

**Millbury School Committee Meeting
REGULAR SESSION
Minutes**

TOWN OF MILLBURY
2020 OCT -9 AM 8:42
MILLBURY, MASS

Date: February 26, 2020

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

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

Time: 7:00pm

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:10p. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. Nietupski welcome new member Nicholas Lazzaro to the School Committee. She stated that both the Board of Selectmen and School Committee unanimously approved Mr. Lazzaro as the new School Committee member until the April election.

Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2021 School Budget

Mrs. Nietupski opened the Public Hearing to discuss the Fiscal Year 2021 School Budget. She stated that every year every city or town, or regional school district shall hold an open meeting on its proposed annual budget not less than seven days after the publication of the notice, which was done in the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle. Mrs. Nietupski opened the floor to anyone who would like to speak regarding the budget. Mrs. Nietupski stated that she would close the hearing as there was no one that wished to speak.

1. Review and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of February 12, 2020.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions, or deletions to the Regular Session Minutes of February 12, 2020. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (4-0-1).

2. Review and Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of February 12, 2020.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for any changes, additions or deletions, to the Executive Session Minutes of February 12, 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 (4-0-1).

3. Report of the Administration

a. Report of the Student Advisory Council

Ryan Kurkiewicz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Student Advisory Council. He stated that the video and survey are almost completed and will be sent out to the students. Mr. Kurkiewicz explained the preregistration for voting process. Mr. Myers suggested the Council look into student anxiety and the possibility that school start times could be linked to student anxiety.

b. Partnership with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services

Mr. Myers stated that he would like to update the School Committee on our partnership with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. He stated that they met with representatives from SYFS to discuss the implementation of a vaping program. The counselors will contact the students and parents directly. Mr. Myers stated that we have received an additional \$5,000 from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance in support of Millbury's partnership with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. This money will be sent directly to SYFS. Mr. Myers stated that we have \$10,000 for the Vaping Cessation Program, which is 24 seats and an additional \$5,000 for other supports they offer around counseling. Mr. Myers stated that during parent conferences a presentation will be held to inform parents of the Vaping Cessation Program.

Additional Item: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 will be a half-day of school for students which will open up parking in the afternoon for voting.

5. Budget

a. Proposed FY2021 Capital Warrant Articles

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the first Warrant Article is for the Technology Warrant Article to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds and/or borrow the sum of \$185,000 to fund the School Department the purchase the technology, software, infrastructure and other technology equipment across the district or take any action thereon. Mr. Bedard stated that this is a continuation of a 3-year plan and we are in the second year. He stated that it is broken down into four categories: in-house 1:1, update teacher's desktops, update classroom whiteboards, and upgrades to the server. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept the first warrant article for Technology for \$185,000, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (5-0).

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the second Warrant Article is for School Department District-wide Type A School Bus Warrant Article to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds and/or borrow the sum of \$65,000 to fund the School Department to purchase a district-wide Type A School bus, or taken any action thereon. Mr. Bedard stated he looked at the possibility of leasing a Type a School Bus and for 3 years it would be approximately \$23,000 per year. Mr. Bedard stated that because of the amount of free cash the town has that it would be best to request a Warrant Article for \$65,000 for the Type A School Bus. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion

to accept the second warrant article for a Type a School bus for \$65,000, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (5-0).

b. Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – Vote Required

Mrs. Nietupski stated that the school budget presented is \$23,285,221 which is a 2.48% increase over last year's budget. Mr. Wilbur stated that he was abstaining from the vote but feels strongly that this is a good budget. He stated that he would vote in favor of the proposed budget if he could. Mrs. Nietupski stated that Mr. Wilbur could vote for the budget in parts and abstain from line item 2000. It was decided that the budget would be voted for by line item. Mr. Nietupski thanked the administration for a good budget and for keeping it below a 3% increase. Mrs. Nietupski stated that they would begin with item number 1000 administration for \$696,862. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approve the \$696,862 for administration, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mr. Nietupski stated that the next item 2000 for Instruction \$16,109,545. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approve \$16,109,545 for 2000 Instruction, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. (5-0-1 Mr. Wilbur abstained). Mrs. Nietupski stated the next item is 3000 Other Services for \$2,487,571. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept \$2,487,571 for 3000 Other Services, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mrs. Nietupski stated the next item 4000 Operations and Maintenance of Plant for \$1,788,403. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approve 4000 Operations and Maintenance of Plant for \$1,788,403, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mrs. Nietupski stated the next item is 9000 Programs with Other Systems for \$1,964,106. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approved \$1,964,106 for 9000 Programs with Other Systems, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mrs. Nietupski stated Windle Field \$13,000. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approve \$13,000 for Windle Field, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mrs. Nietupski stated School Committee (salaries elected) \$10,224. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approved \$10,224 for School Committee (salaries elected), seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mrs. Nietupski stated High School Athletic Department \$215,510. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to approve \$215,510 for the High School Athletic Department, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0). Mr. Nietupski stated that should add up to \$22,285,221.

c. FY2020 Quarterly Expenditure Report

Mr. Bedard stated that this Expenditure Report is through February 19, 2020. He stated that anything that starts with 001.1 is for administration and 001.2 is for instruction which correlates to the budget. Mr. Bedard stated that under Human Resource there is money available because the Human Resource Director has become the interim Town Manager and we are not obligated for his salary for the remainder of the year. Unemployment compensation \$24,689 through seven months will probably be over budget at the end of the year. School Committee legal audit fees for Melanson and Heath and attorney fees for personnel and special education is over because funds for the athletic field site plan review, and Athletic Field Project permitting fees, some have been waived, but there are still out of pocket expenses and that came out of this account.

