

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

**Regular Session
Meeting Minutes**

21 FEB -2 AM 9:19
MILLBURY, MA 01567

Date: December 9, 2020

Members Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member
Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member

Administrators

Present: Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum and Professional Learning
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Jr./Sr. High School Principal
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Guests: Mrs. Angela Avramidis, Head Nurse
Mr. Josh MacCreery, Athletic Director

Location: Millbury Jr/Sr High School Media Center

Time: 7:00pm

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

2. Report of the Administration

a. Introduction of the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Mr. Myers introduced Ms. Kerri Sundeen, who will be replacing Mrs. Donna Freitas as the new Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mrs. Freitas is retiring this month.

b. Student Enrollment Report

i. Report on October 1st Enrollment

Mr. Myers informed the Committee that student enrollment is down 108 students compared to last year and most of the decline is in grades K-7. He also mentioned that other districts also have decreased enrollment. There was no increase in school choice in or out, but there was a slight increase in home schooled students and students attending private and parochial schools. Mr. Myers shared his concern about the effect this decline will have on Chapter 70 funding.

ii. Report on Homeschool Student Census

Ms. Boutiette reported that out of the 27 students who are homeschooled, 10 were due to concerns about COVID-19. She is hopeful that we will see these students return post-pandemic. Mr. Lazzaro asked if there was any data showing the number of students attending private schools because they are offering in school sessions five days a week. Ms. Boutiette stated that she would find out and report back to the Committee.

iii. Report on Out-of-District Placements, Special Education, and English Learner Enrollment

Mrs. Ryan reported a decrease in the number of students with disabilities and stated that 8.1% of students with disabilities receive services out-of-district. Students with 504 Plans have increased from 80 to 120. There are currently 73 ELL students in the District (37 at Elmwood, 18 at Shaw, and 18 at the Jr/Sr High School). We currently serve families representing 19 different languages in the community.

c. Reopening Advisory Committee Update

i. Updated Guidance on Quarantine Protocols

Head Nurse, Mrs. Angela Avramidis, updated the Committee on current COVID-19 rates, stating that Millbury has been "in the red" on the DPH's website for the past two weeks. There have been 31 cases in district to date; six of which at Elmwood, nine at Shaw, and 16 at the high school. There have been 8 COVID-19 positive staff members. However, we have yet to see evidence of transmission in schools.

ii. Updated COVID-19 District Dashboard

Mr. Myers share the updated COVID-19 Dashboard with the Committee

iii. Current Cohort Enrollment

Ms. Boutiette shared current cohort enrollments by grade:

For Grades K-6: Cohort A = 322 students, Cohort B = 288 students, Cohort C = 41 students, and Cohort D = 136 students. For Grades 7-12: Cohort A = 328 students, Cohort B = 304 students, Cohort C = 31 students, and Cohort D = 84 students.

iv. Cohort D Survey Results

Ms. Boutiette shared results from a Cohort D survey she sent to families. Fifty-three of 136 families in Grades K-6 responded to the survey and 29 of 84 7-12 families responded. Most families reported that their children are being adequately supported during remote learning. Many families stated they would prefer five days of live streaming for their children.

d. Winter 2020-2021 Athletics

Mr. MacCreedy and Mr. Lowe briefed the Committee on modifications to the basketball and hockey seasons as recommended by the MIAA, including mandatory mask-wearing and modifications to play. Junior High will not run sports this season. The season is scheduled to start January 4th, with games starting January 15th.

Mr. Lazzaro asked about the potential impact of other schools and fans coming into the building when no one else can. Mr. Lowe responded that the reopening plan would have to be amended to allow for this. Mr. Lazzaro asked about the risk of mixing cohorts and playing team sports. Mr. Lowe responded that they are

taking this very seriously to ensure that students will be safe. Mr. Lazzaro asked about teachers who are coaches and whether this additional risk would result in having more staff in quarantine. Mr. Lowe responded that with the POD schedule it will reduce the interactions between students and teachers from different districts.

Mrs. Bristol asked about districts canceling winter sports because of COVID and how that would affect the schedule. Mr. Maccreery stated that ADs and principals are in regular contact and will make each other aware if they choose to opt out, in which case the schedule will need to be rearranged.

