

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

*Regular Session
Meeting Minutes*

TOWN OF MILLBURY
2020 OCT -3 AM 8:42
MILLBURY, MASS

Date: March 11, 2020

Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Mr. Chris Wilbur, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Sue Teixeira, Member
Mr. Ryan Kurkiewicz, Student Council Representative
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Special Education
Ms. Liz Boutiette, Curriculum Coordinator
Mr. Rick Bedard, School Business Manager
Mr. Greg Myers, Superintendent

Absent Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member

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

Time: 7:00pm

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:10 PM and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Regular Session Minutes of March 11, 2020.
Mrs. Nietupski asked for corrections to the Regular Session Minutes of March 11, 2020. Hearing none, Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. Approved, 3-0.
- b. Executive Session Minutes of March 11, 2020.
Mrs. Nietupski asked that if corrections were needed to the Executive Session Minutes of March 11, 2020 they would be done in Executive Session. Hearing none, Mrs. Teixeira motioned to approve the Executive Session minutes, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. Approved, 3-0.

2. Report of the Administration

- a. Report of the Student Council
Joe Bien and Ms. Santos gave an update of past and future activities that are taking place at the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School.
- b. Budget - Item B Donation from Aquarium Water Company
Mr. Paul Lawson and Mr. Fran King reported to the School Committee that Aquarion donated a new hydrating station to the Elmwood Street School. Aquarion has now donated a total of four stations to the Millbury Public Schools. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept the donation from Aquarium Water Company, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

c. Review of Student Opportunity Act Three-Year District Plan Draft

Ms. Boutiette provided an overview of the Three-Year Plan, which is required for districts to receive additional Chapter 70 funding. She stated that districts are required to identify specific programs that target learning gaps and programs that include families and community partnerships. Ms. Boutiette stated that districts must also monitor student assessments and student growth in order to close the achievement gaps. Mr. Myers stated the District will continue to focus on the school's Learning Plans.

d. COVID19 Update on Preparation

Mr. Myers updated the School Committee on how the District was preparing for a possible extended school closure. He stated that teachers will upload lessons to Google Classrooms and that students in grades 6-12 have 1:1 devices. Mrs. Boutiette stated that the younger students should focus on their foundation skills and to practice math. Mr. Myers stated that teachers would keep in touch with their students and families through emails and counselors may reach out to students that they see regularly to touch base with them. The Committee considered whether to cancel three upcoming trips: the 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C., the 6th grade field trip to Camp Bournedale, and the Music Department trip to D.C. The Committee agreed that further planning for the 8th grade field trip to Washington DC and the Camp Bournedale should be paused for now. Both trips will be considered at the Committee's next meeting. It was decided to cancel the Music Department's field trip. Mr. Wilbur motioned to cancel the Music Department's Field Trip seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved 3-0.

3. Budget

a. Fiber Optic Connection Bid - Vote Requested

Mr. Bedard updated the Committee on the fiber optic bids solicited by Mr. Bellville. He stated the three schools now have large towers connected to the high school hub and that a more efficient system would be to install fiber optics underground. He stated that the District would lease access to existing fiber optic lines from Crown Castles for three years. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept the fiber optics bid, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

b. Donation from homeTown Bank

Mr. Bedard stated that homeTown Bank has donated \$2,500 for the suggested purpose of providing student scholarships for Camp Bournedale. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept \$2,500 for scholarships to Camp Bournedale, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

d. Donation from Central Massachusetts Regional Health Alliance

Mr. Bedard stated that Central Massachusetts Regional Health Alliance has donated \$5,000 for the suggested purpose of providing vaping cessation and counseling for students. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept \$5,000 to be used for vaping cessation and counseling students, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved 3-0.

e. Donation from Terry Bernard

Mr. Bedard stated that Terry Bernard has donated \$3,002.85 for the suggested purpose of providing student scholarships for Camp Bournedale. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept \$3,002.85 for Camp Bournedale scholarships, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

f. Donation from Millbury Youth Council

Mr. Bedard stated that Millbury Youth Council donated \$820 for the suggested purpose of providing student scholarships for Camp Bournedale. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept \$820 from Camp Bournedale scholarships, seconded by Mrs. Teixeira. All approved (3-0).

5. Old Business

a. School Start Times

Mr. Myers stated that Keryn Reno is collecting data and will present the data at a future meeting. Mr. Myers stated that the national average for high school start times is 8:00am and the Massachusetts start times is 7:38 am.

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

Mr. Bedard updated the Committee on the Athletic Field Renovation Project. He stated that the bid opening for the fields has been rescheduled to March 26. Mr. Bedard stated that a second meeting with the Planning Board took place. He stated that the bid for the amenities building will go out on March 26 and the bids will be opened on April 15th.

c. Shaw School Update

Mr. Myers stated that the OPM's January report is in the notes for the School Committee. He also stated that the entry way has been changed to a single double door and that the waiting area has increased in size. Mr. Myers stated that the estimates are trending below budget.

d. BVT Students

The Committee discussed the advantages and challenges of allowing Millbury residents enrolled at Blackstone Valley Technical High School to participate in Millbury's marching band and drama club. Challenges discussed included issues of liability, discipline, IEPs and/or 504s. It was stated that if this practice were to be stopped, current high school students should be grandfathered in. Based on advice from legal council, parents of grandfathered students will sign release of liability agreements and the District will develop clear guidelines to govern BVT participation. There is currently no policy regarding this situation.

6. New Business

a. Policy Subcommittee to Review Recommended MASC Update

Mr. Myers stated that some of the changes to the policies are simple updates but others require review and discussion. The Policy Sub-Committee will meet on April 13 to review these changes. He also stated that Ms. Ryan has policy updates from her office that require School Committee review.

7. 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 a roll call vote:

Mrs. Teixeira - YES

Mrs. Nietupski - YES

Mr. Wilbur – YES

Mrs. Nietupski stated that when the Executive Session closes, the Committee will return to reopen the regular meeting and will adjourn with no further discussion.

8. 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).

9. Next Meeting: March 11, 2020

Regular SC Meeting, MHS Media Center, 7PM

10. Adjourn

Mrs. Nietupski stated that after the Committee closes the executive session, it will re-open and then adjourn the regular session without engaging in further consideration of business of any kind.

Approved:

Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson



Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson



Julia Lagerholm



Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol