

**Millbury Public Schools  
School Committee**

**Regular Session Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** December 8, 2021

**Members Present:** Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson  
Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member  
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member  
Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member  
Ms. Michelle Cherfils, Student Representative to the School Committee

**Administrators Present:** Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School  
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

**Location:** Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve the regular session minutes of November 3, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve the regular session minutes of November 17, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the executive session minutes of November 17, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

**2. Report of the Administration**

**a. Assabet Valley Collaborative: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report**

Mr. Myers shared the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report of the Assabet Valley Education Collaborative, which includes FY21 highlights, challenges, and major priorities.

**b. Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative: 1st Quarter Report**

Mr. Myers shared the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report of the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative, which includes FY21 highlights, challenges, and major priorities.

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c. International Trip to Berlin, Krakow, Prague, and Budapest

Mr. Lowe asked the Committee to consider approving the international trip scheduled for this April. Thirty-three students are registered and six staff members are willing to chaperone. Currently all four destinations (Berlin, Krakow, Prague, and Budapest) are considered level IV on the CDC list.

Mr. Lazzaro asked if the travel itinerary might be changed to include only domestic travel or travel within a single European country. Mr. Lowe stated that this change would be difficult since families paid for an international trip with specific destinations. He stated that EF Tours would convene an informational meeting with families and discuss options.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve the international trip, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed, 5-0.

d. Current COVID-19 Infection Data and Trends, Pooled Testing and Test-and-Stay Data

Ms. Kate Ryan provided the Committee with an updated overview of COVID-19 infection rates and trends for students and staff, stating there are 362 cases in the district. The current number of cases at this time mirror the total number for the entirety of last year.

e. Proposed Vaccine Clinic for Eligible Students with Parental Authorization

Ms. Kate Ryan provided the Committee with an update on a proposed vaccine clinic for eligible Millbury students (ages 5-11), which will be held on Tuesday, December 21 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Elmwood Street Elementary School in collaboration with Pelmeds Pharmacy.

3. Finance and Operations

a. Grants Accounts Update

Mr. Bedard provided the Committee with an accounting report on the district's nine DESE-administered Federal grants, most of which are entitlement grants. Mr. Bedard stated that the School Committee is not required to approve the grants listing, but it must be informed annually in accordance with our District Financial Policies and Procedures.

b. Outdated Technology -- Vote to Declare as Surplus Requested

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider declaring as surplus, according to Millbury School Committee Policy DN (*School Properties Disposal*), technology equipment as recommended by the Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. Jeff Berthiaume. All equipment listed for the Committee's consideration is irreparable and/or obsolete. All personal and school department data has been stripped from the devices along with any components that could be used in the future.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the surplus of technology equipment, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.

c. Outdated Textbooks -- Vote to Declare as Surplus Requested

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to table this agenda item since the listing of textbooks was not available for their consideration before the meeting.

d. Proposed Increase to AfterCare Tuition for FY 2023 -- *Vote Requested*

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider increasing AfterCare's afternoon rates by \$5.00 per week effective with the start of the new school year, resulting in an increase of the Elmwood Street School rate from \$50.00 per week to \$55.00 per week and the R.E. Shaw Elementary School rate from \$55.00 per week to \$60.00 per week. BeforeCare rates will remain the same (\$10.00 per day for Elmwood and \$7.00 per day for Shaw). Mr. Bedard stated that an increase was necessary in order to address AfterCare's budget deficit. This deficit was caused by increasing employee wages in order to remain competitive with other minimum wage jobs.

Ms. Bristol motioned to increase AfterCare Tuition, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed, 5-0.

e. Proposed Increase to Pre-Kindergarten Tuition for FY 2023 -- *Vote Requested*

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to table this item considering the possibility of a revenue increase associated with an additional preschool classroom next year.

f. Proposed Donation of Private Land Parcel to the School District

Mr. Bedard informed the Committee of a recent offer from Harold and Cynthia Mallette, relatives of Brenda Mannix, a Millbury resident who passed away some time ago. They have offered to donate a half acre parcel adjacent to the Jr./Sr. High School to the School District.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve the proposed donation, 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 rough plumbing, electrical and HVAC are continuing to be worked on. Exterior brick work continues from the North side of the building to the west side. There have been some supply delays on interior finishes but the contractors are working on other avenues to ensure that the building will open on time. Committee members were able to have a walk through of the building to see the changes to the building.

5. New Business

- a. Report of the Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Lazzaro provided the Committee with an update to proposed changes to our Field Use Policy (Policy KFC) and rates, our Advertising Policy (Policy KHB), and our Agenda Format Policy (Policy BEDB).

Ms. Bristol asked for the community to have an update from our School Resource Officer.

Mrs. Nietupski shared that the next School Committee meeting scheduled for December 22, 2021 has been canceled.

## 6. Executive Session

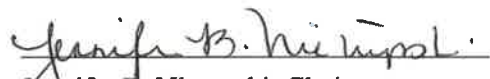
The Committee voted to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a)3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with SEIU Local 888 since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position.

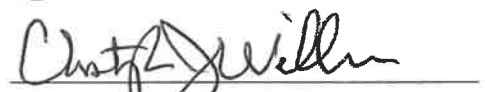
At 8:17 p.m., Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote to enter executive session: Mr. Lazzaro-YES, Mrs. Lagerholm-YES, Mr. Wilbur-YES, Ms. Bristol- YES, Mrs. Nietupski- YES. All in favor (5-0).

## 7. Adjourn

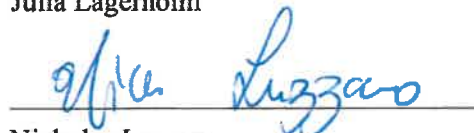
At 8:56 p.m., the Committee returned to the regular session meeting. Without further discussion, Mr. Wilbur motioned to adjourn the regular session, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.

Approved:

  
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

  
Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

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Julia Lagerholm

  
Nicholas Lazzaro

  
Jessica Bristol