

**Millbury School Committee Meeting  
REGULAR SESSION  
Minutes**

TOWN CLERK  
2020 JUL 30 AM 9:27  
MILLBURY, MASS

**Date:** February 12, 2020

**Present:** Mrs. Nietupski, Chairperson, Mr. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Teixeira, Ryan Kurkiewicz, Student Council Representative, Ms. Ryan, Director of Special Education, Ms. Boutiette, Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Bedard, Business Manager, and Mr. Myers, Superintendent

**Absent:** Mrs. Lagerholm

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

**Time:** 7:00pm

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**Public Hearing - School Choice**

Mrs. Nietupski opened the Public Hearing to discuss School Choice. Mr. Myers stated that the School Committee has to formally vote to continue being a School Choice district or to not be a School Choice district for the 2020-2021 school year before June 1, 2020. He stated that we have opened fourteen seats over the past two years and that all the seats are filled. Mr. Myers stated that approximately half of the seats are filled with students that previously lived in Millbury. He stated that the program began as a pilot program and that the program has been excellent. Mr. Myers stated that with the current enrollment in grades 9-12 the School Committee should feel comfortable opening more than seven new seats this year. There was no further discussion regarding School Choice. There was no public comment. Mrs. Nietupski closed the Public Hearing.

**1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of January 22, 2020.**

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions, or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of January 22, 2020. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

**2. Review and Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of January 22, 2020.**

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions, to the Executive Session Minutes of January 22, 2020. She stated that if any changes, additions, or deletions are needed they must be done in Executive Session. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

### **3. Report of the Administration**

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the meeting would begin with item b Student Council Trip under New Business. Grace Cote stated that 12 Student Council students have the opportunity to attend a 3-day MASC conference in Hyannis, MA. March 4th - March 6th. Ms. Morin and Ms. Briggs will chaperone the trip to Hyannis.

#### **a. Report of the Student Council**

Jordan Nadeau updated the School Committee on the Winter Carnival and the standings for each grade.

Mrs. Teixeira made a motion to approve the Student Council trip to Hyannis, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (3-0).

Mrs. Nietupski stated that item a. **Lion's Club Request for the Use of Windle Field** under New Business will be discussed at this time. Mr. Marlborough stated that Mrs. Avramidis high school nurse came to a recent board meeting for the Lion's Club looking for financial support. This support would allow students in need of vaping cessation sessions to participate in individual classes through the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Center. Mr. Marlborough stated that the Lion's Club board voted to approve \$5,000 to help the students. He stated that they are very proud to help the students and only ask that their name be included in the program. (NOTE: see later in minutes for vote to accept the Lion's club donation)

Mr. Marlborough asked the School Committee to use Windle Field and the Field House for the Carnival and Fireworks display from June 28, 2020 through July 10, 2020 along with the use of the high school lobby on July 4 for registration for the Joseph Coggins Road Race. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the Lion's Club using Windle Field and the Field House from June 28, 2020 through July 10, 2020 along with the high school lobby on July 4th, seconded by Mrs. Texiera. All approved (3-0).

#### **b. 2019 Millbury Comprehensive Master Plan**

Mr. Myers stated that Mrs. Vigneau served as the School Committee representative on this task force. He stated that it includes addressing the issues of the Shaw School and that was before funding was approved. He stated that this is the first item checked off the Master Plan.

#### **c. Regional Roundtable Discussion on Vaping**

Mr. Myers stated that the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services not only offer programs of vaping cessations but other programs to support schools that have students with other issues. Mr. Myers stated that during Student Government Day they heard from students that kids are beginning to vape as young as 6th and 7th grade and by the time they reach high school they are hooked. He stated that the only tool they have is discipline which does not help the students. Mr. Myer stated that each student would be paired up with a counselor for 6 sessions to teach them skills to use while they quit vaping. Mr. Myers stated that the \$5,000 from the Lion's Club will fund 12 seats,

however, the clinicians stated they could fill 25 seats. He asked the School Committee to consider matching the Lion's Club \$5,000 with \$5,000 to increase the number of seats to 24. Mr. Myers stated that the \$5,000 could come from the School Choice Account. Mrs. Nietupski stated that a motion was needed to access the School Choice Account for \$5,000 to increase the number of seats to 12. Mr. Myers stated that the sessions would take place during the day or if the student wanted it could be outside of the school day. He also stated that this program requires parental permission. Mr. Myers stated that the administration have been discussing how to engage students in the program. He stated that in other districts, they give the choice of the program or a suspension. Mr. Bedard stated that at this time the balance of the School Choice Account is \$42,000 by the end of the year if no expenditures will be at \$100,000. Mr. Myers stated that the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services have many programs to help our students. He stated that he believes that this is a good way to spend School Choice money and that at the next meeting will find out if 24 seats are sufficient or will come back to the Committee for another vote. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve \$5,000 to double seats available for individual counseling and will return with a comprehensive plan if more seats or other services are needed, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept \$5,000 from the Lion's Club for the Vaping Cessation Sessions, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved. (3-0).

