

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: October 9, 2019

Present: Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson, Mr. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Teixeira, Mrs. Lagerholm, Mrs. Prior, Ryan Kurkiewicz, Student Council Representative, Mr. Bedard, Business Manager, Ms. Boutiette, Curriculum Coordinator, Ms. Ryan, Director of Special Education, Mr. Hall, Elmwood Street School Principal, Mr. Burke, Elmwood Street School Assistant Principal, and Mr. Myers, Superintendent

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

Time: 7:00 pm

After a tour of the Elmwood Street School led by Mr. Hall, Principal and Mr. Burke, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of September 25, 2019

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions, to the Regular Session Minutes of September 25, 2019. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Prior. All approved (5-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Report of the Student Council

Student Council members Taylor Tolley and Abby Assad both seniors reported on recent and future events at the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School.

b. October Enrollment Report

Mr. Myers stated that included in the packet was the official enrollment for October 1, 2019. He also stated that the projected maximum enrollment through 2026 was included in the packet. Mr. Myers stated that the projected enrollment came from the MSBA, a few years ago, as part of the Shaw Feasibility Study. Mr. Myer stated that he challenged these numbers citing new developments in town and two exits from the Mass Pike but the MSBA was adamant that their projection enrollment numbers were correct. He stated that if those numbers are compared to the actual numbers we have 1,667 students not including pre-school they are fairly close. Mr. Myers stated that 36 or 37 students in this year's 10th grade went to Blackstone Valley Technical School. Mr. Myers stated that the largest grade is 7th and some of the high school teachers are teaching seventh grade classes to keep the classroom numbers low. A discussion took place regarding the MSBA's projected enrollment from 2019 through 2026. These are the numbers that were used to determine square footage at the new Shaw School. Mrs. Nietupski stated that to compare 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 we have gained students in the high school in all grades. Mr. Myers stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also requires the District to account for subgroups in each grade. Subgroups such as EL students and special education students will have an impact on the budget.

c. Update on Advance Placement Courses

Ms. Boutiette stated that Ms. Tarallo was the Advance Placement Coordinator at the high school and she put together a handout for the School Committee, regarding AP enrollment and exam score history. Ms. Boutiette stated that since 2015 the high school has had an 85% increase in the AP enrollment. Ms. Boutiette stated that the District has a partnership with Mass Insight, which focuses on higher expectations for students and increasing enrollment in AP courses. They also provide instructional support for Saturday AP courses. Ms. Boutiette stated that MTSS, Multi-Tiered Support System is for all students who are achieving at any level. She stated that MTSS supports pushing students into higher levels of challenges. A discussion took place regarding pressure on students enrolled in advanced placement courses. Ms. Boutiette stated that part of the MTSS is the social and emotional piece for students and how we are supporting these students. Mr. Myers stated that he also encourages students to take at least one AP course to help them understand the rigor and stress which will prepare them for their college courses, while they are still receive support from their teachers and parents. A discussion took place on the 49% of students with scores of 3+ on tests verses the total number of tests taken that students scored 3+. Mr. Myers stated that colleges track students that take AP courses in high school and the data shows that students that take one AP course are more likely to graduate on time than students that do not take any AP courses. Mrs. Nietupski asked how the number of AP courses a student takes along with their scores are tracked. She stated that all students should be allowed to take one AP course but not all students should be allowed to take more than one.

d. Update of Virtual High School Courses

Ms. Boutiette reported to the School Committee that twenty-one students were participating in the Virtual High School courses. The Virtual High School allows students access to a wide range of courses that are not available in our program of studies. A discussion took place regarding why more students are not involved in Virtual High School courses.

