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MILLBURY, MA

Millbury Public Schools
School Committee

Regular Session
Meeting Minutes

Date: August 26, 2020

Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Mr. Chris Wilbur, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member
Mr. Nick Lazzaro, Member
Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Curriculum Coordinator
Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., School Business Manager
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Location: Millbury Jr/Sr/ High School Media Center

Time: 7:00pm

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:00 PM by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting

Meetings have been tabled until the next meeting.

2. Report of the Administration

a. Return to Learning Plan

Mr. Myers stated that he sent an email to the families describing the hybrid model and clarified that the opening of school has been shifted to the week of September 14, 2020. Mr. Myers stated that students will return using staggered scheduled for the first week of school. He stated that half of the students in Cohort A will attend school on Monday and the other half of Cohort A students will attend on Tuesday. Mr. Myers also stated that half the students in Cohort B will attend school on Thursday and half the students in Cohort B will attend school on Friday. This time will give students and staff time to review the new expectations for students and to review social distancing protocols. Mr. Myers stated that the review will be much easier with smaller groups.

Mr. Myers stated that after week one Cohort A (last names A-K) will attend in person on every Monday and Tuesdays and Cohort B (last names L-Z) will receive remote learning. Cohort B (L-Z) will attend in person on every Thursday and Friday and Cohort A (A-K) will receive remote learning. Mr. Myers stated that every Wednesday all students will receive a 1/2 day of remote learning. The teachers will meet every Wednesday afternoon for Professional

Development and office hours to assist students, students will work independently. This time will count toward learning time requirements. Mr. Myers stated that the hybrid plan will need some adjustments after the School Committee agrees to the Memo of Agreement (MOA). He stated that he would like to release the plan and updated calendar to the community after this meeting. Mr. Myers stated that they would like parents to notify them of their choice by August 28th, however they may request an extension.

Mr. Myers stated that school hours for each building remain the same. He also stated that after looking at the third party platform for remote learning for younger students it has been decided that this program is not appropriate for younger students. He stated that Millbury teachers will be teaching the remote learning model. Mr. Myers stated that it is difficult to decide which option is best for their children without having tried both options. Mr. Myers stated that the first week was half days, but decided that it was important to teach protocols during lunch times and for that reason have decided to extend the days to full time with smaller groups. Mr. Myers thanked the parents and teachers for their suggestions which have helped to adjust the plan. He stated that the plan needs to remain nimble in order for students to get a good education.

Mr. Myers stated that full remote students in grades 7-12 will participate in a third party platform. Engenuity is an online accredited service. Students will also be assigned a Millbury teacher. Mr. Myers stated that guidance counselors will be in contact with the remote students. The counselors will have access to grades and assessments for the remote students and if they need support it will be provided. He stated that all students will have contact with someone in the building every week. Mr. Myers stated that home schooling is different from remote learning. If you are a remote learner you are still a Millbury Public Schools student. Mr. Myers stated they are still working on how to offer other programs such as band for remote students. He stated that students may have full access to all after school activities such as sports, clubs, etc. Mr. Myers stated that some teachers are taping their lessons to make them available for remote students access. It was stated that this would be a great option for students that are sick at home. Mr. Myers will look into this option for students. Mr. Myers stated that our protocols will go beyond DESE requirements to keep everyone safe.

5. Unfinished Business

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

Mr. Myers stated that the softball field is state of the art. He also stated the project is on budget. Mr. Myers stated that the front parking lot looks great. Mr. Myers and Mr. Bedard stated that Green Acres has been a great partner. Mr. Bedard stated that the community is welcome to drive by the project.

b. Shaw School Project Update

Mr. Myers stated that the prequalification bidding process has begun and will be done online. There is a small subcommittee led by Mr. Bedard. Mr. Turowski addressed several requests from the Planning Board and only one request is outstanding. Mr. Myers stated that the Planning Board has requested that the Shaw Building Committee enlarge the drainage basins at the Shaw Elementary School for the stormwater drainage. Mr. Myers stated that the Building Committee is looking into the costs associated with this request. He also stated that

the current catch basins exceed the requirements from the state and federal guidelines. Mr. Myers stated that the next Planning Board meeting will be on August 31, 2020 virtually at 7:00 PM. It is hoped that the Planning Board will approve the project at that meeting. Mr. Myers stated that a Shaw Building Committee Public Forum is tentatively scheduled for September 16th to give the community an update.

6. New Business

a. Adjusted FY 2020-2021 Calendar

A discussion took place regarding the modified calendar for 2020-2021.

Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept the modified 2020-2021 school calendar, Seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved. (5-0).

7. Executive Session

The Committee considered moving into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21(A)3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Millbury Teachers' Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

A roll call vote was taken. Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. All in favor.

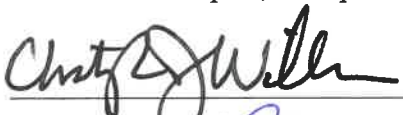
8. Future Topics

9. Next Meeting: August 26, 2020 Regular SC Meeting, 7:00PM

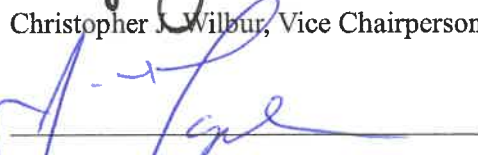
10. Adjourn - Mrs. Nietupski stated that the meeting will close after the Executive Session without discussing further business.

Approved:

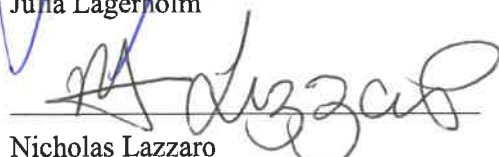
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson



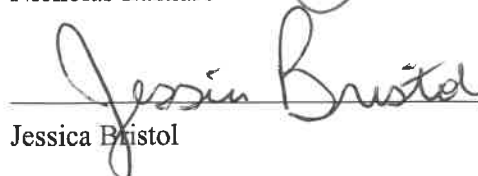
Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson



Julia Lagerholm



Nicholas Lazzaro



Jessica Bristol

