

Millbury School Committee Minutes

DATE: October 13, 2010

Present: Mrs. Vigneau, Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Plante, Mr. Clawson, Mrs. Nietupski, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent, Jennifer Simanski, R.E. Shaw Principal, Joseph Fleming, MHS Principal.

Location: Shaw Elementary School Media Center

Time: 7:00 pm

Tour of Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School (6:30PM)

Ms. Simanski began the tour in the courtyard outside of the Media Center, which had been cleaned, new plants had been planted and new benches were installed. Ms. Simanski told the School Committee members that this was an Eagle Scout project. She pointed out the new Literacy Coach's office and classroom off the Media Center. Ms. Simanski stated that the school still needs ADA doors and that the Shaw Elementary School is not in compliance with the Department of Education. It was also stated that the new doors could be left open and the air flow in the building would improve. She showed the new bathroom privacy stalls. She stopped in Classroom Imagine II and pointed out the new ramp out the back door. Ms. Simanski showed the new stage lift. She also stated that there is new equipment in the cafeteria. Ms. Simanski also stated that Mrs. Higginbottom had donated and planted the flowers outside the school entrance. Ms. Simanski also pointed out the Smartboards in some of the classrooms. She also gave an overview of enrollment and upcoming events at the Shaw Elementary School.

Mrs. Vigneau brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Regular Minutes

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2010 meeting. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 22, 2010 meeting. Mrs. Nietupski stated that Mr. Plante's name should be corrected and she also seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Executive Session

Mrs. Vigneau asked for a motion to approve the Executive minutes from the September 22, 2010 meeting. Mr. Corey made a motion and Mr. Plante seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Vigneau thanked Mrs. Hitchcock for including a newspaper article comparing the surrounding towns' MCAS scores, though she cautioned that this was not an effective way to compare MCAS scores. The most effective comparison is to look at how each grade level of students did for the last three years. Comparing scores this way will point out major trends which could potentially lead to curriculum adjustments. It will also allow us to target students who need re-teaching of certain skills. Mrs. Vigneau stated that she knows that supplemental material has been added to the Everyday Math Program and she stated that she saw Millbury's math scores slightly rising.

Mrs. Pezanelli, art teacher from the Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School began the overview of the PBIS initiative with a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Dufault, grade 4 teacher, stated that teacher buy-in is very important. Mrs. Platts, grade 5 teacher, reported on the decrease in incidents reports and fundraisers. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) is recognized nation-wide. She also stated that Mrs. Karen Molnar, Director of Pupil Services wrote the grant. Mrs. Vigneau thanked the PBIS team for coming and stated that it was a nice program.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the October 1st report is a snapshot of how many students are registered in the school district. She also stated that in 2005 our enrollment was the highest and the enrollment has decreased by 125 students. Mrs. Hitchcock also stated that each student in the district has 52 fields connected to them that we report to the Department of Education. This information is submitted three times per year. She also stated that the preschool enrollment is back down. Mrs. Vigneau stated that this should be look at next year as we may need to cut a preschool class.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that congratulations we in order to the following teachers for receiving professional status this year. She also stated that professional status is former tenure for teachers. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that to received professional status a teacher must teach in the same district successfully for three years. Mrs. Hitchcock congratulated the following teachers from the Millbury Junior/Senior High School, Jonathan Cunha, Business/Technology, Melissa Dabney, Foreign Language teacher, Robert MacDonald, English, Patrick Mara, Math, and Rebecca Wright, Foreign Language teacher, from the Shaw Elementary School, Regis Murphy, grade 4 teacher, Brenda Platts, ELA grade 5 teacher, and Joseph Ragaini, grade 4 teacher, from Elmwood, Karla Belliveau, Classroom Imagine I, Michelle Desrosiers, PE, Amy Fuentes, grade 3 teacher, and Jennifer Johnson, grade 2 teacher.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she was surprised when she received two phone calls from Boston TV stations asking if we had cut science out of our curriculum. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that this information was inaccurate. She stated that a few parents did not see Science on their children schedules when they brought them home from Elmwood and assumed that their children would not be receiving science. Mrs. Hitchcock explained that ELA instruction was being increased and Walk to Read was being extended to one

hour and therefore, these classes had to be scheduled first. The science classes will be added last. Science has been included on the Elmwood Street School website and parents will see that their children will have science two or three times per week.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated Student Government Day will be held on Friday, November 19th. Mrs. Vigneau asked if any of the School Committee members were interested in attending and to please let her know. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the mock School Committee meeting does discuss real issues that the students are concerned about. Last year they discuss bringing the salad bar back during lunch and the cafeteria started offering the salad bar to students.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she had met with Mr. Bianculli, and Mr. Mulhane to discuss the events to honor the Veterans. A program will begin at 9:30 in the gym at the Elmwood Street School. The veterans will have a questions and answers session with grade 6 students at the Shaw Elementary School and will stay for lunch. The veterans will have breakfast and a program at the high school.

Old Business

Mr. Bedard stated that the completion of the High School Drainage project has been recorded with the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Flynn, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, will receive a copy of the recording.

New Business

Mrs. Vigneau stated that she is very excited that Millbury will host the Destination Imagination Program and offered to help in anyway that she can.

Mr. Brian Stowell from the Energy Advisory Committee presented a Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy to the School Committee. Mr. Stowell stated that the policy states that any new vehicle that the School Department purchases will meet the guidelines. Mr. Plante made a motion to adopt the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy and Mrs. Nietupski seconded the motion. Mr. Plante – yes, Mr. Corey – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mrs. Nietupski – yes, and Mr. Clawson – yes.

Mrs. Vigneau stated that she had received a letter from the Finance Committee asking the School Committee to meet with the Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee on November 3rd; however, it is during MASC Conference. It was decided that the meeting will take place with three of the board in attendance.

Mrs. Vigneau stated in accordance with chapter 30 A, Section 21 (a) (3) of the MA General Laws, the Millbury School Committee will vote to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the SEIU, Local 888. She also stated that they will return to open session to adjourn only. Mr. Plante – yes, Mr. Corey – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Mr. Clawson – yes and Mrs. Nietupski – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

Items in Packets:

MCAS newspaper article comparing surrounding towns scores

Teaching Staff Attaining Professional Status

Minutes – 9/22/2010

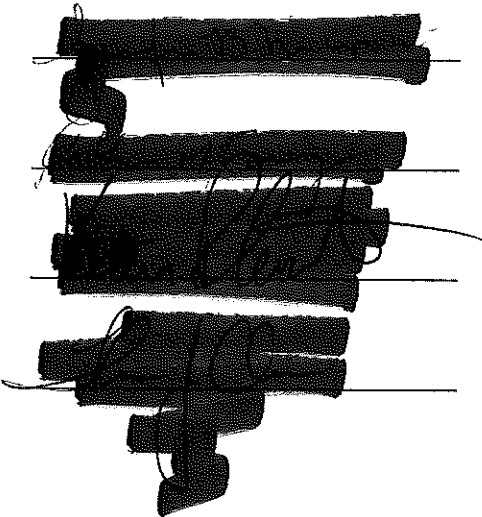
October 1st Enrollment

Memo- Town of Millbury Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy

Fuel Efficient Policy

Memo – Additional MCAS Information for School Committee Members and analysis

Approved:

A large area of the document is redacted with black ink, obscuring the names and signatures of the individuals who approved the items. The redaction covers approximately four lines of text.