4. Budget

a. FY2019 D.E.S.E. End of Year Financial Report

Mr. Bedard stated that the FY2019 End of Year Financial Report was submitted on time on September 30, 2019. He stated that it could be reviewed in its entirety on the Business Office webpage.

b. District Revolving Accounts Update

Mr. Bedard stated that this report is from 7/1/2019 through 9/30/2019. Mr. Bedard stated that the Summer School Account now includes a summer school that is being run at the Elmwood Street School. He stated that the balance in July was \$17,223 and is now \$3,572 because the District received the money in June and paid the bills in July and August. The Windle Field Revolving Account is \$215 because benches for the dugouts were purchased. Mr. Bedard stated that he anticipates funds from softball and football leagues when the season ends. The Dorothy Manor account has a balance of \$125,866 which some grounds and maintenance salaries are paid from, also a part of Mr. Halacy's salary. Mr. Bedard stated that he anticipates the lease for Dorothy Manor will end in December or January. Mr. Bedard stated that if Dorothy Manor is returned to the Town the balance of the funds will also be returned to the Town. The Pre-school Account pays for a full teaching position, an instructional assistant position and part of a secretary's salary. Mr. Bedard stated that the pre-school tuition was increased last year and with the additional revenue will be able to utilize to defray the cost of the budget. The Athletic Revolving Account balance is \$78,199 in which part of the athletic trainer's salary is paid from this account. The School Facilities Account balance is \$74,122 because we have rented out the facilities more than in the past. Mr. Bedard stated that the negative \$-646.60 is a journal entry for the purchase of the auditorium projector recently, which Public Access chipped in \$12,000 because it is a

benefit for them as well. The Aftercare Program Account balance is \$65,828 which is down from last year. Mr. Bedard stated that the Aftercare Program tuition has increased their rates because we were down \$20,000 last year. The Student Parking Account has a balance of \$14,370. The School Choice Revolving Account is \$28,314.71. The balance should double at the end of this year and is available for the School Committee to use as they choose. The School Lunch Revolving Account balance is \$58,050 through 6/30/2019. Mr. Bedard stated that the District received \$29,000 more in receipts this year.

c. Acceptance of Donation “Cruzzin Dreams” – Vote Requested

Mr. Bedard stated that the “Cruzzin Dreams” Classic Car Show fundraiser has donated for the thirteenth year has donated \$400 this year. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the \$400, seconded by Mrs. Prior. All approved (5-0).

d. Maintenance Memo

Mr. Bedard stated that included in the packet are photos of the new Millbury Memorial High School sign. He also stated that over the summer the walls in the gym were painted and wood slats were attached to the walls so that new champion banners could be installed and not ruin the paint. Mr. Bedard also stated that the new kitchen dishwasher at Elmwood Street School has been installed. He also stated that the school department has purchased a longer bed trailer for lawn equipment to be transported between schools, primarily from Dorothy Manor receipts.

5. Old Business

a. Field Renovation Project Update

Mr. Myers informed the School Committee that the Board of Selectman reviewed a dozen warrant articles at the meeting last night. He stated that the high school field will be the 6th warrant at the Town Meeting, which will be immediately followed by the Shaw School warrant. Mr. Myers stated that the Board of Selectman only voted on the language that would be used on the warrant. He stated that he was asked why the field renovation project came up at the last minutes. Mr. Myers was happy to share, that this project has been in the works for the past eight years and the hold-up was where baseball field could be located. He also stated that it would be best to disclose both projects to the public and not come back at a later time for the field project. Mr. Myers stated that questions regarding the Shaw School were; Why not renovate? He stated that he spoke about the wet slab and the amount being reimbursed from the MSBA.

b. Shaw School Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that a post card is being created to be mailed to all residents. He stated that he checked with the Ethics Commission regarding these post cards and using the contingency funds from the Feasibility Study to pay for the mailing. He stated that the Ethics Commission approved of the District sending post cards to all residents. Mr. Myers stated that the Building Committee met on October 2nd to discuss that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education questioned the Schematic Design and was under the impression that the special education classrooms were located away from the general education classroom and not adequately integrated within the classroom clusters. Mr. Myers stated that there are two options one option was moving the special education classroom closer to the common area. However, Mr. Myers stated that he wrote a response for the rationale behind the placement of the special education classrooms. He stated with co-teaching all students will move to becoming full inclusion into classrooms and access the special education classrooms as needed. Mr. Myers stated that a Public Forum will be held on November 7th at the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium at 6:30pm.

