

# Millbury Public Schools School Committee

## *Regular Session* Meeting Minutes

Date: August 25, 2021

Members Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson  
Present: Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member  
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member  
Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member

Administrators Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Present: Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School

Time: 7:00PM

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Minutes of August 11, 2021 had not yet been completed. Mrs. Nietupski tabled the meeting minutes of August 11, 2021 until the next meeting.

### **2. Report of the Administration**

Mr. Myers provided the Committee with an overview of operations on the first day of school for students, including an update on recent DESE guidance requiring masking.

For the 2021-2022 school year, Mr. Myers stated that Millbury Public Schools welcomed 1675 children, not including kindergarten, back to their classrooms.

Mr. Bedard provided an update on school transportation, stating that routes and stops have been posted on the District website. Mr. Bedard noticed delays regarding parent drop-offs, especially at the high school which delayed drop-offs for Shaw and Elmwood. Busses were running approximately 10 minutes late due to this. Shaw drop off went smoothly despite the construction project. There are also three road closures in the town which will affect the timing of pick-up and drop-off.

Ms. Lizz Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment updated the Committee on this year's New Teacher Orientation. Millbury welcomed fourteen new faculty this year, most of which are

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replacing retirees or personnel who have otherwise recently left the District. There are nine new members at the Jr/Sr High School, three at the Shaw School, one at Elmwood Street Elementary, and one new district-wide employee. The administrative team will introduce our new faculty and staff members to the School Committee at future meetings. All of the new teachers received "the first days of school" book and will be participating in a book study on UDL and the Social Emotional aspect of teaching with the students which is our focus for the year. Scarlett Lewis, the mother of the boy in the book "Chose Love" was our guest speaker at the teacher orientation.

### **3. Finance and Operations**

Mr. Bedard provided the Committee with an update on facilities work done across the district this summer, including the reconfigured Elmwood entrance. Cleaning protocols will continue to happen in each of the schools, although CDC says that surface transmission is very low but we will continue to clean as usual. All classrooms will have masks and sanitation products and all HVAC systems will be running with higher ventilation screens. Busses will be disinfected as they were last year. All inspections have been done in each school prior to the opening day of school.

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to grant preliminary approval to accept the lowest responsible bidder to replace the hot water tank at Elmwood. Mrs. Bristol motioned to provide preliminary approval to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bidder to replace the hot water tank, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed (5-0).

### **4. Unfinished Business**

The Committee reviewed proposed policy EBCFA requiring all staff and students to wear a mask while indoors during school and at school-related events at school facilities. This review served as second reading.

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to accept policy EBCFA, seconded by Mrs. Bristol seconded. The motion passed (5-0).

Mr. Myers spoke of the decision by the DESE Commissioner to enforce that all students and staff members must wear masks in the building and on the bus.

Mr. Myers provided the Committee with an update on the RE Shaw building project, noting that ledge on the eastern edge of the Shaw parking lot required blasting and has delayed installation of the new water line. This, along with delivery delays of needed materials, means that work will continue in the parking lot until approximately September 20, making the eastern section of the parking lot off-limits to parking and disrupting traffic flow. Fontaine, Hill, and Mr. Tuccio have designed a logistics plan that will safely provide for staff parking, parent pick up/drop off, and bus traffic;

### **4. New Business**

Bristol made the motion to appoint Mr. Myers to be our representative to the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative and the Assabet Valley Collaborative, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (5-0).

Mr. Myers asked the Committee to consider granting approval to OneSchool Global, a private school seeking authorization to operate in Millbury. Mr. Myers provided an overview of the school's services and criteria. Mrs. Bristol and Mr. Lazzaro posed questions about the school's student services and admissions.

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to grant approval to OneSchool Global contingent on receiving answers regarding student services and admissions by the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (3-2): Mrs. Bristol-NO, Mr. Wilbur-NO, Mr. Lazzaro-YES, Mrs. Lagerholm-YES, Mrs. Nietupski-YES.

The Committee discussed potential goals for the current school year, including student and student safety, completion of the Shaw construction project, equity, student achievement, and a possible change in start time for high school grades. Mrs. Lagerholm suggested that the Committee table the start time goal in light of the many other changes in the district due to COVID-19. Mr. Myers will provide a draft of these goals at the next meeting.

#### **7. Adjourn**

Mr. Wilbur motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (5-0).