

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

Meeting Minutes

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: November 3, 2021

Members Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson

Present: Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson (arrived at 7:25)

Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member

Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member

Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member

Administrators Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Present: Mr. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street Elementary School

Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal, R.E. Shaw Elementary School

Mrs. Erin Rosenkranz, Assistant Principal, R.E. Shaw Elementary School

Location: Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School Cafeteria

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the special session minutes of October 26, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 4-0.

Mr. Lazzaro motioned to approve the regular session minutes of October 27, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 4-0.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the executive session minutes of October 27, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 4-0.

2. Guest Presentation

Ms. Christine McPherson spoke to the committee and audience on the topic of compassionate care and our community. She spoke of the differences between rights and responsibilities and urged the community to engage in civil discourse on important issues.

3. Report of the Administration

- a. Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal of Raymond E. Shaw School introduced new members of the Jr./Sr. High School: Ms. Kaitlin Peters (4th grade math and science), Ms. Kacey Bush (5th grade math and science) and Ms. Ashley Chaput (School Adjustment Counselor).

At 7:16 p.m., Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to recess the meeting so that members could personally welcome the new staff members at Raymond E. Shaw School. Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to recess the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 4-0.

At 7:22, Mrs. Nietupski motioned to resume the regular session meeting. Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to return to the regular session meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 4-0.

- b. Ms. Ryan provided the Committee with an update on COVID-19 trends in the district, noting that there have been 78 positive cases in the district. The district continues to pool test our staff and students. The number of students who have been vaccinated has moved from 58% to 60%. Mrs. Lagerholm asked about the impact of supply chain issues on the food service department. Mr. Myers stated that Mr. Bedard will be in attendance at next week's meeting to discuss the issues that the district has encountered.
- c. Overview and Examples of the "What I need" (W.I.N.) Block
Ms. Boutiette provided an overview of the W.I.N. blocks at each school and how it is used to provide student specific remediation and enrichment. At Elmwood Street School, teachers use the data from testing to be able to pinpoint what students will need to work on during this block. There is also an ST Math block that is available. Title I tutors and special education teachers are all participating during these blocks. At the Raymond E. Shaw School students have a 40 minute block to focus on intervention or enrichment. Title I tutors, ESL teachers, special education teachers and general education teachers are on hand for these blocks. At the Millbury Jr/Sr High School, students participate in these in a different way. Students have a 80 minute block where they can focus on the specific areas needed. English and math tutors are in the classrooms helping those students who are struggling with those specific subjects as well as the humanities coach and data coach.
- d. Scope and Sequence of Curriculum Materials on Sex Education
Mr. Myers shared information about Millbury's sex education curriculum, including which grades it is taught. Currently our wellness department teachers use the Michigan model which aligns with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Grades 7-9 receive information regarding nutrition, substance abuse, reproductive system, refusal skills and setting sexual boundaries. All students are sent home with a permission slip and have the capability to opt out of the course. PreK-7 does not learn about sexual education. He also stated that we do not teach the 3R's Curriculum in the district although some surrounding districts do. Some of the aspects of the 3R's Curriculum have been looked at by our wellness staff as a reference but it is currently not part of our curriculum.
- e. Update from the Office of Pupil Services
Ms. Ryan provided the Committee with an update on matters concerning pupil services. For the FY22 School year, the district had budgeted for 28 Out of District student placements. Currently, we have 18 students who are attending out-of-district schools, which accounts for 6% of our special education students total. Some of the reasons this number is lower than projected fall under the categories of the student having aged out, they have moved out of the district, or they have returned to the general education classroom. Tuitions are set by the collaborative boards and pricing is governed and regulated by the state. Most of the kids are placed out of the district

because we cannot accommodate their educational needs, whether they are social, emotional or medical. She also spoke on the McKinney Vento Act which related to students with homeless hardships. There has been an increase in town with the amount of kids in the district who are suffering from this hardship. This law requires us to immediately enroll the students and then figure out the residencies. This allows the student to have access to three nurses district wide and a physician who we have contracted through the District. The McKinney Vento Act allows the students who are suffering hardships the capability to choose whether they want to stay in the district they have been in or if they want to enroll in the district in which they have moved to. She asked the community members to please reach out to her office if they should know of someone who is struggling. Most transportation for the students is in place within 48 hours. Currently, we have 15 students who are considered homeless.

3. Finance and Operations

4. Unfinished Business

- a. Mr. Myers provided an update on the Shaw School building project, noting that the roof system is almost complete. Slab on grade for section C will be placed next week. The entire first floor will have the floor in and the Committee will then be able to tour the school.
- b. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Job Description
The Committee reviewed and discussed a draft update to the job description for the role of Assistant Superintendent of Schools. No job description currently exists for this position.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the Assistant Superintendent's job description, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Lazzaro asked about the state's wellness curriculum frameworks, which were written in 1999. He stated that it does not discuss social media which is a crucial component and should be added to the curriculum. Mr. Myers stated that representatives from the DA's Office partner with our schools to support student safety online. This starts in fourth grade and continues into high school.

5. 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 7:53 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 8:11 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