

Millbury School Committee Minutes

PRESENT: Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Nietupski, Mr. Clawson, Mr. Fleming, Interim High School Principal, Mrs. Vasil, Vice Principal High School, Ms. Simanski, Shaw School Principal, Ms. Frederick, Elmwood Street Principal, Mrs. Molnar, Director of Pupil Services, Mr. Rapose, Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent

DATE: September 22, 2010

LOCATION: High School Media Center

TIME: 7:00 pm

Mrs. Vigneau brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mrs. Vigneau asked to observe a moment of silence for a previous Millbury High School graduate that passed away.

Approval of Regular Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2010 meeting. Mr. Corey made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2010 meeting and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Student Council/Advisory Council

Mackenzie Woll, President, and Kristin Bullett, Secretary reported on the events taking place at Millbury High School.

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she would like to thank the Elmwood Street School Staff for moving mountains to establish new classrooms, which we were able to do due to the Ed Jobs Federal funding. It is hard to understand how time consuming moving students to other classrooms after the schedule had already been set. Mrs. Marla Saunders is the new Kindergarten teacher. Ms. Sarah Beckman was brought back to teacher 2nd grade. The related arts staff at the Elmwood Street School increased their days to full time and a new Technology Teacher will be hired to replace a resignation.

2010 District-wide MCAS Report

Mrs. Vigneau stated that the School Committee members had just received the MCAS Report tonight; therefore, we may not have as many questions as in the past. Mrs.

Hitchcock stated that the results have been embargoed until last Tuesday afternoon and to analyze all the results and put together a report took until this evening.

Mrs. Hitchcock began the MCAS presentation by stating that the Leadership Team has analyzed all the data received for each school. Her PowerPoint presentation contained information on how Millbury students compare to the state in grade 3 – 10, but more importantly, the cohort information will reveal whether the same students are making gains from one year to the next year. Cohort analysis is the true test of whether the district is making progress. Mrs. Hitchcock explained the 2010 state-wide data in comparison to the Millbury Public Schools data. Mrs. Hitchcock compared and explained the individual school scores. She stated that the Elmwood Street School did not make AYP this year. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that Shaw School made AYP this year, however, to get out of the Restructuring level they will need to make AYP again next year. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that if anyone was interested in this MCAS report it will be available in the Central Office and each school's office and it will also be put on the website. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Junior/Senior High School is considered one program and the results of the MCAS scores are for both schools. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that if anyone had any questions or concerns that they may call the Central Office.

Ms. Frederick, Principal Elmwood Street School stated that they are not proud of their status in not making AYP. They are working very hard analyzing the data and making decisions regarding curriculum based on the scores. Ms. Frederick also stated that they are continuing to the Walk to Read program. She also stated that this year she and Ms. Simanski, Principal at Shaw, worked together to enhance the Step-up Program for students in 3rd grade entering 4th grade. She also stated that they would continue to have before school tutoring.

Ms. Simanski, Principal Shaw Elementary School, stated that she was very proud of her staff for making AYP. She stated that they had worked so hard and will continue to work hard this year. She also stated that PBIS (i.e. Positive Behavior) has been a factor in Shaw reaching AYP along with Power Standards, and teaching practices.

Mr. Fleming, Principal Millbury Jr./Sr. High School, stated that the staff at the junior/senior high school worked extremely hard. He stated that they are looking at the data for grades 8 and 9 and would like to begin an in-house testing program for grade 9 utilizing MCAS questions. He stated that he feels this would be beneficial to the students.

Mrs. Vigneau thanked Mrs. Hitchcock and the principals for the excellent report. Mr. Clawson asked if Mrs. Hitchcock could get data from the surrounding towns. Mrs. Hitchcock responded that she could get the information printed in the newspaper but she could not get any further information. She also stated, that the DESE advises districts not to compare data because of the different sub groups in each town and that cohorts analysis give the true picture. Mrs. Vigneau asked that Mrs. Hitchcock put MCAS Report on the next agenda.