Ms. Nietupski asked why games will be played at the HS when Elmwood's gym has direct exterior access. Mr. Lowe and Mr. Maccreery said they want to keep their students confined to the area where they are already attending. She also asked if basketball was being played in gym class. Mr. Lowe responded that it is not. Roster sizes will be limited to 12 students due to the fact that if we have to bus both teams, we can only fit 25 on a bus. Mr. Maccreery commented on shuttling the students back and forth before and after games with the hope that other districts will do the same. Mrs. Nietupski expressed concern about having too many kids in the gym at one time.

Mrs. Lagerholm said that this scenario is a controlled unknown with people who care and are making sure they are following the rules. Mrs. Bristol agreed with Mrs. Lagerholm. Mr. Myers said he supports bringing back sports, but not at the cost of increased risk of closing school. He would rather see more students come back into the classroom than play sports.

3. Finance and Operations

a. Announcement of New Facilities Director

Mr. Myers informed the Committee that Mr. Kofi Ageyman will be replacing Paul Halacy as the new Facilities Director. Mr. Halacy retired in October.

b. Grants Account Update

At Mr. Myers's request, the Committee tabled this item until Mr. Bedard could be present.

c. School Fees Update

Mr. Myers recommended that the Committee not increase the fees we charge to families for AfterCare, school lunch, and student parking this year. The Committee took no action.

d. R.E. Shaw School Rear Access Road Repair

Mr. Myers informed the Committee that the rear pathway behind the Shaw School has been re-paved to ensure safe travel for school busses when dropping off and picking up students.

e. R.E. Shaw School Amperage Reduction

Mr. Myers informed the Committee of reduced amperage at the Shaw School as a result of the temporary service installed over the summer, which negatively affects wifi at Shaw. Mr. Myers said that Mr. Bedard was looking into this.

4. Unfinished Business

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

Mr. Myers stated that necessary change orders have delayed the project's completion date, including the completion of the concession stand.

b. Report on the Shaw School Building Project

Mr. Myers informed the Committee that the vetting process for pre-approved bidders is complete and the process of soliciting bids remains on schedule.

c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Lazzaro updated the Committee on recent work by the Policy Subcommittee to review and revise policies as recommended by MASC.

5. New Business

a. Athletic Field Use

Mrs. Nietupski asked whether signage will be installed as part of the new field project to inform visitors that animals, bicycles, food, etc. is not permitted on the track. Mr. Myers agreed that signage was necessary and would be installed.

b. Addition of Juneteenth to the School Calendar as a State Holiday

Mr. Myers stated that Juneteenth would not affect this year's calendar as the holiday falls on a Saturday.

c. 2nd Reading and Acceptance of Changes to Policy

i. Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to consider accepting Policy JIH: Searches and Interrogations as amended. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept Policy JIH as amended, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. All approved (5-0).

ii. Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to consider accepting Policy JII: Student Complaints and Grievances as amended. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept Policy JIH as amended, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. All approved (5-0).

iii. Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to consider accepting Policy JJA: Student Organizations as amended. Mrs. Bristol made a motion to accept Policy JIH as amended, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

iv. Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to consider accepting Policy JJH-R: Travel Regulations as amended. Mrs. Bristol made a motion to accept Policy JIH as amended, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. All approved (5-0).

v. Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to consider accepting Policy JLCB: Immunization of Students as amended. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept Policy JIH as amended, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. All approved (5-0).

vi. Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to consider accepting Policy JLCC: Communicable Diseases as amended. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept Policy JIH as amended, seconded by Mrs. Bristol. All approved (5-0).

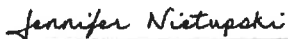
Mrs. Nietupski asked if Committee members had any other new business they would like to have addressed at the next meeting. Mrs. Bristol asked for plans to bring more students back into the classroom as we did with Kindergarten.

Mrs. Nietupski requested a meeting with the Board of Health on December 16, 2020 to discuss their decision for prohibiting basketball this winter.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:25PM. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Bristol. All approved (5-0)

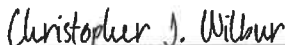
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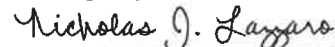
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