## **5. Budget**

### **a. Proposed FY 2021 Budget**

There was no discussion regarding the proposed FY2021 Budget.

**Additional Item:** Mr. Bedard stated that he heard from the Director of Pakachoag Acres and would like to rent the building for one month. He stated that they would move out at the end of March and he has informed Mr. Kelley, Interim Town Manager.

### **b. Proposed FY2021 Capital Warrant Articles**

Mr. Bedard stated that the Technology Warrant Article for \$185,000 was the only article for the Town Meeting in May. Mr. Bedard stated that we own a 2012 MicroBird TypeA 19 passenger Mini School Bus with 132,000 miles. We were originally going to have a Warrant Article for Town Meeting in 2021, however the minivan will not make it another year. Therefore we are putting a Warrant Article in for \$65,000 for a new mini-bus. He stated that Mr. Kelley, Interim Town Manager agreed to the article. It was stated that if we contracted with AA Transportation instead of replacing the minivan it would cost \$65,000 per year. Mr. Bedard stated that he would look into leasing a mini-bus.

## **6. Old Business**

### **a. School Start Times**

Mr. Myers stated that Keryn Reno is doing her Capstone WPI project on School Start Times. He stated that she has four possible options that she will share publicly at a

future School Committee meeting. The first option is to shift start and dismissals times at all three schools by whatever times the School Committee determines. The second option is to change Shaw School's start and end times with the high school. The third option is to match the Shaw School's start and end times with the high school. Mr. Myers stated that there is a possibility of combining students from Shaw and the high school on the same bus which would reduce the number of buses. He stated that this would include students in grades 3 through 12. Mr. Myers stated that the final option would be to shift the high school time to Shaw's start and end times. Shaw would shift their start and end times to match Elmwood's start and end times and students in grades Prek-6 would be combined on the buses. Mr. Myers stated that she is meeting with the owner of AA Transportation to discuss logistics and how many buses would be needed. She will also explore the effects on aftercare, athletics and clubs. Mr. Myers stated after her presentation and depending on which option the School Committee is leaning towards would be a great time to do a survey. Mr. Myers stated that she was scheduled to do observations at each school to see how many students actually ride the bus.

**b. Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Athletic Field Renovation Project**

Mr. Myers stated that the Field Sub-committee met with the Conservation Commission and got permission to move forward to the Planning Board later this month. He stated that more than one meeting will be necessary because of the amount of details that need review. Mr. Myers stated that the sub-committee met last night and reviewed updates on both the amenities building and the fields project. Mr. Myers also stated that they are at 90% construction documents and will be ready to send out to bid on February 19. He stated that they discussed the parking situation and that Orchard Street parking will not be available as some of the spots behind the high school may be used for equipment. Mr. Bedard stated that behind the softball field we are not in the wetlands but in the buffer-zone wetlands which could be a problem.

**c. Shaw School Project Update**

Mr. Myers stated that we have an aggressive timeline and that we are on-time. He stated that on January 29th the Committee met and reviewed Detail Design and discussed exterior options. He stated that there is a lot of unsuitable soil on the site which we have to be removed and suitable soil will have to be delivered at a cost. Mr. Myers stated that on January 30th systems engineers met with the fire department, police department and the building inspector to discuss details and get feedback regarding systems. He stated that project estimates will be sent to the cost estimators later this month. Mr. Myers stated that we will submit the final Detail Design in April. Mr. Bedard stated that we are still waiting for the MSBA to approve the budget. He stated that he is submitting bills for payment but not receiving MSBA reimbursement.

