcock for providing the last two informational packets educating the new School Committee members on circuit breakers and other information.

Review of Special Education Tuition Information Previously Requested

A discussion took place regarding the number of students that are in need of outside Special Education placement. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Circuit Breaker reimbursement budget has been reduced from 42% to 40%. She stated that this program has been in effect for the last six or seven years to help school districts with outside Special Education tuitions. The outside reimbursement used to be 72% and has dropped significantly.

FY 2010 End of the Year Encumbrances and Transfers

Mr. Bedard explained each of the four worksheets included in the School Committee member's packets for the end of the year transfers. The remaining FY 2010 school budget balance of \$1,312.47 will be returned to the town.

Mr. Bedard stated that the tuitions for July and August for Special Education students will be pre-paid out of FY 2010. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that school districts across the state pay their Special Education tuitions bills the same way and according to Massachusetts general laws this is legal.

Mr. Bedard stated that the reason there is a balance in the School Committee members' salaries is because Mr. Borowski never took a salary during the time he served on the Committee.

Mrs. Nietupski made a motion to approve the end of the year encumbrances and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion for discussion. A discussion took place regarding the amount budgeted for Special Education outplacement tuitions and the pre-paid tuitions. Mr. Clawson stated that he knew this process was legal, however, he asked if the money could be used to hire back nonunion employees that had previously been laid off. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that budgeting this way is a prudent way to budget Special Education funds. She also stated that discussing out of district placements at the Town Meeting can be quite uncomfortable with members of the community. She also stated that this was not a conversation she was willing to have. Mrs. Hitchcock also stated that the School Committee had directed her last year to get legal counsel concerning this issue and the School Committee was informed by legal counsel that this was a legal and ethical way to budget Special Education tuition bills. She also stated that pre-paying special education tuitions has been done and approved by past School Committees for the past twelve years without there being any issues prior to the Town hiring the new Financial Director. She also stated that every year we have received new students that need outside services Mrs. Vigneau stated that she would vote yes tonight but in the future would like to see a cap of 100,000 pre-paid tuitions. A vote took place Mr. Plante – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mrs. Nietupski - yes, Mr. Clawson – no. Approved (3-1).

Mr. Clawson made a motion to approve the end-of-year transfers and Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. All approved (4-0).

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Summer School Graduation will be held one week from tonight at 11:30 am. She also stated that the tuition was the same as the past two years and this year's enrollment was down a little this year.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Reading Coach at the Shaw Elementary School had been laid-off due to budget restraints which was an extremely difficult decision due to the fact that Shaw is in their second year of restructuring. Mrs. Hitchcock also stated that through two grants we are able to hire a new Reading Coach at the Shaw School. Mr. Clawson stated that this was the best rehire Mrs. Hitchcock has made and that she has done a great job.

The next meeting after the July 22nd meeting will be September 1st. At the July 22nd meeting the School Committee will discuss activity fees and will also go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Mr. Clawson made a motion to close the meeting at 6:05 pm and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All approve (4-0).