

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

*Regular Session
Meeting Minutes*

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: October 27, 2021

Members Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

Present: Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member
Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member

Administrators Present: Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Mr. Jeff Berthiaume, Director of Instructional Technology
Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Mr. Corey Burke, Assistant Principal, Elmwood Street Elementary School
Mr. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street Elementary School
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Pat Mara, Assistant Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Abigail Rigney, Assistant Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal, R.E. Shaw Elementary School

Contributing Guests Mr. Joe Antonio
Mr. Nolan White

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr/Sr High School Auditorium

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lazzaro motioned to approve the regular session minutes of October 13, 2021, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed, 5-0.

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to approve the executive session minutes of October 13, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

2. Report of the Administration

a. Report of the Student Council

Joe Antonio (Class of 2022) and Nolan White (Class of 2023) provided the Committee with an update on recent and upcoming events at the Jr./Sr. High School, including updates on the "Trunk or

Treat” fundraiser held last Saturday at Elmwood Street School, the drama club’s Fall play (“The Great Ice Cream Scheme”) at the High school, Unified sports, and updates on regular season and post-season play for fall teams.

- a. Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal of Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, introduced new members of the Jr./Sr. High School: Ms. Heather Richardson (biology & 7th grade science), Ms. Sarah Bennett (special education teacher), Ms. Sarah Comeau (instructional coach), Ms. Amy Huchowski (long term substitute math teacher), Mr. Joseph Duke (economics & technology teacher), Ms. Erica Stuppiello (health & wellness teacher), Adriana Chosta (special education teacher), Taryn Holman (school adjustment counselor/social worker) , Denise Asselin (Title I literacy tutor), Mike Binkoski (Title I math tutor).

Mr. Myers introduced Mr. Jeff Berthiaume (Director of Instructional Technology).

At 7:24 p.m., Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to recess the meeting so that members could personally welcome the new staff members at the Millbury Memorial Jr/Sr High School. Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to recess the meeting.

At 7:33, Mrs. Nietupski motioned to resume the regular session meeting

- b. Ms. Ryan provided the Committee with an update on COVID-19 trends in the district, noting that there have been 76 positive cases district-wide since school began in August. In order for students and staff to not wear masks in school, the district must reach a student/staff vaccination rate of 80%. As of today, 58% of students are fully vaccinated. The Statewide mask mandate has been extended to January 22, 2021 per DESE.

Mr. Lazzaro asked what the penalty would be if we did not follow the DESE mandate. Mr. Myers mentioned that DESE stated that everyday when masks are not worn would not count towards the time spent learning. The minimum amount of time spent learning is 180 days. Because there was not a remote learning possibility put in place at the beginning of the year, this specific way of learning would not count towards the 180 days in session. He also mentioned that Chapter 70 monies would not be given to the district because we would not be able to complete the 180 days in session and would not be recognized as a school district. Mr. Lazzaro also mentioned the percentage of COVID pool testing among staff and hopes teachers will continue to get tested during the following winter months. It was also mentioned if the school committee is going to mandate testing it will be something that we will have to bargain with the union.

- c. MCAS and i-Ready Data Overview

Ms. Boutiette, accompanied by instructional coaches, Ms. Sue Tarallo and Ms. Sarah Comeau (Jr./Sr. High School), Ms. Juliet Rodriguez and Ms. Tamisha Thompson (Shaw), and Ms. Cheryl Schonberg and Mr. Chris Mainhart (Elmwood), provided the Committee an update on our most recent student achievement data. They spoke of the increase in student achievement over the 2020-2021 school year during the pandemic when most other districts were at a much larger decrease. Overall the district partially met, met, or exceedingly met the expectations set forth by the states.

Ms. Boutiette explained the learning acceleration road map for Millbury (phase 1: diagnostic and planning, phase 2: launch, phase 3: progress monitoring, and phase 4: reflection and planning). The strategy of learning acceleration is that all students receive consistent access to grade level work with targeted scaffolds to make it accessible. She also spoke of the district coaches and how they take the data and break it down to see what students need individually, as a class and as a grade level. Grades K-10 completed the iReady testing at the beginning of the year and coaches have implemented specific plans for all grade levels.

Mr. Myers asked for a presentation at the next meeting about what “WIN” block stands for and what it looks like at every school.

3. Finance and Operations

a. Jr./Sr. High School Athletic Field Renovation: Project Closeout

Mr. Bedard provided an overview on the completed field renovation and recommended the official dissolution of the Athletic Field Build Subcommittee. Mr. Bedard thanked Mr. Mara who was the chair of the committee and spent countless hours on the project as well as all of the other members of the committee. He was happy to mention that we were under budget for the entire project. Mrs. Nietupski asked that letters of thanks be sent to members of the committee thanking them for their time.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the dissolution of the Athletic Field Build Subcommittee, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Mr. Myers provided an update on the Shaw School building project, noting that the approval of the utility easement was approved at the Special Town meeting last night. NGrid will be on site tomorrow to start coordinating.. Due to shortages, we are still waiting on a large amount of drainage piping. The second floor, section A is almost completely framed out and you get an overview of what the classrooms will look like. Once the roofs are complete, the contractors would like the School Committee to come and tour the school. Mrs. Nietupski asked to extend the invitation to the Board of Selectmen.

5. New Business

a. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Job Description

The Committee will review and discuss a draft update to the job description for the role of Assistant Superintendent of Schools. No job description currently exists for this position. The Committee tabled the discussion until next week's meeting.

Mrs. Nietupski informed the Committee that the MTA President, Mr. Jeffrey Lyon, requested to start negotiations at the beginning of the new year. Mrs. Nietupski will alert the Committee when a meeting schedule is drafted.

6. Executive Session

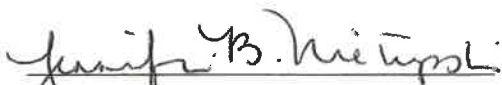
The Committee moved into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a)2 to conduct contract negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools.


At 8:47 p.m., Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote to enter executive session: Mr. Lazzaro-YES, Mrs. Lagerholm-YES, Mr. Wilbur-YES, Ms. Bristol- YES, Mrs. Nietupski- YES. All in favor (5-0).

7. Adjourn

At 10:11 p.m., the Committee returned to the regular session meeting. Without further discussion, Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to adjourn the regular session, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

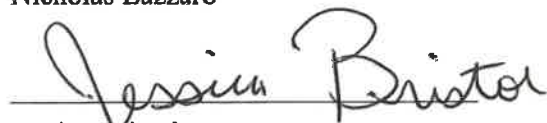
Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson


Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

Julia Lagerholm


Nicholas Lazzaro


Jessica Bristol