Special Education contracts for therapy are primarily for OT and PT from French River. Mr. Bedard stated that may not be using all the money encumbered for this account. Mr. Bedard stated that Long Term Substitutes must have a separate account from day to day subs according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He stated that there are only four maternity leaves this year which is down from last year's six, and from the year before sixteen. He also stated that the day-to-day sub account will not have encumbrances as we don't know what days substitutes will be used; there will be more expenditures from this account. The Tuition reimbursement account is trended up this year there are 85 reimbursements because this is the first year of contract and because of newer staff looking to move across columns. The average reimbursement is \$269. Capping the tuition at the Worcester State University rate has helped reduce the amounts of reimbursement. Instruction District-wide Technology purchased end of year and some beginning of year because the orders could not be processed before July 1st. Transportation for Special Education is over \$47,674. Homeless transportation has decreased, however a new family has been added which will increase the amount. Heating and utilities are good this year down heating days down 17%. Mr. Bedard stated that he is definitely sure that there will be money available in these accounts to help pay done the accounts with overages. Special Projects Account there are roof issues. All roofs are past their warranties, gym floors have been done, and facilities assessments for Elmwood and the High School, LED lights have been installed in the junior high school, and the science labs drains have been cleaned. Out-of-district tuition costs. Ms. Ryan gave an update on the amount of out-of-district student enrollments. She also stated that if a student is out on long term suspension we have to provide an educational option for them. Ms. Ryan stated that we have students placed in five collaborative programs. She stated that we have 26 out-of-district students with four pending. Mr. Bedard stated that the Circuit Breaker money has been used all other costs will come from the Day School Account. He also stated that budget balance 1.76% of the budget or \$398,839.93. Mr. Bedard stated that other expenditures must come from that amount. He stated that this is a lower amount that we usually have at this time.

Donations will be moved to the next agenda.

6. Old Business

a. Camp Bournedale Field Trip

Mr. Tuccio requested final approved for Camp Bournedale for 135 students April 6th – 10th. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the Camp Bournedale trip April 6th through April 10th, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

b. School Start Times

Mr. Myers stated that Keryn Reno is doing her Capstone WPI project on School Start Times. He stated that she is doing research on four options but is primarily focusing on transportation. She is also looking at the financial impact of aftercare and families. Mr. Myers stated that she will give her presentation to the School Committee on April 8th. He

stated that this would be close of phase 2. Mr. Myers stated that phase 1 was the research review which overwhelming showed positive results for later start times for high school students. He stated that phase 3 would begin after the School Committee chooses an option that they could support and would look for feedback from the community before they vote on school start times. He stated that Westborough gave their residents a full year to prepare for the change.

a. Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Athletic Field Renovation Project

Mr. Myers stated that the project has been advertised. However, it is delayed for permitting. Mr. Bedard stated that he has met with the Planning Board and Conservation Committee and it has been continued because they need more time to review the plans. Mr. Bedard stated that one of the issues is sidewalks; asphalt versus concrete and what constitutes a sidewalk. He also stated that there is a traffic concern as Clearview is building 80 duplexes. However, Mr. Perry from Gale Associates is working on a response to the traffic issues. Mr. Bedard stated that we need variances regarding the amount of bleachers installed means we need x amount of bathrooms. He stated they are proceeding with the bids for everything except the building and the bids are due March 19th.

b. Shaw School Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that the MSBA has approved the Project Budget and Scope for the project. In terms of Building Committee is making decisions on the theme of the building choosing interior and exterior materials. He also stated that the colors of the building will be timeless design and fashionable design. Timeline is completed each milestone or is slightly ahead. Mrs. Nietupski stated that with the approval of the Project the Town will be getting reimbursed from the MSBA.

c. Tentative 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mr. Myers stated that contractually teachers work 186 professional days and students attend 181 instructional days. There are five professional development days shown accurately. A discussion took place regarding election days and school's opening. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the 2020-2021 School Calendar, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (5-0).

Mrs. Nietupski ask about BVT students participating in Marching band and Chorus. This item has been tabled to the next meeting.

Mrs. Nietupski asked about scheduling a Policy Sub-Committee meeting. Mr. Myers stated that he will provide the Sub-Committee member's copies of the old and new policies and a meeting will be scheduled in April to review the policies.

7. New Business

Mrs. Nietupski stated that with concerns regarding the COPID19 virus and if more cases are discovered school districts could be force to close for a month how would students receive their education. She stated that a plan should be developed to be prepared. She also stated that the school may have to work with the Town's Emergency Action Committee. Mr. Myers stated that he received an advisory from the Department of Public Health and has posted it on the website. He stated that it advises school nurses on which protocols to use when students show symptoms. Mr. Myers also stated that he is working on sending a letter home to families to update them on procedures of sending children to school with fevers and the importance of handwashing. Mr. Myers also stated that students in grade 6 through 12 have 1:1 devices and that google classrooms can be set up for students to learn from home.

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:

Mrs. Nietupski took role call:

Mrs. Teixeira - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm – YES, Mrs. Nietupski, - YES, Mr. Wilbur – YES, Mr. Lazarro - 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).**

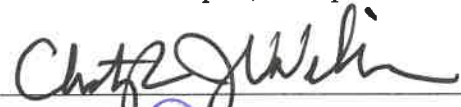
10. Next Meeting:

- 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.

Approved:

Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson



Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson



Julia Lagerholm



Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol