

Millbury School Committee Minutes

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: July 22, 2010

Present: Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Plante, Mr. Clawson, Mrs. Nietupski, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, Mrs. Swenson, High School Principal, Ms. Simanski, Shaw Elementary School Principal, Ms. Frederick, Elmwood Street School Principal, and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent

Location: High School Media Center

Time: 5:30 pm

Mrs. Vigneau would like the minutes from June 9th to show a correction on page 2 it should she enjoyed a Millbury High School student graduate as the Master of Ceremonies.

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

Approval of the Regular Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9th, 2010 meeting. Mr. Clawson made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 9th meeting and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Approval of Executive Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the Executive Minutes from the June 9th meeting. Mrs. Nietupski made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Corey seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Vote of the Implementation of School Fees

Mrs. Vigneau stated that 50% of the community would be pleased with what the Board is going to vote on tonight and 50% of the community will be displeased. Mrs. Nietupski made a motion to vote on the implementation of fees for activities that require transportation. Mr. Plante seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. Plante stated that nobody wants to impose fees or taxes to people in town. However, next year's budget is going to be worse than this year. He stated that this would be the time to implement fees so that we have one year under our belt to see how successful it is and how much money

we would take in. He also stated that under no circumstances would any child not be able to participate in any activity due to financial difficulties and that this financial assistance must be kept strictly confidential. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that this information would be kept in strict confidence. It was stated that the Parents' Club and the Lion's Club might be willing to fund these scholarships, however, that has not been confirmed. Mr. Plante also stated that in checking what other towns charge he would propose a \$75.00 fee per student, with a \$150.00 cap and \$225.00 family cap. Mrs. Nietupski stated it is not that large a burden for families. Mrs. Vigneau stated that activity fees should be charged across the board.

Mr. Plante – yes, Mr. Corey – no, Mrs. Vigneau – no, Mr. Clawson – no, and Mrs. Nietupski – yes. The vote was 3 against the implementation of fees and 2 for the implementation of fees. The motion failed.

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that at the last meeting there was a conversation regarding funds allocated for the Special Education tuitions and the justification of holding funds for special education students. She stated that two days ago they received notification that one of the out of district special education tuitions will be increased by \$40,000 which is not included in the FY2011 budget.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the School Committee members were to review the binders she had provided for them with pertinent information; such as the school calendar, School Committee meeting dates and that meeting agendas items are fluid documents so let her know if any board member would like to put something on the meeting agendas. She also stated that the Bully Prevention Policy would be brought before the board for approval by December. She stated that the Department of Education would like the Bullying Protection Policy in place by the beginning of the school year.

The Open Meeting law requires each School Committee member to read all the information and to sign the certification and return it to the town clerk within two weeks. The town clerk will post all School Committee agendas with other meeting agendas on the website and in a binder at the Town Hall.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that it was a wonderful Summer School Graduation, with the largest audience since she has been here.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that if any School Committee member would like to attend the Massachusetts School Committee Association conference to let her know.

Mrs. Bastarache, from the audience, spoke about the vote to approve the implementation of activity fees. She thanked Mr. Plante and Mrs. Nietupski for their vote. She also stated that the original date to vote the implementation of fees was on June 9th and that she was told that it was a negotiation piece, and we weren't going to talk about it at that time. Now tonight it is brought up again to vote on. Mrs. Bastarache questioned why the

School Committee postponed the vote from June to July. Mrs. Vigneau stated that she is a new Chairperson and is still learning. She stated that this was one of the most uncomfortable issues she had ever voted on. She stated that based upon her own personal feelings, not in regards to supporting teachers or the superintendent, she could not support activity fees in the way it was written. She said she regretted that she could not support the Superintendent.

Mrs. Vigneau stated that the School Committee will be going into Executive Session for contract negotiation and that they will return to open session to adjourn.

Mr. Plante – yes, Mr. Corey – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mr. Clawson – yes, Mrs. Nietupski – yes. All approved (5-0).

Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Approved:

