

Millbury Public Schools School Committee

Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 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

Contributing Rayna Santos-Wright (Millbury Student, Class of 2022)

Guests: Gabby Girard (Millbury Student, Class of 2023)

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School Library/Media Center

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Mrs. Nietupski reminded members of the audience to sign in on the visitor's sheet and to wear masks while present at the meeting. She also stated that if any member of the audience plans to record the meeting, they must declare so to the Committee. Mrs. Nietupski stated that the meeting would not continue until everyone present was wearing a mask.

At 7:06 p.m., Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to recess the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed, 5-0.

At 7:17 p.m., Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to resume the regular session, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed, 5-0.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Bristol motioned to approve the regular session minutes of September 22, 2021, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed, 5-0.

Report of the Administration

Student Council Update

2021 OCT 14 AM 11:12
MILLBURY, MASS.

Mr. Myers introduced Rayna Santos-Wright (Class of 2022) and Gabby Girard (Class of 2023), President and Vice-President of the Millbury Student Council, to the Committee. Rayna and Gabby provided an update on recent and upcoming events at Millbury Jr./Sr. High School, including descriptions of a recent movie night on Alumni Field, a community trunk or treat activity at the Elmwood Street Elementary School, Homecoming weekend and the homecoming dance, and a recent Krispy Kreme fundraiser for the Senior class. They also described an activity fair for students to learn about activities and clubs.

Community COVID-19 Update

Ms. Ryan, Director of Pupil Services provided the Committee with an update on COVID-19 trends in the district, noting that there are now 42 district cases, the most we have had in a single month since the beginning of the pandemic. She asked for parents to keep children home if they are showing any symptoms and advised families to contact their primary care provider to schedule an appointment for a COVID test. The District recently hired two additional nurses to help with contact tracing. Ms. Ryan said that there is evidence of student-to-student transmission, most notably on the football team.

Enrollment Update: Homeschool Students

Mrs. Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, informed the Committee that there was an increase of three homeschooled students this year, bringing the total number of homeschooled students to 30 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Programmatic Update: Virtual High School and Advanced Placement

Mrs. Boutiette provided the Committee with an update on student enrollment in our VHS and AP programs, noting that the District's max enrollment for VHS (30 students) has been met. AP courses are offered for college credits in English literature, English composition, calculus, statistics, biology, chemistry, computer science, psychology, and US History. There are currently 86 students enrolled in the AP courses and Ms. Boutiette anticipates that they will take 136 tests this spring.

Finance and Operations

Donation Acceptance from Moby Max

Ms. Ryan requested that the Committee accept a donation of instructional technology devices from Moby Max for the suggested purpose of supporting efforts to close achievement gaps caused by the pandemic.

Mr. Bristol motioned to accept the donation from Moby Max, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Bedard noted that there was a quarterly meeting regarding the FY23 budget with the committee and the town manager which is a great way to open up the line of communication between the schools and the town.

Unfinished Business

Report on the Shaw School Building Project

Mr. Myers provided a report on the Shaw School building project, noting the eastern part of the parking lot has been turned back over to the school and the students can now use this area to play again. Concrete in the gym has been poured, the concrete slab in section A is finished and section B is scheduled for next

week. The steel placement punch list is not yet closed out. There are a few more things that need to be done before we can do that.

Consideration of Final Approval for OneSchool Global

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to accept the application from OneSchool Global, seconded by Mrs. Bristol. The motion passed, (5-0).

Superintendent's Goals for 2021-2022

Mr. Myers spoke briefly about his five proposed goals for this year. Mr. Lazzaro asked about the equity goal and the value of where we stand as a district and what other goals can we work on to remedy some of this equity goal as a whole. Mr. Wilbur suggested adding an element regarding the guidance department added to the supervision and evaluation goal to make sure the students are successful when they leave for college or career. A vote to accept the Superintendent's goals was tabled to the next meeting

Superintendent's Job Description

The Committee reviewed and discussed a draft update to the job description for the role of Superintendent of Schools, which was last updated nearly eight years ago. Mr. Myers agreed to share an individual copy of the description with each member in order to collect feedback. The Human Resources assistant will be asked to attend the next meeting to explain some of the wording in the description that seemed to be redundant.

New Business

Revised MSBA Project Funding Agreement for the Raymond E. Shaw School Project

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider approving a revised MSBA project funding agreement of \$59,083,918 for the Raymond E. Shaw School project. The project's bid budget of \$59,083,918 is \$1,838,843 lower than the original budget approved by the MSBA (\$60,922,761). As a result, MSBA has reduced the project funding agreement to the bid budget of \$59,083,918. The Town's adjusted financial responsibility for the project is now \$34,777,607, or \$1,414,289 lower than originally budgeted. MSBA's financial responsibility was lowered by \$424,555 to \$24,306,310.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve the revised MSBA project funding, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

For a future meeting, Mr. Lazzaro asked about creating a subcommittee for educational equity. Mrs. Nietupski asked for an update on MCAS testing.

Executive Session

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the Committee would enter executive session in accordance with *M.G.L. c.20A, §21(a)3*, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Millbury Teachers Association and SEIU Local 888. At 8:15, Mrs. Nietuski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol- YES, Mr. Lazzaro-YES, Mrs. Lagerholm-YES, Mr. Wilbur-YES, Mrs. Nietupski-YES.

Adjourn

At 9:35, Mr. Wilbur motioned to adjourn the regular session, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.