Freshman Academy – Mrs. Vasil and Ms. Hamilton gave a PowerPoint presentation and an overview regarding Freshman Academy at the high school. She explained the rules and guidelines of the program.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that a review of class sizes at the junior/senior high school was put together by Mrs. Vasil and that it was included in the School Committee's packets.

Update of the Junior High Principal Search

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that Mr. Flemming had asked his staff for volunteers to serve on the search committee. She stated that they had received many applications and that three people will interview tomorrow and three will interview next Tuesday. The Committee will send final names to the Superintendent for her to interview.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Open House held last Tuesday night at Shaw and the Open House held at Elmwood on Thursday were huge successes. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that in her three years in the Millbury School District it was the largest gathering in both buildings. She also stated that she ran into Mrs. Nietupski and Mr. Plante at the Shaw School.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she had been approached for Millbury to host the upcoming Destination Imagination tournament. She stated that up to 1,500 people could be in attendance at some time during the day. She stated that they would need to use the cafeteria, gymnasium and classrooms. It was stated that this event could serve as a great fundraiser for the Booster Club or the Music Club and that they could sell food at different times during the day. A suggestion was made to use the other two schools for parking and to shuttle people back and forth to the high school. Mrs. Nietupski made a motion to approve Millbury School District hosting the Destination Imagination Tournament and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Budget

Mr. Bedard stated that the Revolving Accounts had very similar balances as last years at this time. He stated that an itemized list was included in the School Committee Packets. Of note, the School Lunch Program made some needed capital purchases which brought their ending balance lower than the previous year.

High School Drainage

Mr. Bedard stated that they are waiting for the approval of the Conservation Committee. He stated that Mr. McGarry has been following up with the Committee. Mr. Bedard stated that we should receive a Certificate of Completion in either October or November. Mrs. Vigneau asked that this item remain on the Agenda until completed.

Mr. Bedard stated that he had a meeting with the New England Carpenters Training School to assist us with a project in the auditorium at the high school to store equipment in a sound booth.

Old Business

Mrs. Vigneau stated that the Town Clerk asked if in the future Election Day could be taken under consideration when scheduling Open Houses at the elementary schools.

Mrs. Vigneau stated that she had mentioned to Mrs. Hitchcock what was going to be done with the huge pile of loam at the Shaw School. Mrs. Hitchcock responded that this was an issue outside the School Committee's jurisdiction; however, she stated that it would remain where it was, away from the school, and used in future projects.

New Business

Mr. Plante stated that he had been approached by a couple of people asking if the replacement of bleaches at the high school was on the Capital Improvement List. Mrs. Hitchcock responded that the project is estimated at \$250,000; therefore, it is not on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Vigneau stated that a vote was required to go into Executive Session - In accordance with Chapter 30 A, Section 21 (a) (3) of the MA General Laws, the purpose of discussing Teacher Negotiations. Mrs. Vigneau stated that they would return to the open meeting to adjourn only. Mr. Plante – yes, Mr. Corey – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mr. Clawson – yes, and Mrs. Nietupski – yes. (All approved 5-0).

The next meeting is Wednesday October 13, 2010 at R.E. Shaw Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Packet Items

High School Master Schedule

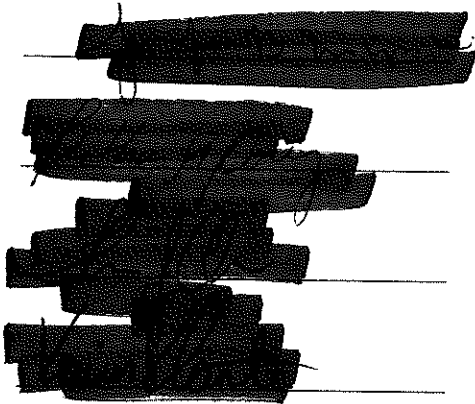
Freshman Academy Overview

2010 MCAS Results Overview

Letter to the New England Carpenters Training School

Letter to Mr. Donald Flynn, Chairman, Millbury Conservation Commission

Approved:

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