

Millbury Public Schools School Committee

Regular Session Meeting Minutes

2020 OCT -3 AM 8:43

MILLBURY, MASS

Date: July 22, 2020

Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Mr. Chris Wilbur, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member
Mr. Nick Lazzaro, Member
Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member
Ms. Lizz Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Rick Bedard, School Business Manager
Mr. Greg Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Location: Millbury Jr/Sr/ High School Media Center

Time: 7:00pm

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Committee recited the pledge of allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept the minutes from July 7, 2020, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. All approved (5-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Update from Reopening Advisory Committee Working Groups

Mr. Myers provided an update to the School Committee and community regarding a return-to-school plan for this fall. The Advisory Committee has been divided into three working groups to complete this work:

- Health and Wellness
- Academic Programming
- Operations

Mr. Myers invited the chairs of each of working group to present an update on their group's work.

Ms. Ryan, Chairperson of the Health and Wellness Committee stated that Officer Oliveri is her vice chair and there are twenty-five other members made up of parents and teachers. She stated that there are four focus areas:

- Health Practices Protocol - Personal Protective Equipment, cleaning, disinfection
- Health Monitoring - Daily Screenings, Attendance (staff & student)
- Personnel and Staff - High risk staff, training, mental health of staff

- Family Supports

The District has a COVID-19 website for the community to find resources. Two surveys were created; one for families and one for staff members.

Ms. Boutiette, Chairperson of the Academic Programming, stated her Vice Chairperson is Mrs. Rosenkranz, Shaw School Assistant Principal. She stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education set the guidelines. She stated that the plans should include in-person learning, hybrid, and remote learning. Ms. Boutiette stated that her group has four focus areas:

- Curriculum
- Engagement
- Assessment
- Instructional Practices

Ms. Boutiette stated that there are 28 members in her group mostly made up of teachers across the district and some parents. She stated that the three models include flexibility and movement because any of the plans could be used during any time of this pandemic. She stated that they are looking at the key pieces to keep kids engaged in learning and how to assess students differently. She also stated they are looking at ways to deliver content that is universally designed and how to adjust curriculum as needed.

Mr. Bedard, Chairperson of the Operations Group started that his group is looking at six focus areas:

- Classroom Configurations
- Facilities and Facilities Use
- Cleaning Process
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Transportation
- Surveys

Mr. Bedard stated that they looked at classroom configurations with desks spaced 3 feet apart and 6 feet apart. He stated that 3 ft apart looked like a regular classroom and would fit 20-24 students. The 6 feet apart look a lot different and will hold 10-14 students. Mr. Bedard stated that they looked at the ventilation systems in each school and emergency evacuation plans for all schools.

Mr. Bedard stated that the group discussed screening and who would have access to the school buildings during the school day and after. He stated that other parts of the school building may be used differently such as the media center, gym, and cafeteria. Mr. Bedard stated that cleaning procedures, who, when and how often areas will be cleaned. Mr. Bedard stated that guidelines recommended purchasing masks, sanitizer, and soap. He stated that they made a spreadsheet of purchases for twelve weeks and the cost is \$36,000. Mr. Bedard stated that they have already ordered supplies at the cost of \$47,000 on supplies, plexiglass, floor decals and signs. Mr. Bedard stated that he met with AA transportation and reported

back to his group regarding bus spacing. Mr. Bedard stated that they are creating another survey to determine which students will ride the bus to school, which need chromebooks, and which students would need lunch on days they are not in school. The survey will also ask which students need before or aftercare.

Mr. Myers stated that there is not enough space in classrooms for students to distance six feet apart and therefore would like the School Committee to consider dropping the full return of students to schools in the fall. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to drop the in-school in-person plan. All approved (5-0).

Mr. Myers stated that we will be prepared to go fully remote at any time. Mr. Myers asked the School Committee to consider delaying the start of school by five days in order for teachers to be trained. The Commission has reduced the required school days by five days so that the five days could be used to support teachers. Mr. Myers stated that he believed the state will be flexible regarding required school hours. Remote learning is considered part of the required hours. He stated that at the next meeting a vote will be taken to delay the start of school for students by five days. Mr. Myers stated that he would present an amended calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Nietupski asked for a document outlining the schedule for teachers for the five days. Mr. Bedard stated that students should come to school wearing a mask if they do not the district will provide one for them. Mr. Myers stated that the district will purchase higher quality masks for staff members that are high risk.

Mr. Bedard stated that AA Transportation will not be modifying the bus in any way. They have requested that the district provide masks and sanitizers. Mrs. Nieptuski would like to see a cost analysis on the costs of additional supplies needed and the savings of costs in other areas. Mr. Bedard stated they are tracking all costs related to COVID-19 in case we are able to be reimbursed. Mr. Bedard stated that he will determine what supplies we will be able to hand out to students. Mr. Myers stated that most of the loaned out chromebooks have been returned; some have damage but will be repaired and the turnaround time is a week or so. Mr. Myers stated that the chromebooks were insured. He also stated that we are close to a 1:1 model. Mr. Bedards stated that orders have been placed but the orders have been back ordered, however we have enough chromebooks to start the school year.

A discussion took place regarding live stream classes.

4. Budget

a. Annual HVAC Maintenance Contract Renewal - Vote Requested

Mr. Bedard asked the School Committee to consider extending the contract for the third year for Renaud HAVC of Sutton. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to renew Renaud HVAC's contract for the third year, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. All approved (5-0).

5. Unfinished Business

a. Report of the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Field Renovation Project

Mr. Myers stated that the horizontal part of the project is on or ahead of schedule. Mr. Myers stated that the vertical part of the project is now on schedule.

b. Shaw School Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that the School Building Committee has been reviewing the final pieces of the 60% documents phase and are on track to begin the 90% documents phase. He stated that the project is on time and below budget. He also stated that they are not looking for anymore value engineering.

Mr. Myers stated that the Project Team met with the Planning Board for a second time and it appears that there will have to be a third meeting.

6. New Business

Mr. Myers stated that the Committee reviewed past Executive Session minutes to determine which minutes should be released to the public. The Committee does not typically release any minutes that pertain to personnel or negotiations. Mr. Myers stated that after consideration the Committee will release minutes from April 8 and April 19 that pertain to the superintendent's contract. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to release April 8 and April 19 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Lazzaro. All approved (5-0).

Mrs. Nietupski stated that a special School Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29 as a public forum for the community to voice concerns or suggestions on the reopening of schools. She stated that on August 5th the School Committee is meeting to discuss the reopening plan with a possible vote to accept a plan or to continue on discussions. The plan must be submitted to the Department of Education on August 10th and will be released to the community on August 12th.

Mrs. Nietupski stated that there is a vacancy on the School Committee Sub Policy Committee and she would like the one member to consider joining this subcommittee.

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 with SEIU Local 888 because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES

8. Future Topics

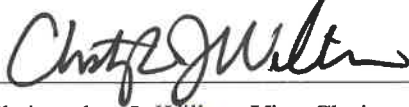
9. Next Meeting: July 29, 2020

Regular SC Meeting, 7:00PM

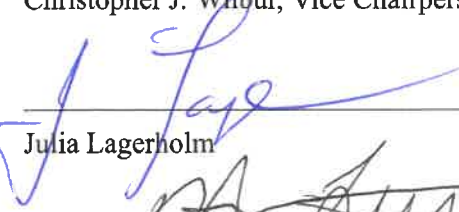
10. Adjourn - Mrs. Nietupski stated that the meeting will close after the Executive Session without discussing further business.

Approved:

Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson



Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson



Julia Lagerholm



Nicholas Lazzaro



Jessica Bristol