

**Millbury Public Schools  
School Committee**

Regular Session  
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2022

Members Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson  
Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member  
Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member  
Ms. Fatma Al-Bargash, Student Representative

Administrators Present: Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Richard G. Bedard Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services  
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School  
Mr. Patrick Mara, Assistant Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School  
Mr. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street School  
Mr. Corey Burke, Assistant Principal, Elmwood Street School  
Mr. Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Informational Technology

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:21 PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Bristol motioned to accept the regular session meeting minutes of October 16, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed (3-0-1, with Mrs. Nietupski abstaining).

**Report of the Administration**

- a. Report of the Student Council by Representatives Patrick O'Leary and Courtney Wilbur  
Patrick and Courtney provided the Committee with an overview of recent and upcoming events at the Jr./Sr. High School, including a recap of the fall athletic season, the NHS pumpkin carving contest, and the NHS induction process. The High School Marching band competed this past weekend in Quincy where they won 4 of 5 categories and took home a silver medal, and the High school will be hosting "Trunk or Treat" at Elmwood on Saturday
- b. Introduction of New Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School Staff

Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal of Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School introduced his new staff to the School Committee. Joining MMJSHS this year is Ms. Sangeeta Ashrit, Ms. Sarah Bellavance, Ms. Katherine Bradley, Ms. Danielle Gemme, Ms. Annie Hammer, Ms. Gaby Hunt, Ms. Sydney Marley, Mr. Ryan McCarthy, Mr. Bryan McKenna, Ms. Jordan Sliwoski, and Mr. Kiel Storm.

c. MCAS and i-Ready: Overview of MCAS 2022 and i-Ready Growth Data

Ms. Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, as well as school based Instructional Coaches (MaryAnn DeMaria, Sarah Comeau, Tamisha Thompson, Juliet Rodriguez, Chris Mainhart, and Cheryl Schonberg) provided an overview of the Spring 2022 MCAS results and i-Ready growth data. Ms. Boutiette highlighted (1) the state saw a decline in literacy scores in grades 3-8 and a bigger decline in grade 3-5, (2) absenteeism related to the pandemic pertaining to students and staff where students and staff were out about 15 days each, and (3) the state has started a new baseline where data will not be compared to pre-pandemic scores. Millbury is not showing the same trend of decline in literacy as the state. Math recovery was also much lower than the state but showed a higher decline in 8th and 10th grade. Millbury's ELA and math achievement trended higher than the state as a whole.

Ms. Comeau, ELA/Humanities coach at the Jr./Sr. High school mentioned that 65% of students are at grade level or above grade level regarding ELA data. There is a strong focus on Reading Comprehension Strategies across content areas in the JH/HS using common language through a schoolwide Reading Goal. Mrs. DeMaria, Math/Science coach at the Jr./Sr. High school mentioned that 63% of students are at grade level or above grade level regarding math data.

Mrs. Tamisha Thompson, STEM coach at the Shaw School, stated that 77% of 4-6th graders are at grade level or above in math. Shaw is paying special attention to the domains of measurement, data, and geometry.

Mrs. Juliet Rodrigues, ELA coach at Shaw school, stated that 78% of students are at grade level or above grade level in ELA. Teachers are analyzing their information text standards to incorporate more explicit, targeted strategies instruction, including the implementation of Notice & Note. There is also an intensive reading comprehension strategies class for the 6th grade.

Mr. Chris Mainhart, Math Coach at Elmwood Street School, explained that 90% of students are at grade level or above grade level for mathematics. In addition to *i-Ready*, all K-3 students are screened three times a year with the *Universal Screener for Number Sense*. This tool includes one-on-one interviews done by teachers and provides a more detailed view of student mathematical strengths and needs.

Mrs. Cheryl Schonberg, ELA Coach at Elmwood Street School, stated that 93% of students are at grade level or above grade level in ELA. There is guided reading, additional phonics support, WIN

block, and small group instruction using the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention program.

### **Finance and Operations**

a. Review of School Lunch Programs Account Balance and Recommended Usage

Mr. Bedard provided the Committee with an overview of the current Food Services Department account balance and proposed expenditures, including new equipment and additional work hours for kitchen personnel. Due to the influx of free/reduced funds for all students, we have attained an elevated School Lunch account balance. It is recommended that school districts have a plan for the use of funds in excess of a three month reserve. A recommendation from the Food Service Director would be an increase in staffing members as well as adding additional hours, salary adjustments, and the purchase of a new combination oven.

b. “Chill Out with Cold Milk” Grant Program Award

This September, Mandi Donaldson, Food Service Director, applied for the “Chill Out with Cold Milk” Grant for a chance to win a new refrigerated milk cooler that can accommodate up to twelve cases of milk. She was recently notified that Elmwood Street School was selected as this year's award winner. This equipment has a retail value of \$3,688. In accordance with Policy KCD, Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider accepting this award.

Ms. Bristol made the motion to accept this award, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed (4-0).

### **Unfinished Business**

a. Report on the Raymond E. Shaw Building Project

The new Shaw School ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the morning. New school tours will be part of the ribbon cutting.

#### **Phase 1 Status:**

- Playground area work continues;
- New flagpole installed;
- Card access readers being installed (exterior doors);
- Solar Panel installation continues;
- Bus loop will be complete in early November;
- Interior punch list down to 40 items

#### **Phase 2 Status:**

- Excavation of field continues;
- Field light pole sleeves installed;
- Rough plumbing and electric in comfort station completed;

b. Superintendent's Goals for 2022-2023- *Vote Requested*

Mr. Myers asked the Committee's approval of his three goals for this school year:

Goal 1: Increase the frequency and quality of communication with the school community

Goal 2: Establish a community-driven vision for our school district, including a comprehensive portrait of a graduate.

Goal 3: Increase consistency and effectiveness of feedback given to administrators as part of a more authentic and streamlined evaluation process.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept the goals of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed (4-0).

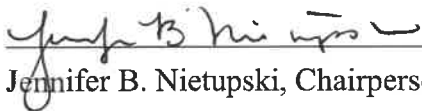
**New Business**

**Executive Session**

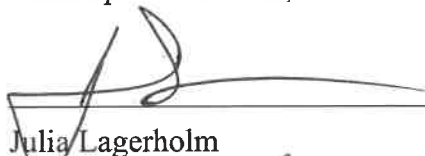
At 9:08 PM, Mrs. Nietupski asked to move in executive session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A §21(a)3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation since an open meeting may have detrimental effects on the School Committee's Litigation position. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Bristol-Yes, Mr. Wilbur-Yes, Mrs. Lagerholm- Yes, Mrs. Nietupski-Yes. The motion passed (4-0).

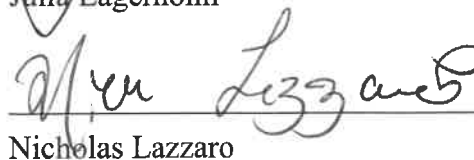
**Adjourn**

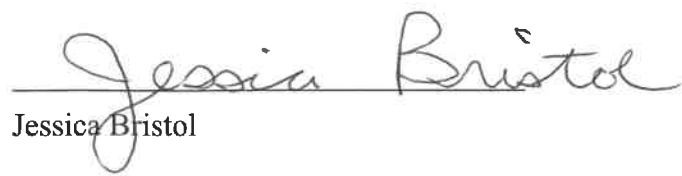
Approved:

  
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

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Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

  
Julia Lagerholm

  
Nicholas Lazzaro

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Bristol". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jessica Bristol