**7. New Business**

**d. Blackstone Valley Tech Drama and Band Participation**

Mr. Myers stated that there are a number of students living in Millbury that attend Blackstone Valley Tech that are coming to Millbury High School to participate in Marching Band and the Drama Club which raises certain concerns for the high school administration. Mr. Lowe stated that there is not a policy or procedure regarding BVT students participating in the Marching Band or Drama Club. Mr. Lowe stated that this has been happening for a long time. His concerns are liability and who is responsible if an issue occurs with a student as they are not under the discretion of Millbury's administration. He stated that there are policies and language written regarding participating on a sport's team. Mr. Lowe stated that Mr. Dooley is concerned regarding the level of students that attend BVT as their band education ended in 8th grade. Mr. Myers stated of the thirteen towns that send their students to BVT only Millbury and Douglas allow the students to participate in band or drama. Mr. Lowe stated that he could not confirm when the practice of allowing BVT students to participate in band and drama began. Mr. Lowe stated that this affects seven students this year in band and 3 students participate in drama. It was determined that BVT has a drama club but not a marching band or color guard. Mr. Myers stated that home-schooled students are allowed to participate in band and drama because there is a policy regarding home-schooled students being allowed to participate in clubs and high school activities. Mr. Lowe stated that Millbury would be responsible if a home-schooled student was involved in malicious mischief. It was stated that the Marching Band, Color Guard, and Drama Clubs are representing Millbury High School so if a BVT student got in to trouble it would reflect on Millbury. Mr. Lowe stated that he is looking for guidance from the School Committee in the form of a policy regarding BVT students participating in Band or Drama Club. Mr. Myers stated he would check with the lawyer regarding this issue along with checking with Douglas on how they handle this situation. A question regarding if there were not enough uniforms for all members; Millbury students will receive a uniform first. Mr. Dooley expressed his concerns regarding bullying during band and that he is not sure whom to contact to report the incidences. It was decided that the Policy Subcommittee would reform to discuss this policy and a number of other policies that need changes according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**e. Band Trip - Vote Required**

Mr. Dooley stated that four students have been accepted to participate in the Massachusetts Music Festival this March. They participated in the Central District Festival earlier this January and have been selected for the state festival. They will perform at a concert at Symphony Hall in Boston. The dates will be March 7th - March 11th and they will be staying at Seaport World Trade Center Hotel. Mr. Dooley will chaperone this trip. Mr. Dooley stated that three students from Concert and three from Chorus were chosen. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve four high school students to participate in All State in Boston, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

**f. Tentative 2020-2021 School Calendar**

Mr. Myers stated that a draft calendar has been included in your packet to review and to consider a vote at the next meeting. He stated that there are the same number of full

professional development days and the same amount of 1/2 professional development days as last year. Mr. Myers stated that on September 1st there is a professional development day because of the state primaries and to alleviate some of the parking issues. A discussion regarding the number of professional development days took place. Mrs. Teixeira asked if two half professional development days equal one professional development day. It was determined that it did not. There are 181 Instructional Days and 186 Professional Days.

**g. School Choice**

Mr. Myers stated that he would recommend to the School Committee to open at least seven more seats for the 2020-2021 school year. He stated that we have already received phone calls regarding school choice. Mr. Myers stated that there was a waiting list for two students this year. Mrs. Teixeira stated that she would like to increase the number of seats to 10 for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Myers stated that the high school could absorb 10 more seats. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve 10 more grade 9-12 seats for the 2021-2022 school year with a cap of twenty-four grade 9-12 students, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

**8. Executive Session**

*Pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A. §12(a)3., the committee will consider voting to enter executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with SEIU Local 888 because discussing in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position and the Chair so declares:*

*AND*

*Pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A. §12(a)3., to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto with SRO Nikki Oliveri.*

Mrs. Nietupski took role call: Mrs. Teixeira - YES, Mrs. Nietupski, - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES

**9. Future Topics**

- a. Review of Student Opportunities Act 3-Year District Plan (March 11,2020)**
- b. Consider Voting to accept the SOA 3-Year District Plan (March 25,2020).**

**10. Next Meeting:**

- a. March 11, 2020                      Regular SC Meeting MHS Media Center 7p**

**11. Adjourn** - Mrs. Nietupski stated that they would return to open meeting after Executive Session but would not discuss any business.

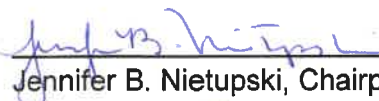
Respectfully submitted,


*Donna Freitas*

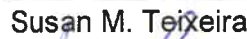
Donna Freitas


Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Approved:

  
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

  
Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

  
Susan M. Teixeira

  
Julia Lagerholm