c. Appointment of School Committee Representative to the Master Plan Committee

Mrs. Nietupski stated that a representative from the School Committee was no longer needed. Mr. Myers stated that Laurie Connors confirmed that the Master Plan was complete and would like to send the Plan to the School Committee for review.

d. Appointment of School Committee Representative to the Community Service Learning

Mr. Kodra, the advisor said the Community Service Learning Committee meets formally twice each year in November and February and additionally they organized two events; Immigration Celebration and they participate in the Millbury "Chain of Lights". Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve Mrs. Lagerholm as representative to the Community Service Learning Committee, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0).

e. School Start Times

Mr. Myers stated that Nurture Shock and Backgrounder: Later Start Times (web page) was a great introduction to later school start times, as it identifies the problem and the consequences that arise from not correcting the problem. He stated that this is not a matter of teenagers sleeping late but there is a biological reason. Melatonin does not affect a teenagers' brain until 11:00pm or later and the brain does not chemically wake up until later in the morning. We expect these students to come to school at 7:40 am ready to focus and engage in their first course and that is not chemically possible for kids. Each study reinforces that this is not a choice for kids and that chemically their brains do not wake up until 8:00am. Mr. Myers stated that a lack of a full night's sleep will affect student choices, driving to school in the morning, (half of all accidents in the morning are from teenagers), and social skills. Mr. Myers stated that Westboro Public Schools has a plan on how they changed their start times. A discussion took place regarding changing school start times. It was stated that the biggest push back will be regarding sports and younger students waiting at bus stops in the dark. Ryan Kurkiewicz, Student Council Representative, has begun devising a survey for students. Mr. Myers stated that if we craft a survey it should be around what obstacles would be encountered if we change the school start times, not should we change the start times. It was stated that child care could be a concern if the older students get home after the younger children. Mr. Myers stated that aftercare could be a solution. Mr. Bedard stated that there is some extra time built into the transportation routes between the high school and Shaw School. Mr. Myer stated that there is a professor from Brown University that comes to public forums to answer questions regarding later school start times. Mr. Nietupski asked School Councils could be given the research to investigate later school start times. She stated that she would like to get the council members involved on the task force. Mrs. Nietupski also suggested that a survey be created to send to families. Ms. Ryan suggested that surveys be handed out to parents during parent's nights at Shaw and Elmwood.

6. New Business

7. Executive Session

The Committee will consider moving into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a)3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position, and the Chair so declares.

Mrs. Nietupski took role call:

Mrs. Teixeira – YES

Mrs. Lagerholm – YES

Mrs. Nietupski – YES

Mr. Wilbur – YES

Mrs. Prior - YES

8. Adjourn – Mrs. Nietupski stated that when they come out of Executive Session the Open Meeting will be closed with no additional discussions.

Next Meeting – October 23, 2019 Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Media Center 7:00pm


Respectfully submitted,

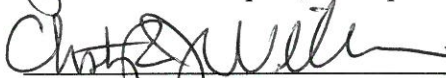
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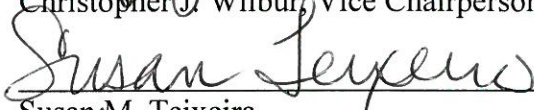
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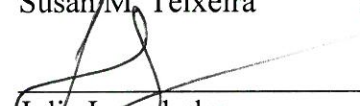
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

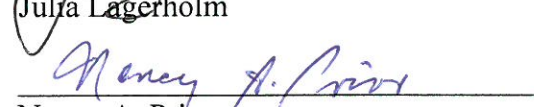
Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson


Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson


Susan M. Teixeira


Julia Lagerholm


Nancy A. Prior

Items in Packet:

Agenda

Regular Minutes 10/9/2019